

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
August 18, 2026

Council Attendance: Mayor Robert Martin, Councilmembers: Mike Hawkins, Chad Hawkins, McKeva Kinard-Shelton and Terry Murphy.

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Wise, Clerk Treasurer; Wesley Palmore, Police Chief and Jennifer Nichols, Town Attorney.

Mayor Robert Martin called the Regular meeting to order and asked Councilmember McKeva Kinard- Shelton to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Robert Martin presented the Minutes from July 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A **MOTION** by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to approve the Minutes from July 14, 2026, Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember McKeva Kinard-Shelton, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Mr. Jim Heilman shared a letter with Council concerning power line issues on Cedar Drive.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Tammy Johns stated the Business Association is planning a fall festival for November 8th from 2-5pm at the Gin. She stated the Shopper's Walk is scheduled from 2-8pm on December 5th. She stated Mrs. Gina Mayes had presented at Newberry County two Accommodation Tax monies. She welcomed LC Parlor and Bailey's Ice Cream to Prosperity. She stated Jaime and Jeff Antley are the owners of Bailey's and are a big asset to our town. She stated the Business Association is donating \$250 back to Prosperity Rikard for supplies that get overlooked, such as tissue and Clorox wipes.

CTC Committee:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated the CTC approved Prosperity for crosswalk signage. He stated the CTC and DOT are working together to repair St. Lukes Church Road and Colony Church Road with black top like we have on Brown Street.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mr. West stated they are priming and putting the ceiling in at the ballfield. He stated the bleachers are in and needed to get some Boy Scouts to help with assembling. He stated fifty percent of utilities are in, we are having to upgrade water lines, and they are approving the concession stand equipment tomorrow. He stated there may be an issue with the fencing around Langford Street basketball court.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Recognition of Keith Avery:

Mayor Martin and Council presented Mr. Keith Avery with a plaque for recognition of his retirement with Newberry Electric Cooperative and thanked him for his support to Prosperity over the years.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2026 0714-Chapter 154 SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS:

Mayor Martin read through the changes with the Subdivision Regulations.

A MOTION by Councilmember Terry Murphy to approve the first reading of Ordinance 2026-0714- Chapter 154 SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS; seconded by Councilmember Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Set Special Called Meeting for 2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026 0714 Chapter 154 SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS:

Mayor Martin stated we would have second reading in our September meeting.

1st Reading of Resolution 08-26 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGION OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

Mrs. Livingston stated we have to have this plan in place in order to receive funds from FEMA and other State and Federal Entities.

A MOTION by Councilmember Mike Hawkins to accept first reading of Resolution 08-26 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NATURAL HAZARDS MITIGATION PLAN

FOR THE CENTRAL MIDLANDS REGION OF SOUTH CAROLINA; seconded by Councilmember Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Authorization to open Hospitality Tax account with Local Government Investment Pool and transfer funds from First Community Bank:

Mrs. Livingston stated that the interest rate is higher through the Local Investment Pool instead of our bank.

A **MOTION** by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to give authorization to open Hospitality Tax account with Local Government Investment Pool and transfer funds from First Community; seconded by Councilmember Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilmember Murphy stated he met with Jess and rode around town. He stated they have limb clearing to do on Church and Dominick Street and he will double check with Jess on Cedar Drive limb clearing. He stated they are planning to service accounts on the housing project at Counts Sausage. He thanked our guys for what they do and plans to meet with him once a month before the Council meeting.

Public Safety:

Councilmember McKea Kinard-Shelton stated there was nothing to report from Fire and Rescue. She thanked the Police Department for being patient with us as we work on getting them two new vehicles. She stated the Police Department is doing a great job maintaining security and protecting and serving with what you have to work with.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated Bailey's soft opening will be next Tuesday, and the Grand Opening will be on the 29th. He stated AutoZone did get approved on their fire inspection. He stated we attended the MASC annual meeting and one of the speakers was really good. He stated the guy was enthusiastic and got me interested in his book he wrote "13 Ways to Kill Your Community." Councilmember Hawkins stated we have all failed our community in some of these ways. He stated the first way is to forget the water; if you don't have good water, you are going backwards. He encouraged the citizens to check the book out and read.

Councilmember Chad Hawkins asked about the Bedenbaugh property on Brown Street. Mayor Martin stated we have to clean up our own property before we go asking someone else to clean their property.

Parks, Recreation, Events and Streets:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated that our 6x6 post and cables have been installed at the playground to protect kids from going out in the roadway. He stated we have 488 kids signed up to play soccer which will be around fifty teams and we have 55 kids signed up for fall ball which will be five to six teams. He stated Spooktacular is October 31st and our parade will be December 6th. He stated the tennis camp that Clinton -Newberry Tennis Association had went so well it overflowed into the parking lot. He stated they are looking at some fall activities. He stated School Drive is getting some cracks in it from the recent paving, and he brought up to DOT and CTC to keep an eye on it.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry, the 250th family fun day and community impact day. He stated they cancelled National Night Out due to the rain. He stated they are directing school traffic and preparing for the events coming up. He thanked Council for getting police vehicles.

Town Attorney:

Jennifer Nichols had nothing to report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated our Parade theme is “Prosperity’s Gingerbread Village Christmas” and we are excited about the theme this year. She stated another change for the parade will be reversing the parade lineup from the ballfield to Pine Street. She stated we have committed to doing Candy Cane Lane for the Shopper’s Walk and rented the train for this event. She stated Spooktacular will be October 31st from 5-6:30.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Robert Martin shared his concern for moving trucks off of Main Street and getting up a petition to give to the DOT. He stated he is proud of Prosperity and the businesses in town. He stated Prosperity is moving forward and thanked the Citizens for coming to the meeting.

Councilmember Mike Hawkins wanted to address a concern about golf carts coming around a curve on Cedar Drive.

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Councilmember Chad Hawkins wanted to address a discussion about a business changing the look of the town. He stated we needed to support that small new business.

Councilmember Terry Murphy stated that Auto Zone is great for our small town because we have not had a parts store here in town in years.

Mayor Robert Martin adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer