

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
May 19, 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 April 21, 2026 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A **MOTION** by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to approve the Minutes from April 21, 2026, Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember Terry Murphy and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Ethan McCullough stated he was concerned with the safety of golf carts on Main Street between First Citizens Bank and Bowers BP. Discussion followed.

Eric Lemoine suggested to Council to let the public ask questions after general comments if they have any questions. Discussion followed.

Jim Heilman stated he went to the County Council meeting at the Opera House last night about the discussions on the data center. He stated you had to submit your questions in advance for this meeting. He stated they are scheduled to have a third reading sometime in June.

Robbiette Hazel stated the vote is scheduled for June 3rd for the third reading at the County. She highly recommended calling your Councilmember to let them know how you feel about the data center.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Gina Mays stated they are moving forward with the July 5th celebration “Cheers to 250 years”. She stated there will be inflatables, putt putt, the train that the town will be sponsoring, and story time. She stated Mike Bedenbaugh will speak in the Civic Center, and the Tennis Association will bring a portable tennis something to the event. She stated it will be a fun, family-friendly event from 3-6pm in the park and it will be a good opportunity for people to come out to our community. She stated the Gala will be on July 31st at the Gin on Hwy 391. She stated Mackey Price who bought Brown and Counts Insurance is a new member of the PBA. She stated Kenyetta is working on the design for the Billboard so we can get it up soon.

CTC Committee:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated they have requested money for flashing signs at the Crosswalk to bring attention to our crosswalk. He stated there is a lot of construction on Brown Street. He stated they are looking to fund St. Luke’s Church Road, Dennis Dairy Road and Connelly Road.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mr. West stated the project is on schedule. He gives the police department a shoutout for keeping a watch during the night on the ballfields where work is being done. He stated the Contractors are amazed how this little town comes alive in the evenings with recreation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in Officer Stephen Byrd:

Mayor Martin stated Officer Byrd is sick tonight and we will swear him in at the next meeting.

An Ordinance to Provide for a Limited and Temporary Moratorium on the Subdivision of a Tract of Land in The Town of Prosperity, Newberry County, S.C, Invoking Application of the Pending Ordinance Doctrine and Protecting Existing Vested Rights as Required by Applicable Law:

Mrs. Nichols stated this moratorium is so that we can get everything lined up to go through the proper channels with zoning and making sure we have everything in order with our Ordinance. Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated ninety days go by fast and we don’t need to keep putting it off. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to approve An Ordinance to Provide For a Limited and Temporary Moratorium on the Subdivision of a Tract of Land in The Town of Prosperity, Newberry County, S,C, Invoking Application of the Pending Ordinance Doctrine and Protecting Existing Vested Rights as Required by Applicable Law; seconded by Councilmember Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

1st Reading to Adopt Newberry County Chapter 157: Public Nuisance and Unfit Dwelling Ordinance:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins asked if this will be administered through Newberry County. Mrs. Livingston stated they will enforce what we have in place.

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to accept 1st reading to adopt Newberry County Chapter 157: Public Nuisance and Unfit Dwelling Ordinance; seconded by Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton and so approved unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Mayor Martin thanked Terry for being at the meeting tonight. Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated Councilmember Murphy just got out of the hospital today and was not expecting him to be at the meeting tonight. Councilmember Murphy stated we had a water leak on North Main Street and was under a boil water advisory but it has been lifted.

Public Safety:

Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton thanked the Police Department for keeping our town safe. She stated Rescue and Operations are sponsoring a golf tournament on June 20th and anyone interested in having a team needs to contact Blake Cantrell.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated he was glad the County had the forum and he thought the main presentation did a good job. He stated the data center would pour a lot of money into our property taxes but they use a lot of power, water and it is noisy. He stated the guy from Central needed to be prepared better for the meeting. He stated the people in the audience were mad at the Council and should not have taken it out on the person presenting. He stated he was there to listen with an open mind and not sure he had his mind made up either way.

Parks, Recreation, Events and Streets:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated Hoppin' was cancelled due to the weather. He stated baseball is coming to an end. He read a thank you note to the Council from Laddison and Glenn Hamm II. He stated Hamm Hardware has an outstanding small business. He shared that Prosperity Drug is celebrating a 20th anniversary and how John Pugh is big on supporting small town businesses.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry and Prosperity Rikard traffic. He stated he attended career day at Newberry College. He stated they took part in Earth Day and picked up four to five bags of trash. He stated Coffee with Cops at Blend was successful. He stated the Criminal Justice Academy conducted their audit on training and personnel records. He stated he attended the Business Association meeting. He stated Officer Jones did a presentation at Prosperity Rikard School for career day. He stated they will be assisting with the Patriotic celebration on July 5th, and National Night Out will be on August 5th from 5-8pm at Town Center. He stated they will continue to focus on public safety, traffic enforcement and keeping this town safe.

Town Attorney:

Jennifer Nichols had nothing to report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston asked Council about changing the July meeting due to a request from one of the Councilmembers out of town.

A MOTION by Councilmember Mike Hawkins to change the July meeting to the 14th, seconded by Councilmember Chad Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Mrs. Livingston asked Council about moving the June meeting in order to have enough time to get the budget numbers in the paper for the public hearing and have first and second readings on the budget.

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to change the meeting in June to the 23rd and a Special Called meeting on the 30th for the second reading of the budget; seconded by Councilmember Mike Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

Town of Prosperity Council Meeting
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GENERAL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins congratulated the Mid-Carolina High School track team on their medals at the State competition.

Mayor Robert Martin thanked the Citizens for attending the meeting.

Mayor Robert Martin adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer