

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
October 15, 2024

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Mike Hawkins, Chad Hawkins, Robert Martin, and Allen Gallman.

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Bundrick, Clerk Treasurer; Wesley Palmore, Police Chief and Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

Mayor Underwood called the Regular meeting to order and asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from September 17, 2024 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the Minutes from September 17, 2024 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from October 4, 2024 Special Called Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve the Minutes from October 4, 2024 Special Called Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Eric Lemoine asked Council about yard debris from the storm and if he could burn debris.

Mrs. Jacilyn Sease, candidate running for District 4 School Board seat shared a few of her ideas on improvements within the school district including parent involvement, teacher recruitment and a proactive approach to safety in the schools.

Mrs. Robbiette Hazel wanted to thank every person that worked in this town on how great everyone worked together through this storm.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Gina Mays stated the Fall Crawl and family fun was half the turnout from the spring wine walk but it went great. She stated she has a new contact that will be meeting with the brochure committee and she has a lot of great ideas. She stated their next event would be the Holiday Shopper's Walk.

CTC Committee:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we received the execution letter for the TAP grant which includes the left side of Main Street and two crosswalks. Mrs. Livingston stated they are adding conduit to fix streetlights with this project too. Discussion followed. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated DOT is going through FEMA to pick up yard debris and they have hired a contractor that will be going through Newberry County which will include Prosperity. Councilman Hawkins suggested getting flyers out to the Citizens about the debris pickup. He stated four speed signs and poles are ready to pick up from the County.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mayor Underwood stated the November 14th date is still projected for the monies allocated to be bonded. Mrs. Livingston stated we are working with the engineer to bring the plans to Council.

Mayor Underwood asked to add C under New Business to schedule a new Newberry County Governmental Meeting date.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to add C under New Business; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion Concerning Dogs on Recreation Fields:

Mayor Underwood stated we had an accident with a child getting bitten by a dog at one of the soccer games and would like to get some signs for our parks stating no dogs allowed on athletic field. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated no dogs would be allowed at Spooktacular this year. He stated we would look at signage and look at wording on our current ordinance for a first reading for next month.

SCDOT Debris Clean-Up:

Mayor Underwood stated we covered earlier in the meeting.

Newberry County Governmental Meeting:

Mayor and Council decided on October 28th for the Newberry County Governmental Association Meeting that was postponed from the storm.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin stated the utility department has the master meter at Frog Level Commons scheduled for October 22nd to change out with the backflow meter being installed also and new radio read meters throughout the park. He stated the lights at the soccer field behind Town Hall have been repaired. He stated there are no outstanding work orders and two pages of completed work orders for the month. He stated there is a car show on Saturday October 19th in the square from 10-2 and all proceeds will go to WOD.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he has not heard anything more on paving streets in town this calendar year.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he was pleased on how quickly we got the power back on through the storm. He thanked our Utility Department and the Monroe Crew for their help. He stated we need more parking in our downtown area, and he talked with someone that could alleviate that problem and was hoping to hear back from them before this meeting.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman stated Spooktacular is coming up October 31st and there is a Community Yard Sale on October 26th.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated the officers checked on Citizens with medical problems, reported down trees and checked roadways during the

State of Emergency with the hurricane. He stated the timing of the mobile food pantry couldn't have come at a better time and provided food for 300 families. He stated they distributed over 1,000 meals to families with the Convoy of Hope truck from 10-3 at Town Center on October 14th. He thanked Convoy of Hope, Georgia Pacific, Food Lion, Volunteers, City of Newberry, Town of Prosperity Council, Administration and Recreation. He stated he received the approval for the road closure for the car show. He stated the 18-wheeler truck that went through town square with the modular home had fines to pay with the County, but we did not cite the driver because the route told him to come through that direction. He stated the police department had an audit with SCCJA and their policies and training are good, and we are moving in the right direction to accreditation. He stated they were awarded a fifteen thousand dollar grant for body cameras. He stated Hunter attended radar training and he attended the Chief conference right before the storm and stated they had great information on the standards of the state. He stated Spooktacular, Shopper's Walk and the Christmas parade were the events coming up.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn stated she consulted with Mrs. Livingston on a legal matter and assisted Stephen Selestino on the policy manual for the Police Department on vehicle operations.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston thanked everyone for their support through the storm. She stated we were overwhelmed with this level of disaster. She thanked the men from Monroe for all their help and the hospitality shown from our community was wonderful. She stated she would be attending some FEMA classes at the Sheriffs office and has a consultant helping her that is retired from the DOT with 29 years of experience to get paperwork completed. She stated she would keep the Council informed with the legal matter if needed.

Councilman Martin stated our utility department work closely together and put faith into each other and do a great job.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood stated it was great to see our community working together and looking out for each other during this storm. Councilman Mike Hawkins shared when he was thanking Jess, he thanked his people and the men from Monroe and how they were so great to work with.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:54p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer