

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
April 21, 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.

SWEAR IN and APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEE- COUNCILMAN TERRY J. MURPHY:

Mayor Robert Martin asked Councilmember Terry Murphy to come forward. The Oath of Office was presented, and Councilmember Terry Murphy recited the Oath as his wife Shannon Murphy held the Bible.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Robert Martin presented the Minutes from March 17, 2026 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to approve the Minutes from March 17, 2026, Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember Mike Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Allyson Tesh asked about a crosswalk from S Main Street to N Main Street. Mrs. Livingston stated that it is part of the survey with the TAP Grant for the sidewalks on Main Street. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Jon Ann Lemoine asked about the different ways the town communicated with the Citizens to get information out and would like to see other options added.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Gina Mays stated the PBA met yesterday after cancelling a couple of our meetings due to the weather. She stated they are planning an event for Sunday July 5th for the 250th Anniversary of our Nation and planning to use the facility at Town Center. She stated the Business Association hosted Prosperity Rikard Elementary Kindergarten classes in a town field trip. She stated Mrs. Livingston hosted at the Depot and shared the history of our name “FrogLevel” to the kids. She stated Upper Cut on Main, The Blend, Taylor’s on Grace, GG’s Library, Kurious Kids, Coastal Strokes and Roma’s participated in this event. She stated it was a great way to highlight our town.

CTC Committee:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated the DOT is working on 2023/2024 goals and could not share all the details until it is official. He stated the DOT asked if we are still interested in getting sidewalks from S Main Street to Pine Street Apartments, Church Street to Frog Level Commons and look into TAP Grants to help with these sidewalks. He stated they are still talking about paving Conifer and Cedar Drive. He stated he talked with DOT last month about drainage issues on Shiloh Street and they are waiting until we finish projects at the ballfields to look at these issues. He stated Satterfield Construction has started on Hwy 395 end of Clara Brown Road. Mayor Robert Martin would like to see sidewalks extended from Williamswood to Conifer Drive added to that list too. Mrs. Livingston stated the TAP Grant for the Main Street sidewalks include the sidewalks to Church Street to the trailer park.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mr. West stated all the footings have been poured and all underground plumbing is finished. He stated they are finished with underground electric; walls are going up at the N. Main ballfield; a portion of the flooring is completed but they need more cure time with flooring at Langford Street Park.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heather Studer-USTA:

Mrs. Heather Studer and Mr. Mark Gardiner stated they were a part of the Clinton-Laurens-Newberry Tennis Association. They stated it is a 501C non-profit organization that provides clinics, tournaments, youth camps and tennis events for the area. Mr. Mark Gardiner stated he wanted to help fill the courts in Prosperity and they wanted to support Prosperity. Mr. Gardiner stated he had met with Mr. West about helping to get a grant to resurface the tennis courts.

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to allow CLNTA to utilize and work with the town; seconded by Councilmember Terry Murphy and so approved unanimously.

1st Reading of Subdivision Ordinance:

Mayor Martin stated he would like to table for more information and to look more closely. Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated he had concerns with someone filing with Newberry County before we get the acre lot size changed to half acre. Attorney Jennifer Nichols stated the Ordinance is not in final form and needs more input from the Council. Discussion followed. Councilmember Mike Hawkins asked if we could do a text amendment to change to the half-acre lots to our existing regulations. Mrs. Jennifer Nichols stated that there would be a stop gap provision that would cover you until you get the Ordinance finalized.

A MOTION by Councilmember Mike Hawkins to add a text amendment to change to the half-acre lot to our existing Ordinance; seconded by Councilmember Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

1st Reading to Adopt Newberry County Chapter 157: Public Nuisance:

Mayor Martin stated he would like to postpone this reading and have a meeting to discuss before voting on.

Hamm Hardware 100th Anniversary Proclamation:

Mayor Martin read the proclamation for Hamm Hardware's 100th Anniversary.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilmember Terry Murphy stated he talked with Royce Bundrick while he was reading meters. He stated there are a lot of water meters that are not working but they are trying to get it resolved.

Public Safety:

Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton stated the Police Department is doing a great job.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated the beauty salon on Pearl Street has paid for utilities and that is going to happen.

Parks, Recreation, Events and Streets:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated there are a lot of things moving in the parks with the CPST project and we are excited about that. He stated Prosperity's Hoppin' is coming

up. He stated he would add the sidewalks from Brown Street to Conifer Drive to the list to ask CTC about.

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 they completed monthly reports to the State and Sherriff's Department. He stated he attended Chief Day at the State Capital. He stated he attended career day at Newberry College. He stated they had firearms training this afternoon and Officer Jones shot a perfect 250 and will get an Expert Marshal badge. He stated Earth Day is tomorrow, and we will help to keep the town beautiful. He stated they are starting Coffee with a Cop on April 24th at The Blend at 8. He stated annual training will be April 28th at the Police Department. He stated National Night Out will be on August 5th from 5-8pm at Town Center, May 13th will be career day at Prosperity Rikard and the CJA audit will be on May 13th too.

Town Attorney:

Jennifer Nichols stated she is working with MASC on developing a Subdivision Ordinance on what the town needs.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated we enjoyed hosting Prosperity Rikard Elementary School kindergarten classes and invited them to Hoppin'. She welcomed Councilmember Terry Murphy. She stated the Governmental Association meeting we hosted on March 30th at Hawg Heaven was a great crowd and great food. She stated she would like to have a work session to go over the Subdivision Ordinance early afternoon on May 5th.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Robert Martin thanked the Citizens for attending the meeting.

Councilmember Terry Murphy stated he was pleased to see one of the Citizens power washing the sidewalk in front of their house and taking pride in our town to keep the sidewalk looking great.

Mayor Robert Martin adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer