

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
September 19, 2023

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

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

Council Absence: Councilman Robert Martin.

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 August 15, 2023 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve the Minutes from August 15, 2023 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Underwood asked to add to the agenda between open session and updates the swearing in of Officer Townsend.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to add the swearing in of Officer Townsend to the agenda; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Steve Spears explained to Mayor and Council about his non-profit organization on rescuing Great Piranesi's that he started about a year ago. He stated he has therapy dogs and service dogs and he asked for volunteers for his organization. Mayor Underwood thanked Mr. Spears for his service.

Swearing in of Officer Townsend:

The Oath of Office was presented by Chief Palmore and Officer Townsend recited the Oath as the Chief held the Bible.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mayor Underwood stated Ms. Bradley sent the minutes to all of Council and we are taking for information.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated we got good news with CTC today and Councilman Chad Hawkins would share in street report.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Mrs. Livingston stated they are adding additional services. She stated AT&T and Comcast have been notified for repairs on the lines.

Prosperity Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary 1873-2023) Event Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Mural is complete and Austin Gee will be coming tomorrow to put coating on it. She stated we are getting a quote to do a Mural on the soccer wall. She stated Spooktacular would be October 31st 5:30-7 and the next event would be Shopper's Walk with the beard contest.

Post Summer Fair Update:

Mayor Underwood stated the Boy Scouts did a great job parking. He stated there were a lot of people in town and a bunch of smiling kids.

Mrs. Livingston stated she is still working with them to get the fields fixed.

NEW BUSINESS:

HDL Companies (Business License Collection) - Bobby Monroe:

Mayor Underwood stated Bobby Monroe came last month from HDL Company to introduce his business on business license collection. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Mayor Underwood to accept HDL Company to help with our Business License; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Prosperity Cemetery Association Funding Request:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the cemetery has been hit three different times in the past year and the Cemetery Association has \$2400.00 from the insurance company. He

stated he challenged himself to raise money to get the fence fixed and sixteen people who live here who take pride in this community have donated \$3410.00 toward this project. He stated he was not giving the checks to the Cemetery Association until there is a signed contract to get the fence fixed. He stated every member of our Council has donated to this project and he stated he will return checks to these individuals if this can't be done right away because he does not want to wait another year for this to be fixed.

Circle Drive CTC Paving/Water-Sewer Upgrade:

Mrs. Livingston stated the water line had been repaired ten years ago and we are needing some pre cast manholes behind the houses to alleviate some of the sewer issues.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin was absent from the meeting.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated they always need volunteers for fire and rescue and thanked all volunteers for their time. He stated Mr. Glenn Hamm motioned to fund sidewalk repair in town in the amount of thirty five thousand. Discussion followed.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins had nothing to report.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman stated the town is in better shape than he has ever seen and our town is growing. He stated he is very proud of our Mayor, Council, Administration and Police for the job we have done and continue to do. He stated we have three soccer teams ages 13-15, seven teams 10-12, eleven teams 7-9 , ten teams 5-6 and eight teams 3-4 with a total of thirty nine teams.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He attended the PBA meeting. He stated National Night Out was a huge success and they assisted with security/traffic for the Fair in town. He stated the Police Department assisted with traffic at Prosperity Rikard and assisted with the mobile food pantry. He stated we have received a Public Safety Grant for protective vest. He stated they have worked on online legal updates and continue to work on the accreditation program. He stated Officer Trey Townsend graduated from the Academy. He stated Hunter and himself would be attending investigative school at the Academy the first week in October. He stated Corporal Jones would be attending a crime

scene class in December and he would be attending the Chief Conference from November 16-18th at the beach. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked how long it would take for the department to be accredited. Chief stated it would be a three year process for the accreditation.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated the County has cited the areas in question on abandoned cars. She stated the Western Auto leak they have had to order a fitting which will be here in three to four weeks before it will be completed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stabilize Fencing at Substation:

Mrs. Livingston stated the substation project is completed. She stated the fencing has to be repaired due to a safety issue and it is an additional \$3400.00. Discussion followed.

Capital Project Sales Tax Plan:

Mayor Underwood stated Mrs. Livingston met with Jeff Shacker, County Administrator last week. Mr. Shacker stated they are doing more cost analysis and inflation reviews at this time. Mayor Underwood stated they voted on this Capital Project Sales Tax last year and we should have already started working on these projects and received our money. He stated we are getting 3.2 million to do our parks.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood invited Council to the Mayor breakfast on October 5th at the Newberry Community Hall. He congratulated Councilman Chad Hawkins and Councilman Robert Martin for not having any opposition on running for Council. He asked Council to be thinking about a Grande Marshall for the parade.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:47p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer