

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
May 21, 2024

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

Council Absence: Mayor Derek Underwood.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Martin presented the Minutes from April 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the Minutes from April 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Mr. Robert Dennis presented specific needs of the Fire Department. He stated they had received the VSAFE grant in the amount of thirteen thousand two hundred eighty dollars and were going to purchase three battery operated fans. He stated Newberry County gets one truck for the County this year and they are in need of eight trucks. He stated they are working on removing the siren and would like us to formulate a letter of understanding that we have the means necessary to dispatch our fire and rescue. Discussion followed.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Gina Mays stated the Wine Walk was a huge success and heard positive comments about it. She stated they are looking to have another one on October 11th called the Fall Crawl. She stated their next event would be July 12th with a movie under the stars. She stated they finished the Bylaws and would be presenting to the members to approve.

CTC Committee:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated there was no meeting this afternoon because they did not have enough for a quorum. He stated he contacted Satterfield and is waiting to get a quote for Cedar and Conifer Drive.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated the project is moving forward. She stated the architect and engineer were in town and we would be getting back together in the middle of June.

NEW BUSINESS:

Addendum to Employer Resolution for Participation in the State Insurance Benefits Program regarding Municipality Councilmember Coverage:

A **MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the Addendum to Employer Resolution for Participation in the State Insurance Benefits Program regarding Municipality Councilmember Coverage; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

First Reading of 2024-2025 Municipal Budget:

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Martin stated the 2024-2025 Budget as follows:

No tax increase.

General Fund Balanced at 795,850 (increase due to Standardized Business License Collections.)

Utility Fund Balanced at 2,618,145 (increase due to offset water and sewer increase pass along.)

Total Operating Budget Percentage increased 5.89%.

Dumpster fees increased 8% (pass along from Waste Management)

Electric, water and sewer increase 5%.

Salary increases 3% across the board.

Utility fees increased for connection fees, pole installation, underground electric, cut off fees.

No increase in utility deposits or service fees.

Dump truck drop off for loading will increase to \$50.00 plus building material fee from the County Transfer Station. (pass along from the County)

Building material picked up roadside will have fee charged from the County.

No additional charge for limbs and junk. (only building material)

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Martin stated the total Operating Budget is 3,413,995 at a percentage change of 5.89%.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve the first reading of 2024-2025 budget: seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Mrs. Livingston stated there would be a Public Hearing on June 18, 2024 for the second reading on the budget.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin stated we are busy and the guys are doing a great job.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we will be working with the Fire Chief to draft the letter to get the siren turned off.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated people do want to come back to our town as stated in the PBA report. He suggested for us to take up the sign at the Depot as our welcome center and install a box with a pamphlet to pick up that tells people what we have to offer and where to go when they come into town. He stated it could be a joint project between the PBA and the town.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman stated the parks are busy. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked if we could paint some lines for parking. Mrs. Livingston stated we hired Wil Hunt with Expert Tree Service to get the tree cleaned up at the playground.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He attended the PBA meeting. He stated the Police Department assisted with traffic at Prosperity Rikard and assisted with the mobile food pantry. He stated he attended the Chief day at the State House. He stated the railroad maintenance project was completed. He stated the department had SLED verification training including Administration and Utilities on police department procedures on security. He stated we have the 1033 program audit, a community event for back to school on July 19th and a movie night on July 12th we are preparing for in the next few months. Councilman Allen Gallman asked if we could provide police security for the Dollar General on Hwy 391. The Chief stated that location is out of our jurisdiction.

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Councilman Mike Hawkins shared information out of the State newspaper about the State Law not letting municipalities put up cameras at traffic lights.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn had nothing to report. Chief Palmore stated Mrs. Senn had attended an event at a church in Pomaria and she received good reviews.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston thanked Woodmen of the World and Zachary Steen our newest Eagle Scout who helped with the Flagpole project. She stated she got pictures at the Flag dedication event to add to the time capsule which would be buried tomorrow. She stated McSwain Evans donated the vault and appreciated everyone that came out for the Flag dedication. She stated our National Night Out would be on July 19th. Mrs. Livingston recognized Ms. Bundrick for her twenty years of service with the town.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Pro Tem Robert Martin thanked everyone for helping with the Flag dedication.

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

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer