

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
January 16, 2024

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Chad Hawkins, Mike 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 November 21, 2023 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the Minutes from November 21, 2023 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Lori Graham with the Small Business Development Center introduced herself to Council and shared what services they offer to help small business owners.

Mayor Underwood suggested to bring her cards to Town Hall and to attend the Prosperity Business Association Meeting on the second Tuesday of the month.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated Ms. Bradley did not attend the meeting this morning and the minutes will be sent at a later time.

CTC Committee:

Mrs. Livingston stated Mr. Glenn Hamm met with her last week about the paving for water repairs and he asked about the needs of the town. She stated Conifer and Cedar

drive were still on the radar of getting paved and he is checking on signage other than street signs. Discussion followed.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Councilman Martin stated we still have to install tags on the poles but we are moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in of Councilman Chad Hawkins:

Mayor Underwood asked Councilman Chad Hawkins to come forward. The Oath of Office was presented and Councilman Chad Hawkins recited the Oath as his wife Kelly Hawkins held the Bible.

Swearing in of Councilman Robert Martin, Jr.:

Mayor Underwood asked Councilman Robert Martin to come forward. The Oath of Office was presented and Councilman Robert Martin recited the Oath as his wife Sheila Martin held the Bible.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem:

Mayor Underwood stated the Mayor Pro Tem assumes the Mayor's duties in the event of his absence.

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he appreciated Council appointing him to this position for the past eight years.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to nominate Councilman Robert Martin as Mayor Pro Tem; seconded by Councilman Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Appointment/Reappointment of Standing Committees:

Mayor Underwood stated he would like to leave the Standing Committees as the following:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation	Robert Martin
Public Safety and Streets	Chad Hawkins
Economic Development, Buildings and Properties	Mike Hawkins
Parks, Recreation and Events	Allen Gallman

Approve 2024 Holiday Closings and Regular Council Meeting Schedules:

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve 2024 Holiday Closings and Regular Council Meeting Schedules; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

2024 Goals:

Mayor Underwood read through our Goals from 2018-2023 and will be attached with the Minutes.

Mayor Underwood read through 2024 Goals as the following:

- 1) CPST construction for parks and recreation areas.
- 2) Carolina Connect further extended to residential throughout Town.
- 3) Palmetto Trail
- 4) CTC road repairs and repaving to compliment CPST
- 5) Town Events Expansions
 - A. Partner with PBA
 - B. Recreation
 - C. Palmetto Trail
 - D. Use town business facilities
- 6) Ramp up Town Square brick and fixture campaign
- 7) Branding of Signage and way finder signs in business district

Councilman Mike Hawkins would like to see lighting added for enhancing way finder signs. Councilman Robert Martin would like to extend sidewalks from Brown to Conifer Drive. Councilman Chad Hawkins would like to extend sidewalks going to Church Street. Councilman Allen Gallman would like a red light at the Food Lion intersection and Mayor Underwood added safety needs at intersections in town.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin stated they have changed the structure of the Utility Department and appreciated all they do.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated the railroad will have Brown, Dewalt and South Main Street closed March 5th and March 6th. He asked the Chief about putting a map out for people to get around all the closings. He stated Hwy 773 will be closed March 1st for repair. He stated these closings were coming from the railroad and were subject to change.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated Froglevel Outfitters is in the old On the Square Hair building and is selling all kinds of outdoor equipment and it is a great addition to the town.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman had nothing to report.

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 they participated in the Martin Luther King Parade. He stated their Law Enforcement risk assessment audit with MASC would be on January 25th. He stated the department had a mental health training with the Sherriff's department this month. He stated the Fire Drill 5-k run would be February 17 and CSX maintenance on the tracks would be March 3rd through March 6th.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated we have completed the pipe in the substation but we have some work that needs to be done inside with the grounding system. She stated the Legislative Action day would be on February 7th and the deadline to register is January 25th. She stated Woodmen of the World has donated a 25 ft. pole and should be here the beginning of February. She stated she would like for us to bury the time capsule around the 22nd of February. She stated McSwain Evans Funeral Home donated the vault. She stated we would be flying our new flag design soon in the town. She stated we sent a letter of intent for sidewalks to go down Church Street and we have been accepted to apply and the deadline for the application is due on February 16th. She asked Council about moving the Shopper's Walk and Christmas parade to December 7th and December 8th because it falls on Thanksgiving weekend this year.

A MOTION by Mayor Underwood to move the Shopper's Walk and Christmas Parade to December 7th and December 8th; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Mrs. Livingston stated Hoppin' will be on May 4th and the Gin on 391 has a wedding that day so we will not be able to have the car show at that location. She stated the Business Association does not want to sponsor the BBQ this year. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to table the BBQ part of the festival; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Mrs. Livingston stated Dixie Softball and Baseball registration deadline is February 9th and T-Ball, Wee-Ball and Coaches Pitch deadline is February 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS:

2nd Reading of Ordinance 11212023 Amending The Business License Ordinance of The Town of Prosperity to Update The Class Schedule as Required by Act 176 of 2020:

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve 2nd reading of Ordinance 11212023 Amending the Business License Ordinance of The Town of Prosperity to Update the Class Schedule as Required by Act 176 of 2020; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Capital Project Sales Tax Plan:

Mrs. Livingston stated they are in the process of the engineer layout and getting ready for the bidding process.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood congratulated Councilman Martin and Councilman Chad Hawkins for being re-elected. He stated we have the strongest Council and we work well together as a team. He stated we have the best interest of the town at heart and he is very proud to represent Prosperity and very proud to work with the Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Underwood stated there is one item to discuss in Executive Session:

- A. Review of proposed changes to Employee Handbook.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to move into Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to move out of Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Underwood stated there was no action to be taken for a vote at this time.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:04p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer