

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
January 17, 2023

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

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 December 20, 2022 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the minutes as presented from December 20, 2022 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one to speak in Open Session.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Business Association is sponsoring the BBQ event with Hoppin'.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated he talked with the committee and they are going along with the 150th Anniversary of the Town and the Capital Sales Tax Project for this year.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there is nothing to report.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Mayor Underwood asked if we could move Carolina Connect installation to Councilman Robert Martin's report.

Prosperity Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary 1873-2023) Planning Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated the birthday of Prosperity is on February 22nd and we will kick off the 150th celebration at the next Council Meeting. He stated we will center on all of our events this year. Mrs. Livingston stated our committee has broken up in different sections and everything will go live on the 22nd. She stated there will be a drop-in at the Council meeting to kick off the celebration.

NEW BUSINESS:

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 2023 Holiday Closings and Regular Council Meeting Schedules:

A **MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve 2023 Holiday Closings and Regular Council Meeting Schedules; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

2023 Goals:

Mayor Underwood read through 2022 Goals and Accomplishments:

1. Carolina Connect complete availability downtown and extend to residential throughout town. (Main, Brown, Williamswood and others)
2. Prioritize and present CPST for funding.
 - A. Water tower and well rehab. (Did not include)
 - B. Park Enhancements at Langford, Wheeler and Town Center including park safety barrier at Town Hall and includes lighting for walking track and signage for all parks throughout town. (Received)

3. Partnership with Town of Prosperity
 - A. Pride in Prosperity –yes
 - B. Adopt a Highway -yes
 - C. Palmetto Trail –still working on
 - D. City of Newberry- Juneteenth Celebration
4. One way traffic on Grace Street/ Town Square (In progress)
5. Parking additions.
Completed behind Blend 20 spots.
Completed at Depot.
6. Ordinance updates
Mayor Council
Election fees
Tightened up duties
7. Redirect tractor trailer traffic.
Congressman Duncan and DOT notified

Mayor Underwood read through 2023 Goals:

1. CPST park/ballfield enhancements
 - A. Town Center
 - B. Langford Street
 - C. Square
 - D. Wheeler dog park
 - E. Lighting at walking areas
2. Carolina Connect expansion
3. Square traffic
4. Signage into town (two more locations)
5. 150 year celebration success
6. Attract robust businesses in Town of Prosperity
 - A. Partner with PBA
 - B. Partner with City of Newberry and Chamber of Commerce
7. Tractor trailer route
8. Town Civic Center usage and future

9. Depot enhancements
 - A. Flooring
 - B. Walls
 - C. Parking
 - D. Painting to historical colors
 - E. Repair needs

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the floor at the Depot is much safer and pleased with the trucks turning at the four way stop at Mt. Pilgrim Church Road.

1st Reading of Ordinance 2023-01 An Annexation Ordinance For Additional Acreage Located at 576 Counts Sausage Road, Owned by Linda W. Spence:

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to accept first reading of Ordinance 2023-01 an annexation for additional acreage located at 576 Counts Sausage Road, owned by Linda W. Spence; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Chad Hawkins wanted to clarify if the added acreage is on both sides of the house.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin stated our utility department is working day and night with power outages and water main breaks with this cold weather. He stated the Newberry Electric Cooperative sent someone out to ride the lines to see what needed to be corrected in order to get Carolina Connect in locations. He stated the easiest place for them to start would be Hwy 76 at Wheeler Avenue. He stated we don't have the manpower to cut the right of ways and need to hire this project out. He stated Newberry Electric Cooperative shared what needs to be done in order to move forward. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we need to do in phases depending on the cost of this project. Mayor Underwood stated Council is active and sends messages out to our Citizens when we have power outages and water breaks to keep everyone advised. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked where we stood with the substation at Wheeler Avenue. Mrs. Livingston stated DHEC has mandated that we tear it down but she stated she would need to check with Mr. West to see what we can do to clean up right now.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he is trying to get in touch with Glenn Hamm to talk about the money set aside for Prosperity to

pave and see if we could speed up this process through the help with the company he works for.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the new furniture company is selling all new and name brand furniture and she is pleased with the way she has been treated in Prosperity. Councilman Mike Hawkins brought up to Council about houses that need to be torn down. He stated we have a person in town that is trying to sell his house and the house next door needs to be torn down. Councilman Martin stated it is not the town's property. Mayor Underwood stated we have zoning ordinances in place for these situations. Mrs. Livingston stated the property owner was notified with a letter and has cleaned up around the property. Discussion followed.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated our events are being planned. He stated they are accepting online registrations this year with baseball and Prosperity is leading the way and we will have a great year. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated there are three brand new picnic tables at the shelter that Daniel Moore made for his Eagle Scout Award and Luke Haynes is wanting to make three more picnic tables for his Eagle Scout Award and two other scouts would like to paint them. He thanked them for doing this project for the town.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore presented his monthly report to Council. He stated they assisted Chapin We Care and attended the Prosperity Business Association meeting. He stated the department assisted the Beta Club with a can drive and delivered. He thanked the Community for donating toys at Christmas for the toy drive. He stated Officer Hunter had radar training. He stated they are working toward getting our police department accredited by 2024. He stated there is a new program through the School District called "Handle With Care" which is when a student is involved in a traumatic incident and the police will let the District know and they check on the student. He stated he has a Police Chief meeting coming up, a Juneteenth meeting, a grant workshop, CPR training on January 28th at the rescue squad building and February 16th training at the Sheriff's Department. He stated the 5K and 10K Mark Bowers Fire Drill will be held on February 18th. He thanked Mrs. Livingston for the letters sent to property owners to clean up their properties.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated we needed to add the partnership with Newberry County, the Y and the City of Newberry to our list of partnerships for 2022. She stated the utility department would be attending the CPR class on January 28th. She stated she has added the agendas and Council Meeting dates to the webpage. She stated we have never had the agendas out there but we always posted them. She stated the

minutes have to be approved before we can put them online. She stated she would be out of town January 30th through February 5th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stabilize Fencing at Substation:

Mrs. Livingston stated we are coordinating with an outside contractor and waiting on the weather to clear up.

Capital Project Sales Tax Plan:

Mayor Underwood stated we could change on the agenda to Capital Project Sales Tax progress. Mrs. Livingston stated she had talked with Karen Brehmer the interim County Administrator and she stated the bonds would not be ready until June and she would recommend not starting anything until the County approves to reimburse for these projects. She stated the Governmental Association meeting would be on January 30th.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood wished everyone a Happy New Year. He stated he enjoyed working with everyone and we have a good team. He appreciated being informed.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:51p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer