

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**August 15, 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 July 18, 2023 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve the Minutes from July 18, 2023 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Bobby Monroe with HDL Companies introduced himself to Council. He stated their program finds businesses in town that don't have a Business License. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood asked Mr. Monroe to send information to Mrs. Livingston so we could look over and put under New Business next month to be voted on.

**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 received an update from Glenn Hamm stating the Bethel Church Road project starts today. He stated they would be letting in November for Prosperity paving. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated the DOT dropped the ball on our project and it would probably be next spring before they would get started. Mayor Underwood asked

about water lines that need to be moved from Circle and Connelly Drive before this project begins. Mrs. Livingston stated we would add to New Business for next month and she would get with Mr. West about the water lines. Mayor Underwood stated they have ten thousand dollars marked for Prosperity for street signs and post. He stated they are paying for four new speed signs and asked the Chief to get them ordered. Mayor Underwood stated they are opening CDBG grants and Tap grants back up and wanted us to schedule a meeting with the Central Midlands Committee.

**Carolina Connect Installation:**

Councilman Martin stated we would have an update in Executive Session.

**Prosperity Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1873-2023) Event Update:**

Mrs. Livingston stated we had six flag entries that we need to get with the Sesquicentennial committee to judge and we will have a beard contest at the Shopper's Walk. Mrs. Livingston shared the drawing of the mural with Council that would be going on Eric and Kenyetta Gallman's building. Discussion followed.

**Summer Fair:**

Mayor Underwood stated the Chief would update in his report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**SCAMPS Corporate Resolution 2023-0815: A Resolution Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Membership Agreement Between Town of Prosperity and The South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems ("SCAMPS"); Approving the Execution and Delivery of Services Agreement Between SCAMPS and the Municipal Association of South Carolina; and Other Matters Related Thereto:**

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked what we gain on being a member of The South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems. Mrs. Livingston stated it is to help one another during disasters and we also send our employees for training to get credits towards their licenses and certifications.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve the SCAMPS Corporate Resolution 2023-0815: A Resolution Approving the Execution and Delivery of a Membership Agreement Between Town of Prosperity and The South Carolina Association of Municipal Power Systems ("SCAMPS"); Approving the Execution and Delivery of Services Agreement Between SCAMPS and the Municipal Association of South Carolina; and Other Matters Related Thereto; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:**

Councilman Martin stated the project behind the Blend would start on August 28<sup>th</sup>. He stated there is a temporary fence up and the Utility Department will be cleaning up the cane. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about the leak behind Western Auto. Mrs. Livingston stated she would have to ask Mr. West about this and Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he would like to move this up on the priority list.

**Public Safety and Streets:**

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he would stay on top of CTC with paving projects for Prosperity.

**Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:**

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated on December 9<sup>th</sup> there was an accident at the Prosperity cemetery where a car left the road and damaged the fence. He stated most of the insurance money went to the car and there are two other places in the fence that are damaged. He stated the insurance check will take care of one of the places but he hoped we could figure a way to help them with the other two areas. He stated he would like Council to think about us paying for the grass cutting at the cemetery. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated we would put on the agenda for next month and see if legally we can do anything and come up with different solutions. Mrs. Livingston stated the cemetery is on the National Registry and Mr. Jimmy Counts is wanting to get a plaque to install there leaving a gap in the fence.

**Parks, Recreation and Events:**

Councilman Gallman stated we have a lot of events going on in our town.

**Police Department:**

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He attended the PBA meeting and security meetings with the Fair committee. He stated National Night Out was a success and thanked the sponsors, the town, Officers and the Citizens. He stated they received a donation from Newberry Electric Cooperative for one thousand dollars. He stated it was an honor to assist the family of Lt. Michael Woods who lost his life in the line of duty on July 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated he worked with the City of Newberry Police Department and was a Citizen of the Town of Prosperity. He stated the Police Department escorted his body to Newberry College for the funeral and helped with traffic control. He stated the Police Department is assisting with traffic at Prosperity Rikard. He stated we have received two Public Safety grants for safety vest and in car camera for the police car. He stated they have worked on online legal updates. He stated Trey Townsend would be graduating from the Academy around the middle of September. He stated the Summer Fair would be in

town August 24<sup>th</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup>. He stated they are estimating twelve thousand people to attend over the four day period. He stated we are working on a parking plan and will utilize everywhere in town for parking during this event. He stated he talked with the Sheriff and Deputies about helping with security.

**Town Attorney:**

Mrs. Senn had nothing to report. Councilman Martin asked about the Hamm property that we are wanting to use for a parking lot. She stated she talked with Mr. Hamm last month about this but since the town can't put their name as loss payee on the General Liability insurance he was not too interested but he would think about it but she has called him twice since and no return calls. Discussion followed.

**Town Administrator:**

Mrs. Livingston stated she has had two Councilman asking about abandoned vehicles or parked not licensed vehicles. She stated the County has updated their Ordinance to two vehicles in the yard, unlimited in the backyard or more than two in a shed. She stated our Ordinance still states you cannot have any in the yard. Discussion followed. Mrs. Livingston stated we have people that are living in campers and we are addressing that through Newberry County. She stated she is working with the Chief on the accreditation that has to be done by the end of the year. She stated they have talked to Don Evans about working part-time to work on our accreditation. She stated soccer registration is through August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Underwood stated he would like for Council to decide who we want for the next year BBQ cook off for Hoppin'. Mrs. Livingston stated we were not involved with the BBQ contest with Hoppin' and it cost Prosperity Business Association \$800.00 and it was not organized at all. Mrs. Livingston stated we would like to use South Carolina BBQ Network this year and their charge is \$300.00.

**A MOTION** by Mayor Underwood to approve South Carolina BBQ Network for the BBQ cook off for Hoppin' next year; seconded by Councilman Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Stabilize Fencing at Substation:**

Mrs. Livingston stated there is a temporary fence up at the location and they will start this project on August 28<sup>th</sup>. She stated the utility department will be doing some work before the project starts to clear the cane.

**Capital Project Sales Tax Plan:**

Mrs. Livingston stated she emailed Mrs. Karen Brehmer for an update and she stated there was no determination on funding method, bonding or pay as you go. Mrs. Brehmer stated the County Council will be voting on Construction Management Services at the next meeting.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked Council to attend a reception for the Sestercentennial on August 28<sup>th</sup> to kick off the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A. Personnel Issue in Administration

B. Contractual Issue in Utilities- ROW and Pole Maintenance

(Upon returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed in executive session.)

**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 8:36p.m.

*Michelle Bundrick* Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer