

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
February 18, 2025

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Mike Hawkins, Chad 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 19, 2024 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the Minutes from November 19, 2024 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Laura Williams had questions for the Council about ordinances, update on post storm and an issue with the tree line on her property. Mayor Underwood stated Mrs. Livingston could go over her questions about the ordinances. Councilman Chad Hawkins suggested for her to call DOT concerning the trees in the right of way. Mayor Underwood thanked her for coming to the meeting.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we are getting complaints about people shooting guns where Spotts Tractor was, but it is not located in the town limits.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mayor Underwood stated there was no report.

CTC Committee:

Mr. Glenn Hamm stated the CTC has set aside ten thousand dollars for street signage for the Town of Prosperity. He stated they are making a twenty-thousand dollar bond available for maintenance of roadways/sidewalks. He stated our paving project should begin mid-April and be completed by early summer.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mayor Underwood stated we have 3.2 million for parks and recreation with the CPST project. Mrs. Livingston stated new pricing will be available next week and playground equipment will be ordered. She stated the estimated time for delivery is five weeks from the order date and demolition should begin in the next few weeks. She stated the CPST project includes fencing around the basketball court, benches, new bathrooms and picnic shelter at Langford Street; Dixie Youth field new concession stand and bathrooms; lighting around the walking track and multi-purpose field and new bathrooms.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve \$500,000 for the playground demolition and new equipment order for the parks; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation of Bennie Bennett Award:

Mayor Underwood stated to honor Mr. Bennie Bennett we have recognized an outstanding African American in our Community with the Bennie Bennett African American Community Leadership Award and this year we presented Mrs. Faith Edwards with this award.

Able South Carolina Presentation:

Mayor Underwood stated Mary Alex Kopp with Able South Carolina reached out to him after the storm. He shared a letter with Council describing what services Able SC offers for people with disabilities.

CSX Railroad Invoice and Communication Discussion:

Mayor Underwood stated the actual outage was behind A-Z Transmission in the County. He stated we would have mobilized special equipment from Duke if CXS had told us they would not have been here for 24 hours. He stated the Town and Duke did all we could do with the information that was provided to us. He stated he would like us to collect what it cost for the power outage and send an invoice to CSX Railroad. Discussion followed.

Appointment/Reappointment of Standing Committees:

Mayor Underwood stated he would like to reappoint the standing committees without any changes.

Approve 2025 Holiday Closing and Regular Council Meeting Schedules:

Mayor Underwood and Council Approved the 2025 Holiday Closing and Regular Council Meeting Schedules for the year.

Setting 2025 Goals:

Mayor Underwood read through 2024 Goals as the following:

- 1) CPST start and completion of all Parks and Recreation Centers (\$3.2 M).
- 2) Parking Additions off Main Street.
- 3) Increase rental at Town Center and Depot; increase revenue.
- 4) Continue Carolina Connect progression throughout town.
- 5) New Substation feed from NEC for emergencies and disasters.
- 6) Town of Prosperity Ordinance reviews: Dogs, Nuisance properties, noise violations.
- 7) Completion for road and street repairs/repaving by DOT.

Award Helene Roof Repairs to Town Hall and Depot:

Mayor Underwood stated we put a memo out after the storm explaining we are not equipped for shelters. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Livingston had a discussion with the Council on the roof repairs. Mrs. Livingston stated she wanted to accept bid #1 because he is local, and he could repair both the Depot and Town Hall.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to accept Bid #1 to repair the roof at Town Hall and the Depot; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin stated we have two people out due to an accident in the town vehicle and we are working with a three man crew right now so there will be a delay in work orders getting completed. He passed something along for information that the person on the ground working does not have to be a lineman just as long as they know how to operate the bucket.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we are preparing with better ideas for the next outage. He thanked CTC for all their help and stated paving crews are coming into town in April. He stated our utilities needed to be marked and moved if needed to be before this happens.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the Chip and Sawmill at Georgia Pacific was closing down but the good news they are investing a lot of money into the Plyboard Mill. He stated we are trying to get some additional parking space, and he would like to see lighting with parking lots we have in conjunction with what we are doing downtown with the project.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman stated the deadline for Coaches Pitch is February 24th. He stated we have five Ozone teams, six Minor teams, four 10U teams and three 12U teams.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry. He thanked all the volunteers with the Shopper's Walk and Christmas Parade. He stated they were awarded a fifteen -thousand dollar grant for body cameras from the South Carolina Department of Public Safety. He asked everyone to keep the City of Newberry in their prayers because they had lost one of their officers this week. He stated they assisted with the Fire Drill 5-K/10-K run. He stated he had some possibilities of new hires for the Police Department.

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we needed to refresh ourselves with the chicken ordinance because we have chickens roaming around in other's yards. Discussion followed.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn stated she consulted with the Town Administrator on the ending and the beginning of another bond and the social media policy and will be discussing a lease issue in Executive Session.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated FEMA and our Insurance Company have adjusted storm damage to the Depot, Civic Center, Ballfields and Town Hall and everything has been filed and paid through our insurance. She stated \$23,933 has been obligated through FEMA so once money is released we will get paid. She stated this project has taken a lot of time to get information together and thanked Kelly Donkle for helping us through this process. She stated three of the speed signs have been installed and the fourth needs a pole set to complete installation. She stated we need to schedule a date for a budget workshop/bond discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brochures for Depot:

Mrs. Livingston stated there was no update.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

There were no General Comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

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

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

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:25p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer