MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
September 15, 2026

Council Attendance:	Mayor Robert Martin, Councilmembers: Mike Hawkins, Chad Hawkins, McKeva Kinard-Shelton and Terry Murphy.
Administrative Attendance:	Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Wise, Clerk Treasurer; Wesley Palmore, Police Chief and Jennifer Nichols, Town Attorney.

Mayor Robert Martin called the Regular meeting to order and asked Councilmember McKeva Kinard- Shelton to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Robert Martin presented the Minutes from August 18, 2026, Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to approve the Minutes from August 18, 2026, Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember Terry Murphy and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Daniel Hare shared concerns about the development of our community with the Council. Discussion followed.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated no one could make it tonight from the Business Association, but they are working on upcoming events.

CTC Committee:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated he could not attend the meeting this afternoon and Mr. Glenn Hamm did not send him a report.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mr. West stated the project is moving along, and the punch list makes it a little slower. He stated the Pavillion area at Langford Street is done. He stated they have finished rough grading at the parking lot at Langford Street. He stated a rock was thrown at a window in the bulldozer and broke it. He stated the epoxy coating is going on in a couple of weeks. He stated water and sewer are completed at Langford Street. He stated bleachers have been placed and picnic tables have come in and he needs some volunteers from the Boy Scouts to help assemble. He stated there is a change order for the drainage issue at the railroad North Main Street ballfield. The contractor has installed underground drainage which takes the water from the gutters, and they agreed to shift grading from the other side for the drainage problem. He stated they are waiting for approval on the basketball court.

Councilmember Terry Murphy asked if they plan to pave the parking lots at these locations. Mr. West stated they are planning to pave the railroad ballfield and Langford Street. Location.

NEW BUSINESS:

District 40 Representative Joe White:

Representative Joe White introduced himself to the Citizens and shared some of his priorities for the next couple of years including fixing our Judicial system and restructuring the DOT to make them more accountable where we can improve our roads once we get the structure right. He stated we work hard to make something happen going from one step to another; he called it the science of muddling through. He thanked and appreciated Council for serving the public and stated what a great job we did celebrating our 150th Anniversary for Prosperity.

Discussion to recommend text amendment to add ½ acre lot restriction to Article 3 Establishment of Districts and Zoning Map; Section 3 Establishment of Districts:

Mrs. Livingston stated we have Zoning district R-7 which is seven thousand square feet and Zoning district R-10 which is ten thousand square feet and our new text amendment is adding ½ half acre lots to subdivisions which is more than five lots required and we need to decide if we are going to change R10 to add the half acre lot or do we want to do away with R-7. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Nichols stated the main question is getting rid of R-7, and she stated the uses will need to be added under another district. Mrs. Livingston suggested having a workshop to discuss. She stated it cannot go on planning and zoning until October anyway.

2nd Reading of Ordinance 2026 0714-Chapter 154 SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS:

A MOTION by Councilmember Chad Hawkins to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2026 0714-Chapter154 SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS; seconded by Councilmember Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Discussion of Downtown Bypass of Main Street:

Mayor Martin stated we are discussing this downtown Bypass with Senator Cromer. He stated this started with our sidewalks that were broken and the DOT replaced and expanded out a foot and it has made traffic more dangerous on Main Street. He stated this truck route would be at Dollar General on Hwy 391and would go around to Hwy 76 detouring the Town of Prosperity. Discussion followed.

Rescheduling October Council Meeting to October 27th:

A MOTION by Councilmember Mike Hawkins to reschedule the October Council Meeting to October 27, 2026; seconded by Councilmember Terry Murphy, and so approved unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilmember Murphy stated he talked with Jess last Thursday and they are still planning to clear lines on Church Street and Dominick Street. He stated they talked with Mr. Heilman on the plan for clearing lines on Brown Street and Cedar Drive. He stated our Utilities worked on the transformer at Roma's and had power turned off on Brown Street to replace a pole at the ballfield.

Public Safety:

Councilmember McKeva Kinard-Shelton stated there was nothing to report from Fire and Rescue. She thanked the Chief and Police Department for handling the situation with the bull. She stated we have a new officer that will be starting soon. She stated we have purchased two vehicles for the Police Department.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated with success we have growing pains and hoping we can address some of our parking issues with better signage and better lighting next month. He stated he is pleased to see the new businesses in our town.

Parks, Recreation, Events and Streets:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated our fields are full. He stated soccer and football collide with each other, but he will talk with Mr. Johnny Caldwell with the City of Newberry about the football program. He stated grass and weeds are intruding on our sidewalks and asked our Citizens if you have a sidewalk in front of your house to try and keep it clean for other Citizens that are using our sidewalks. He thanked Utilities for fixing the manhole covers and he had a Citizen to thank us for keeping the bathrooms looking great at the ballfield.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore thanked Council for purchasing the two vehicles for the Police Department. He reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry and the Back to School Bash in the park. He stated they cancelled National Night Out due to the rain. He stated they are directing school traffic and preparing for the events coming up. He stated he is going to Police Chief conference on October 1st through 3rd. He stated we are waiting on the radar and installation of the lights in one of the new police vehicles before it will be ready for the road.

Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated the speed sign traveling into town on Hwy 76 blinks red until you get to forty and then turns yellow. He stated it should blink red until it gets down to the speed limit which is 35 mph.

Town Attorney:

Jennifer Nichols stated she would be meeting with Mrs. Livingston on new policies in the next week or two.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Council needs to decide on the Grand Marshal for the Christmas Parade. She stated we are assisting the Prosperity Business Association with Candy Cane Lane for the Shopper's Walk and will be giving out Santa tickets at Spooktacular.

Councilmember Terry Murphy stated he had some new people in town asking about our activities/events coming up in town and asked if children still go door to door at Halloween.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Robert Martin thanked the Council for doing their jobs and being attentive to our Citizens.

Mayor Robert Martin adjourned the meeting at 8:04p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer