

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting and
Public Hearing for 2024-2025 Budget
June 18, 2024

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

Council Absence: Councilman Chad Hawkins.

Administrative Attendance: Michelle Bundrick, Clerk Treasurer; Wesley Palmore, Police Chief and Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

Administrative Absence: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator.

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 May 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the Minutes from May 21, 2024 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2024-2025 BUDGET:

Mayor Underwood opened the Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 Budget. Mayor Underwood read the 2024-2025 Budget as follows:

No tax increase.

General Fund Balanced at 795,850 (increase due to Standardized Business License Collections.)

Utility Fund Balanced at 2,618,145 (increase due to offset water and sewer increase pass along.)

Total Operating Budget balanced at 3,413,995.

Total Operating Budget Percentage increased 5.89%.

Dumpster fees increased 8% (pass along from Waste Management)

Electric, water and sewer increase 5%.

Salary increases 3% across the board.

Utility fees increased for connection fees, pole installation, underground electric, cut off fees.

No increase in utility deposits or service fees.

Dump truck drop off for loading will increase to \$50.00 plus building material fee from the County Transfer Station. (pass along from the County)

Building material picked up roadside will have fee charged from the County.

No additional charge for limbs and junk. (only building material)

Mayor Underwood asked if anyone wanted to speak at this time or ask any questions about the budget. He stated we would close the Public Hearing later in the meeting.

OPEN SESSION:

Ms. Lorraine Bradley stated they had someone selling vegetables at the last market yard sale and it was great. She asked if we were going to be extending the market sales because she heard someone was coming back next month selling vegetables. Discussion followed.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mayor Underwood stated Gina is absent from the meeting, but she wanted to remind everyone that there are still plans for a movie under the stars on July 12th at the softball field.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated Councilman Chad Hawkins is absent from the meeting. He stated there is no report, but Councilman Hawkins is working with the CTC on current projects.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mayor Underwood stated we met with Jeff Shacker and Scott Sawyer to go over DP3 drawings and forwarded the Downtown Square Plans for review. He stated Scott Sawyer sent the itemized cost estimate list to Karen today and we will look at when she returns to work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Close Public Hearing:

Mayor Underwood closed the Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 budget. There was no discussion from the public.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to close the Public Hearing on the 2024-2025 budget; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin stated the guys are working hard and catching up on old projects.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins was absent from the meeting.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we discussed last month about having welcome center/brochure about businesses in town. Mayor Underwood suggested getting with the Business Association and getting one person along with a member of Council to get this started and make it happen. Councilman Hawkins stated we have another restaurant coming to town.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman stated our Recreation Partnership hosted the Dixie Youth District Tournament in the City of Newberry June 14th through 17th. He stated both our team's finished runner-up in District play.

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 assisted with traffic for the wine walk. He thanked the Town and Council for acknowledging the class of 2024 graduates in the Observer. He stated there were no issues with Juneteenth. He stated they assisted with the burying of the time capsule at Town Hall. He stated Hunter and Jones attended career day at Prosperity Rikard and did a great job along with our Utilities. He stated we have been updating policies and doing SLED validations. He stated National Night Out is on July 19th. Mayor Underwood stated we support you and the department, but our Council will be attending a conference in Greenville that weekend.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn stated she wrote a letter to the Board of Rural Fire Control concerning the siren use for Robert Dennis to present in person but stated she did not know when he would be presenting this letter to the board.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston was absent from the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of the 2024-2025 Budget:

A **MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve second reading of the 2024-2025 budget; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if the lawn care people are supposed to be cutting the right of ways on Church Street since that is a gateway into town.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:30p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer