

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
February 17, 2026

Council Attendance: Mayor Robert Martin, Councilmembers: Mike Hawkins, Chad Hawkins, and McKeve Kinard-Shelton.

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 McKeve Kinard- Shelton to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Robert Martin presented the Minutes from January 20, 2026, Regular Council Meeting and February 3, 2026, Special Called Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilmember Mike Hawkins to approve the Minutes from January 20, 2026, Regular Council Meeting and February 3, 2026, Special Called Council Meeting; seconded by Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Sean Smith stated he is the President of the South Carolina Drone Pilot Public Safety Association. He stated they support Law Enforcement and Public Safety Agencies, and this is a free service. He presented Council with adopting a formal volunteer unit organization for support of operations of the Police and Fire. Discussion followed.

Tyler Kitchens from Troop 316 asked Council about installing a cable barrier around the park for his Eagle Scout Project to help his community and fulfill his duties of a Scout. Discussion followed.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Business Association is planning to coincide with Hoppin' with Prosperity's Hoppin' into 250th Birthday of America. She stated there were too many obstacles for the July 3rd date, so they suggested moving to May 2nd. She stated we

have a Gala scheduled for July 11th for the 250th Birthday of America. She stated they have another meeting scheduled for next Monday.

CTC Committee:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated he reminded the County that Eureka Street has issues with pine trees in the right of way and will have County to look at Eureka Street again. He shared with CTC that Mayor Martin's wish list is for sidewalks to be completed on Church Street, Brown Street and Pine Street and may be coming back to ask for funding for this project. He stated we have a TAPP grant for Main Street sidewalks and the DOT has sent out letters to the downtown businesses and this project is on go. He stated the CTC had two hundred million dollars set aside for Newberry County for 2025. He stated we got some money for street signs and still have some money allocated for street signs. He stated we had a water break at Brown and Main Street, and the CTC has money for patching roads. He stated Mr. Hamm and himself talked about the soon to be abandoned railroad for the Palmetto Trail.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated the demolition is complete and the equipment is unloaded for the paving.

NEW BUSINESS:

Date and Name Change for Bennie Bennett Award:

Council discussed and decided to change name to Bennie Bennett Citizenship Award and announce in council meeting in April and recognize this individual at Hoppin'. Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton stated it would give everyone the opportunity for this award.

A MOTION by Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton to change the name to Bennie Bennett Citizenship Award and acknowledge at April Council meeting; seconded by Councilmember Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Recognition for Promotion of Lieutenant Philip Hunter:

Chief Palmore presented a certificate promoting Philip Hunter from Sergeant to Lieutenant.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

There was no report.

Public Safety :

Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton thanked Lieutenant Hunter for his dedication to the town. She thanked Corporal Jones for coming back to work here and congratulated the Chief on his graduation from the Law School and to keep making the town proud. She thanked the Chief and stated it is a privilege to have him as the Chief of Prosperity.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated there is nothing official on the two businesses coming to town.

Parks, Recreation, Events and Streets:

Councilmember Chad Hawkins stated there is some patching and paving behind the Blend and Roma's and it is not the final process. He stated Brown Street does not have a timeline on paving so hopefully will be done in 2026/2027. He stated we have 278 children signed up for Baseball/Softball but deadline is February 22nd and still looking for coaches. He stated there are no events but Hoppin' coming up.

Councilmember Mike Hawkins stated they did a really good job packing and smoothing where the water leak was at Main and Brown Street.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry and Prosperity Rikard traffic. He stated they assisted with the Mark Bowers run and assisted with the water main break at Main and Brown Street. He stated they ordered traffic radar units for the cars. He thanked Councilmember McKeve Kinard-Shelton for attending his graduation from the Law School at USC. He stated he spoke to the Chapin High School wrestling team before their match with advice to give 110 percent in life. He stated Hunter received Officer of the Year with the Exchange Club. He stated they have a grant class, Lawtrak replacement seminar with Sheriff Department and recertifications coming up and planning with the Business Association for events coming up.

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Town Attorney:

There was no report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated Election Filings closed February 13th and we have five candidates that are running for the open Council seat on March 31st. Councilmember Chad Hawkins thanked the candidates for coming to the meeting. Mayor Robert Martin asked if they would like to introduce themselves.

Ethan Mccullough and Kyle Kneece introduced themselves to Council and the Citizens attending the meeting.

Mayor Robert Martin presented Mrs. Karen Livingston with a plaque for her twenty years of service for her hard work and dedication to the Town of Prosperity.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Robert Martin thanked the Citizens for attending the meeting.

Mayor Robert Martin adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer