

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**Public Hearing For 2023/2024 FY Budget**  
**June 20, 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 May 16, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and Minutes from May 23, 2023 Special Called Budget Workshop for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve the Minutes from May 16, 2023 Regular Council Meeting and the Minutes from May 23, 2023 Special Called Budget Workshop; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Scott and Crista Lukoski with Keep Newberry County Beautiful and the Newberry County Fair thanked the Mayor and Council for hosting the Fair in Prosperity this year and asked for us to consider a monetary donation towards advertising for this event.

Councilman Mike Hawkins requested to add an Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in the Police Department.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to add an Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Martin, and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON 2023/2024 FY BUDGET:**

Mayor Underwood opened the Public Hearing on the 2023/2024 Budget. Mayor Underwood stated the 2023/2024 Budget as follows:

Mayor Underwood stated the total revenues for the General Fund is \$682,500. He stated the total revenues for the Utility Fund is \$2,530,260; with the total operating budget

being \$3,212,760 at a percentage change of 2.71%. He stated employees would receive a three percent cost of living increase and merit increases based on job performance, promotions and hourly rate reclassification trends up to twelve percent. He stated there would be no property tax increases and we were eligible for 8.84% increase but did not exercise. He stated we would have a six percent rate increase in water and sewer to pass along from Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority. He stated there would be no electric rate increase because our cost to purchase electricity has stayed stable. He stated our Utility upgrades and projects include the following: Right of Way clearing, fiber installation and infrastructure repair/replacement in all utilities.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Prosperity Business Association:**

Mrs. Livingston stated Hoppin' was a success. She stated the BBQ went well but there was a little confusion with the ticket sales that we need to get worked out for next year. She thanked 391 Gin for hosting the car show. She stated there was an estimation of 2000 people who attended Hoppin'. She stated the Prosperity Business Association would like to have a wine walk in conjunction with the car show in October. She stated the Billboard would be updated soon.

**CTC Committee:**

Mayor Underwood stated there are no updates. Mrs. Livingston stated the meeting time has changed from 5 until 9 on the same day of the month. She suggested getting a member to give us an update each month after the meeting.

**Carolina Connect Installation:**

Councilman Robert Martin stated we are clearing right of ways and have completed Langford Street, Dollar General, Shealy Drive, Steeplechase and part of Forest Hills Boulevard. Mrs. Livingston stated we received a project list from Newberry Electric Cooperative and the line clearing is in phase one of the project. She stated we have about 10-15 days left to complete the line clearing and then we will be able to move on to phase two which is to repair or replace lines, fuses, etc. She stated this list came from our pole audit. Discussion followed.

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

Mrs. Livingston stated our tickets for the Gala are sold out at 204 tickets. Mayor Underwood asked if she needed any other sponsors but Mrs. Livingston stated if anyone wants to donate items to the silent auction that would be great. Councilman Mike Hawkins encouraged people to carpool since the parking spaces are limited. Mrs. Livingston stated 2<sup>nd</sup> Opinion Furniture Company has offered parking at her building.

## **REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

### **Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:**

Councilman Martin stated we have two bids for the substation project and would be starting in the next couple of weeks. He stated work orders seem to always be an issue. He stated they are at 90% on electric meter installation and 80% on water at this time. He stated they have two quotes on a shed for the mini excavator.

### **Public Safety and Streets:**

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated there is still issues with getting cement with the paving projects. He thanked the Police Department for handling the issue on Langford Street in a timely and professional manner.

### **Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:**

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the first event happened this weekend at 391 Gin and it was great to see all the cars in town. Mrs. Livingston stated Darby Dial is moving into where Rhonda cut hair. She stated Scooter is moving in where On the Square Hair Designs and The Print Shop has moved beside the State Farm building. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated Smokin' Buttz opened this past weekend. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he was glad to see they are painting the old Shealy Chainsaw building.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he is concerned with the big booms we are hearing and he reached out to the Sheriff's Department and discussed but it has to be a sustained noise in order to do anything about this with the County's noise ordinance. He stated he contacted the Assistant County Administrator and would be willing to go to the County Council meeting to see if they can change anything with their noise ordinance. He stated the Sheriff stated we needed to talk with Representative Jeff Duncan to see if anything can be done on that level. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he talked with Senator Cromer concerning a four inch drop at the railroad track at Highway 773 and made a phone call to the railroad but they said regional crews are who work on these tracks not local crews.

### **Parks, Recreation and Events:**

Councilman Gallman stated we had a good baseball season and thanked everyone for participating. He stated we had a couple of teams to make Allstars but did not advance. He stated Mayor Underwood, Councilman Chad Hawkins and himself attended the Juneteenth Celebration in Newberry.

Mayor Underwood closed the Public Hearing on the 2023/2024 budget. There was no discussion from the public.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**First Reading of 2023/2024 Budget:**

A **MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve the first reading of 2023/2024 budget; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**Set June 27, 2023 for Special Called Council Meeting for Second Reading of 2023/2024 Budget:**

A **MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to set June 27, 2023 for Special Called Council Meeting for Second Reading of 2023/2024 Budget; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**Police Department:**

Chief Palmore thanked Sheriff Foster, Patrol Officers, investigation and McKeve Kinard-Shelton for helping with the victims with the Langford Street murder. Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with We Care, traffic at Prosperity Rikard and municipal court security. He attended the Kids in the park meeting with Mrs. Livingston, attended the PBA meeting and a meeting about the Fair. He stated the patrol truck is fully equipped now. He stated we will be attending an active shooter exercise at the Sheriff Department the end of June, assisting with the Gala in July, National Night Out on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and assisting security with the Fair August 24<sup>th</sup> through the 27<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Underwood stated Mayor Foster Senn thanked the Chief for being on the planning committee for Juneteenth at the signing of the Proclamation. Chief Palmore stated Officer Jones would be coming back next week. He stated they handed out no smoking signs to the new businesses and replaced old signs too. Mrs. Livingston stated Tree Expert wants to sponsor National Night Out this year.

**Town Attorney:**

Mrs. Senn stated she looked into the the parking lot lease that was in question last month at the meeting. She stated they are deciding whether or not to revisit.

**Town Administrator:**

Mrs. Livingston stated the cookbooks have been ordered and will be in by June 30<sup>th</sup>. She stated we have booked two floats for the Christmas parade and thought the Mayor and Council would lead the parade with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. She stated CPST still looking at inflation piece of the project. Discussion followed.

Councilman Chad Hawkins asked about fencing behind Mrs. Penny Burke's house. Mrs. Livingston stated we are going to have to haul in a lot of dirt for this project and will add this to the project with the substation. Discussion followed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Youth Protection Ordinance Revision- Second Reading:**

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if we could postpone until June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Stabilize Fencing at Substation:**

Mayor Underwood stated we discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Capital Project Sales Tax Plan:**

Mayor Underwood stated we discussed earlier in the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**A MOTION** by Councilman Allen Gallman to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter in the Police Department; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, 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 they discussed a personnel matter in the Police Department and there is no action to be taken at this time.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

There were no General Comments.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:10p.m.

*Michelle Bundrick* Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer