

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2022-1129
December 20, 2022

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 and Wesley Palmore, Police Chief.

Administrative Absence: 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 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and November 29, 2022 Special Called Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the minutes as presented from November 15, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and November 29, 2022 Special Called Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one to speak in Open Session.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Capital Project Sales Tax Plan:

Mrs. Livingston stated Newberry County is in the middle of an interim Administrator and the money for this project is usually bonded in March. She suggested Council to look at the projects to prioritize. She stated the big projects would have to go through the bidding process. Mayor Underwood stated this could go under Old Business for next month.

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Business Association was appreciative of all the work from the Town on the Shopper's Walk. She stated they are willing to help with the Sesquicentennial. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked if there was any discussion about business license at the Business Association meeting. Mrs. Livingston stated they required a state retail license from the vendors in order to participate with the Shopper's Walk. Discussion followed.

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if we could extend the Christmas lights on Dawkins Laundromat for next year.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated the committee has not been meeting and there is nothing to report.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there is nothing to report.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Mayor Underwood stated we had a scheduled meeting but we had to cancel due to Covid.

Councilman Robert Martin stated Williamswood will be starting Monday and Newberry Electric would be riding the lines to see what else can be done in other places in town. He stated the Mayor, Mrs. Livingston and himself would be receiving emails so we are all on the same page with what is going on.

Prosperity Sesquicentennial (150th Anniversary 1873-2023) Planning Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated the committee met on December 6th and there were some good ideas. He stated the logo was branded. Mrs. Livingston stated Hoppin' was changing from the first weekend in May to May 12th and 13th. She stated we are having a Blues, Brew and BBQ on May 12th in the Depot parking lot. She stated she called both South Carolina BBQ Competitions and both are open that day; we just have to decide which one. She stated the City of Newberry uses one and MC BBQ is the one Little Mountain Reunion uses. Mayor Underwood stated they talked about having a beard contest, doing a recipe book, who's who the last fifty years, selfie tour and cash prizes for a flag design. Mrs. Livingston stated the Gala would be on April 1st at Southern Oaks Venue on Boyd Street. Mayor Underwood stated the members of this committee are Councilman Mike Hawkins, Mrs. Tammy Johns, Mrs. Karen Livingston, Mrs. Kenyetta Gallman, Mr. John Pugh and himself.

NEW BUSINESS:

Civic Center use for Gymnastics:

Mrs. Livingston stated we partner with the City, County and the YMCA but the YMCA is wanting two levels for the gymnastics program; members of the YMCA paying \$40.00 and non-members paying \$65.00. She stated Kelly with the YMCA says the State mandates these fees but we have agreement with the City, County and the YMCA that charges the same rate for all. Mrs. Jesse Long with the County explained basketball, softball and baseball all have the same fees and we are all a partner in these sports. She stated the City of Newberry will not be a partner because of the different prices. She stated the communication has stopped and Mr. Sandor was asked to be here tonight. Mayor Underwood stated he would call and talk with him tomorrow. Mrs. Livingston asked if we could go ahead with a vote on the use of the Civic Center for gymnastics.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve the use of Civic Center for gymnastics as long as the YMCA agrees to equal rates for members/non-members; seconded by Councilman Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

City of Newberry Event Partnership:

Mayor Underwood stated Mr. Carlton Kinard and Mrs. Jackie Holmes from the City of Newberry has asked us to partner with them on the Juneteenth celebration.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to partner with the City of Newberry for the Juneteenth celebration; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Underwood encouraged people that were on the Juneteenth committee to reach out to Mrs. Jackie Holmes.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin had nothing to report.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins had nothing to report.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated a new furniture store has opened on Broad Street, a business will be going in the old Stable's building in a few months and someone has bought the building beside Bower's BP but there are no immediate plans for the use of the building.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated we have had a great year in recreation. Mrs. Jesse Long with the County Recreation stated we had 36 soccer teams this season and added a 14-15 year old division to our program. She stated baseball/softball registration starts January 5th with the Dixie registration deadline on February 10th and the Wee T-Ball, T-Ball and Coaches Pitch deadline is February 24th. She stated our fields stay busy all year with a couple of months off in December and January. Mrs. Long thanked the Council and Administration because Newberry County Recreation would not exist without the Town of Prosperity. Councilman Allen Gallman thanked Mrs. Jesse Long for a super job.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore presented his monthly report to Council. He stated they assisted Chapin We Care and attended the Prosperity Business Association meeting. He stated we have had several accidents at Prosperity cemetery and South Main Street causing power outages from poles being hit. He stated they assisted with the Veteran's day parade and had representation at two schools for Veteran day programs. He stated the department has had Lawtrak training. He stated they are working toward getting our police department accredited. He stated he would need to contact Ted Graham to see when the Bower's road race is and preparing for Hoppin' May 12th and 13th. He stated he appreciated the Sheriff's Department and Highway Patrol helping with traffic during the Christmas parade.

Councilman Chad Hawkins ask about an emergency plan for power outages for special needs and elderly. Discussion followed.

Town Attorney: Mayor Underwood stated Mrs. Senn is absent from the meeting and recovering from Covid.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated the new Police truck has been picked up and waiting for equipment to be installed. She stated Whitaker Floor Covering started repair on Monday on the Depot floor. She stated she is working with Chief Palmore to come up with a plan to get the police department accredited. She stated baseball/softball registration begins January 5th. She stated Newberry Electric did a phenomenal job getting the power restored from the wreck on Highway 391. She asked everyone to keep their thoughts and prayers with Rick Mercer; who lost his wife and mother-in-law within twenty hours of each other. She stated Joe Everson is in the hospital with pneumonia, COPD and also been diagnosed with diabetes.

Mayor Underwood had asked Mrs. Livingston for a list of power outages from the entire year. He stated it is not many outages on this list and stated squirrels on the line is the number one reason for power outages and he said these major accidents we cannot control when something like that happens.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stabilize Fencing at Substation:

Mrs. Livingston stated we are coordinating with an outside contractor and hoping to have this project completed by the end of January.

2nd Reading of Ordinance No. 2022-1115- An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Prosperity Adopted April 20, 1999, So As to Amend the Zoning Map Acting on a Request to Amend the Official Zoning Map Established, Codified in Chapter 153 of the Town of Prosperity Code of Ordinances, So as to Rezone One(1) Real Estate Parcel Totaling One and Nineteen Hundredths(1.19) Acres Designated as TMS Parcel No. 464-1-1-2 From GC-General Commercial to NC - Neighborhood Commercial

A **MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the second reading of Ordinance No. 2022-1115-An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the Town of Prosperity Adopted April 20, 1999, So as to Amend the Zoning Map Acting on a Request to Amend the Official Zoning Map Established, Codified in Chapter 153 of the Town of Prosperity Code of Ordinances, So as to Rezone One (1) Real Estate Parcel Totaling One and Nineteen Hundredths (1.19) Acres Designated as TMS Parcel No. 464-1-1-2 from GC-General Commercial to NC- Neighborhood Commercial; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE NO. 2022-1129 @ 7:00pm:

Mayor Underwood Opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2022-1129 and asked if anyone wanted to speak concerning this rate change with sanitation.

Eric Lemoine asked how much the increase would be on the bill and Mrs. Livingston stated the rate would go from \$14.00 to \$14.69.

Mayor Underwood closed the Public Hearing at 7:10pm.

2nd READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-1130 AMENDING THE ORDINANCE GOVERNING RATES FOR FUEL SURCHARGE SANITATION:

A **MOTION** by Councilman Robert Martin to approve the second reading of Ordinance 2022-1130 amending the Ordinance governing rates for fuel surcharge sanitation, seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously minus Councilman Chad Hawkins vote because he left the meeting.

2nd READING OF ORDINANCE 2022-1129 ADOPTING RATE CHANGE TO SANITATION FOR FY 2022-2023 TO REFLECT 4.9% MID-YEAR INCREASE FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT:

A **MOTION** by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve second reading of Ordinance 2022-1129 Adopting rate change to sanitation for FY 2022-2023 to reflect 4.9% mid-year increase from Waste Management; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously minus Councilman Chad Hawkins vote because he left the meeting.

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if the fuel surcharge was included in the .69 cents increase. Mrs. Livingston stated that would be an average of .84 cents more with the fuel surcharge.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

There were no General Comments.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:13p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer