

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
July 19, 2022

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

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Wesley Palmore, Police Chief and Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

Administrative Absence: Michelle Bundrick, Clerk Treasurer.

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 June 21, 2022 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the minutes as presented from June 21, 2022 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Daniel Hare asked if Councilman Gallman is over Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hare stated Mr. Gallman has been a Councilman for over twenty years and to no disrespect he does not believe Mr. Gallman has won any elections. He stated everyone has their opinions on elections all over the Country. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked Mr. Hare what this has to do with Parks and Recreation. Mr. Hare asked Mr. Gallman how many baseball teams Prosperity has. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated five, six or seven depending on the league. Mr. Hare asked Mr. Gallman if he played baseball. Mr. Hare explained he played on the big field and was one of the first teams to play on the big field. He stated they shortened the field on both of the big fields. Mr. Hare stated we run our Recreation Department like it is Nazism. He stated there was a time in the past where we played basketball in the gym when he was fifteen and sixteen and we got locked out of the gym. He stated he went to the Mayor at that time Walter Hamm to see why they were locked out and by the time he got back to the gym the door was open. He stated we are still

being locked out of the gym and the kids need something to do. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked if he saw the softball team out on the field. Mr. Hare stated he was not talking about softball. Mayor Underwood asked what he is talking about and to get to his point. Mr. Hare stated you would not let me talk last meeting. Mayor Underwood explained you have have three minutes to speak in open session and you are past that now but just say what you got to say. Mr. Hare stated we run our recreation like Nazism. Mayor Underwood asked him what Nazism meant. Mr. Hare explained he would not use the word if he did not know what it meant. Mr. Hare asked the Mayor why you belittle people when they are making a point. Mayor Underwood stated you are in here criticizing Mr. Gallman. Mr. Hare stated you made it known how many council meetings Mr. Bookman came to when he was running for election and how is that important. Mayor Underwood stated when you are running for election it is important to attend Council meetings. Mayor Underwood stated you talk about baseball, basketball, challenge Mr. Gallman for not winning the election and you are talking in a circle not making any sense. Mr. Hare stated everyone has an opinion on elections. Mayor Underwood stated you can say it but your opinions are not true. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked why are you here and what do you want us to hear. Mr. Hare asked Mrs. Livingston about the football goals that she talked about last meeting. Mrs. Livingston stated we have been awarded 3.1 million for our recreation project if the one cent sales tax passes. She stated the football lighting and goals are included in this project only if it is continued. Mr. Hare stated you have been talking about the one cent project for twenty years. Mayor Underwood stated if you read minutes and come to the meetings you would know this has been going on for twenty years. Mr. Hare stated you are not in a black community. Mayor Underwood stated this is going to stop. He stated you can talk and this can be civil but you don't see progress. Mayor Underwood stated we look at the community as a whole and one half of this money for the project will be going to Langford Street park. Mr. Hare asked what happens on Sunday in the building. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated church. Mr. Hare stated there are no goals in Town Center and that is what I mean by Nazism. He stated the election is nothing but a popularity contest anyway. Mayor Underwood welcomed Mr. Hare to come back and speak anytime but have your point ready.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Lorraine Bradley stated the Business Association meeting was held on the 12th. She stated Gina Mays owner of GiGi's is going in the former Dave's Little Cranks building with a children's bookstore. She stated the PBA is having a special meeting to discuss Shopper's Walk and Hoppin' on August 2nd at 8 in the morning at The Blend. She stated National Night Out has been moved to August 3rd. She stated Carter will be reaching out to Prosperity Rikard and Gleamns to see what the back to school needs are. She stated the continuation of the sales tax will be on the ballot in November.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated The Blend is concerned about the tree in front of their place and that it needs some trimming for people who are walking on the sidewalk.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there was no report.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there was no report.

Parking and Fencing at Substation Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated she had talked with Mr. West about this and he said Wil and himself could do the work and would have a timeline established for review for the August meeting. Councilman Mike Hawkins suggested this stay on top of the priority list.

CTC Street Sign Project Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated she sent the proofs to Council and only two responded. Discussion followed. They approved the long street name design. Mrs. Livingston stated she would get them ordered and this would include all of the town street signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion to Install Charging Station in Prosperity:

Mayor Underwood stated we talked about this at the MASC meeting and most big cities have multiple charging stations and the pass through towns have one or two. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated it would be good to get us on the map for this. He would like for us to look at the options and pursue if possible. Discussion followed. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he would continue researching and to put on Old Business for next month.

Carolina Connect Installation- Timeline Update:

Mayor Underwood stated we have some tree work to do in Williamswood area and we are meeting with Newberry Electric Cooperative on August 3rd to establish a timeline for the people who will be affected in the first round of internet service to include Shealy Drive, Wessinger Drive, Forest Hills Boulevard and Langford Street.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin stated we are waiting on October to receive some more equipment for the remote read project.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we are still waiting on AED's for fire and rescue. He stated we are getting reports from the speed machines and he would be getting with the Chief on strategies for some of the problem areas in town. He stated he would stay in contact with Mr. Hamm on CTC projects. He stated there is a current shortage on cement.

Mayor Underwood stated a tree had fell on Anderson Drive last night and the tree pushed a pine that is hanging over the roadway now. He stated the tree is in the DOT right of way and we need to contact the DOT to have it taken down.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated Gina Mays is opening a children's bookstore on Main Street and All You Knead is moving into another location on Main. He stated Mr. Martin mentioned someone has bought the Bedenbaugh building.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated it has been a great year in our recreation. He stated our Dixie team went to Dillon for the State tournament even though they lost it was a great season for them.

Police Department: Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they had a drive by shooting in Pineridge Apartments and after investigating determined it was an isolated incident in the area and are still working with Newberry County Sherriff's office, City of Newberry Police department and Sled on this case. He stated the police department assisted with We Care and delivered food to the handicap, sick and shut-ins and the Veteran's. He attended the Juneteenth celebration and thanked McKeve and Mr. ElMurray Bookman on a successful event. He stated National Night Out is planned for August 3rd. He stated the police department had a community meeting with Pineridge on July 6th to see what their needs are and trying to bring peace to the community. He stated they had a school shooting exercise with NCSO at Mid Carolina High School. He stated most of the speeding is coming in off of Highway 76. Discussion followed. Councilman Chad Hawkins appreciated the Chief sending the speeding reports. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we want to get the word out about our National Night Out.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated the doors have been repaired here at the Civic Center. She stated we had a lighting strike at the Utility shop that hit the tower and Vision Metering came out to get us back up. She stated she talked with a person from Universal Lighting at the MASC meeting about a lighted Christmas tree and has

requested more information so that we can purchase a tree to get here in time for this Christmas season. Council agreed that would be a great idea. She stated we have a fire alarm system in the Civic Center that came with this building but never had a monitoring system. She stated we have a sensor that has gone bad and is sending false fire alarms. She stated we are checking into a fire alarm and video camera monitoring service for this building.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rerouting of Truck Traffic on Main Street:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he has not heard back from anyone on the signs for rerouting truck traffic.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mrs. Livingston stated the theme of the MASC meeting this year was Civility, Respect and Solutions and they would like all municipalities to adopt the pledge as follows.

I pledge to build a stronger and more prosperous community by advocating for civil engagement, respecting others and their viewpoints, and finding solutions for the betterment of my city or town.

Mayor Underwood stated we sometimes let our emotions get strong and say things we don't mean to say and he pledged to listen and get a better understanding and work on solutions together.

Mayor Underwood asked Mrs. Livingston to follow up with Mr. West on Anderson Drive work order for the DOT.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:50p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer