

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
August 23, 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; 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 July 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

Councilman Chad Hawkins asked if we are doing open session verbatim and setting a new precedent. Mayor Underwood stated we have done this in the past with other meetings and he wanted statements and accusations recorded in the minutes from the last meeting. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if he wanted the whole meeting verbatim. Mayor Underwood stated most of the meetings are but he did not want anything lost in translation from Open Session last month. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he does not object to the whole meeting being verbatim but would have liked to know ahead of time and Mayor Underwood stated the minutes were shared before the meeting.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to approve the minutes as presented from July 19, 2022 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Gallman and approved with one opposed vote from Councilman Mike Hawkins.

OPEN SESSION:

Daniel Hare asked about the Town Center Project from 2005 and why it could not be used for youth activities. Mayor Underwood stated we have been approached by after school programs wanting to use the facilities. He stated the Boys and Girls Club do use the Civic Center. Mr. Hare stated we have McKeve Kinard Shelton trying to work with the youth. Mayor Underwood stated she has asked to use our facility but the proper

paperwork was not turned in at the time. Mr. Hare still was asking why the facility could not be used for recreation. Mayor Underwood stated his three minutes were up and Chief Palmore escorted Mr. Hare out of the meeting.

McKeva Kinard Shelton wanted to let Council know she had nothing to do with what Mr. Hare was saying to Council and that she turned in her paperwork to Mrs. Livingston but decided not to move forward since another group was using the facility at the time.

Mayor Underwood thanked McKeva for sharing that with Council.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated the PBA is planning for Shopper's Walk on December 3, 2022 and there would be a meeting in the morning at The Blend. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he had talked with Cub Scouts and they are excited to be doing luminaries again this year.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there was no report.

CTC Committee:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he would bring this up under his report.

CTC Street Sign Project:

Mrs. Livingston stated the signs will be ready for pick up on Thursday in the amount of \$1503.00.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Mrs. Livingston stated the tree trimming has been completed and Newberry Electric is getting addresses of customers that will be affected. She stated Langford Street, Brown Street, Williamswood Drive, Shealy Drive, Wessinger Drive and Forest Hills Blvd are the streets affected. Councilman Martin stated Newberry Electric is waiting on more fiber. Mrs. Livingston stated Newberry Electric has grant money from Covid funds and once that project is complete will be moving forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Adopt Civility Pledge:

Mayor Underwood stated we live in a place now where there is hostility toward everything. He stated we need to offer solutions and don't just complain. He stated he wanted the Citizens to be a part of committees within town. He stated we as a Council disagree on topics but we still get along with each other. Mayor Underwood read 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.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to accept the Resolution pledging to practice and promote Civility in The Town of Prosperity; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin stated the Utility department is keeping up and trying to get ahead. He stated we have hired good people and we are moving forward. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated Waste Management is still placing carts too close to the road. Councilman Robert Martin stated we have accumulated a lot of dirt for the stabilized fencing project at the substation and we need to rent a bigger excavator to work on this project and talking about doing this work on the weekend because we have a water issue behind Western Auto that will need to be done at this time also.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he has heard nothing from Fire and Rescue. He stated the CTC has one contract with paving on Circle Drive and School Drive and may have some extra funding for paving. He stated this is the list we are providing for the County to include Brookside, Brown, Byrd, Colony, Forest Hills, Kibler, Langford flatten and widen, McNeary, Pine, Shiloh, Shealy, Wessinger and Wye Streets. He stated extending sidewalk from Church Street to Frog Level Commons and work around the Square.

Mayor Underwood stated he met with Mrs. Dorothy Wicker and there is a lot of grass on the side of the roads on Forest Hills Boulevard; some being private property. He stated he would like for us to put in work orders with the County

for Forest Hills. Councilman Chad Hawkins added Eureka Street and Mrs. Livingston added Pine Street also. Discussion followed.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we are seeing progress on McNeary Street and they are cleaning up on Grace Street behind the old Stable's building. He stated Newberry County has held meetings for strategic planning in Whitmire, Newberry and Prosperity to talk about positive things and opportunities. He stated Mr. ElMurray Bookman had a great idea last month with having a class for elderly to learn about computers and hope we are able to work something out for this outreach.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated we are partnered with Newberry County and we have a total of 351 kids for soccer with 33 teams. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated The City of Newberry has the football program and we usually sponsor our Prosperity teams through their program.

Police Department: Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they had several Officers on vacation this month and having the extra Officer has helped with those situations. He stated they assisted with We Care and attended the Prosperity Business Association meeting. He stated they have school supplies that need to be delivered to Rikard School. He stated they are planning for Spooktacular on October 31st and Shopper's Walk on December 3rd. He stated National Night Out was a great turn out and we changed the date to Wednesday so other departments could be a part of our event. He stated he attended the Newberry County strategic planning meeting. He stated the Police Chief's Conference will be held September 27th-October 1st. He stated he talked with DHEC about a norcam class to protect and keep our Officer's safe. He stated there is a new Vape business in town.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated we have ordered our Christmas tree and it should be here in October. She stated the Newberry Soil and Conservation is sponsoring the Summer Fair in Newberry August 25th through 28th at Newberry Fairgrounds. Councilman Robert Martin asked Council about Mr. David Byrd wanting to paint the curb. Council agreed he needs to check with the other business owners on that side and present a plan to Council. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if we had heard from a business owner who wants to put in solar panels. Mrs. Livingston stated we have sent our information to the business owner and Councilman Chad Hawkins is talking with him. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Stabilize Fencing at Substation:

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Install Charging Station in Prosperity:

Councilman Chad Hawkins sent emails but no responses back.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood stated we are hosting the Governmental Association meeting on August 29th at the Depot and the County Administrator is our speaker.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- 1) Church Street Subdivision Impact Fees
- 2) Personnel updated in the Police Department

(Upon returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed in executive session.)

A **MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to move into Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

A **MOTION** by Mayor Underwood to move out of Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Underwood stated what we discussed in Executive Session would be taken for information and we would have a Subdivision meeting prior to the Governmental Association meeting at 5:30 on August 29th.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:40p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer