

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
February 20, 2024

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

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

Mayor Underwood asked for a motion to move 6A to 3B so that these citizens would not have to stay for the meeting.

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to move 6A to 3B; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

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 January 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the Minutes from January 16, 2024 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation of Bennie Bennett Award:

Mayor Underwood stated to honor Mr. Bennie Bennett we have recognized an outstanding African American in our Community with the Bennie Bennett African American Community Leadership Award and this year we presented Ms. Johnnie Mae Bookman with this award.

OPEN SESSION:

Linda and Kevin Looney from The Palm's asked if the Town would like to sponsor an oyster roast and make this an annual event. Discussion followed.

Mayor Underwood suggested we could help promote advertising this year since it is short notice, and we have our Hoppin' event on May 4th. He also suggested for them to go to the Prosperity Business Association meeting to ask for help with this event.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mayor Underwood stated the minutes have been emailed to the Council. Mrs. Bradley stated the BBQ cookoff had been cancelled and that was the only correction to the minutes.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there is a correction on the Legislative update for the 6.7 million dollars for Prosperity roads and that is for the Prosperity area town limits and the county too. Mrs. Livingston stated we have applied for DOT to match our Tap Grant for the sidewalks, but CTC is supportive of the match.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Councilman Martin stated there is nothing to report.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mayor Underwood stated Mrs. Livingston and himself met with Scott Sawyer and Mac Bartley with the County on the CPST project. He stated they are gathering information and getting paperwork done to take to the Architect to move forward with the planning. Mayor Underwood stated that the Town is not a General Contractor and that the County will bid out the project to a General Contractor and we will not be the ones to sub out projects.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated the area in front of Town Center on Brown Street needed to be repaired. He stated he is working on getting some good numbers

for charging stations since he has been asked about them. He stated the clock needs to be repaired. Mrs. Livingston stated the parts are in for the clock and it would be fixed when Jesse comes back from his knee surgery.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we have several empty store fronts and would like to see them filled. He asked Council why you can't live on the first floor in Core Commercial. Discussion followed. Mrs. Senn stated it is the best use for downtown and is all about commerce.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he had attended Legislative Action Day, and it was one of the best meetings he had been to. He stated all the speakers were great.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman stated we have six teams for the Minors, four teams for Ozone, two teams for Dixie Boys and one team for Dixie Majors. He stated we have four teams for Angels softball and three teams for Ponytails softball. He stated there are four hundred total for spring sports.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He attended the PBA meeting. He stated the Police Department assisted with traffic at Prosperity Rikard and assisted with the mobile food pantry. He stated they participated in the Sled prescription drug disposal program. He attended a program at Piedmont Technical College and attended a meeting at the Exchange Club last week. He stated they partnered with the Sheriff's Department on training. He stated CSX would be closing Hwy 773 on February 26th; Pine, Mcneary and Dewalt Streets on February 27th and Brown Street on February 28th to fix repairs on the tracks. He stated they delivered letters to the residents on Dewalt Street to make sure they were aware of the railroad crossing being closed due to only having one way into their houses. Mayor Underwood asked about the mobile speed signs and how many were working. Discussion followed.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated the substation is complete. She stated we had a mulcher to come in and clear out on Dominick Street. She stated the flagpole had not come in yet. She stated we met the deadline on the Tap Grant for February 16th.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood stated he is excited that we have four hundred plus kids in our recreation program and with the CPST funds of 3.2 million we will enhance what we have to offer. He stated we will keep the Council updated when we get back together with the County on the project.

Councilman Chad Hawkins introduced Zachary Steen with Troop 316 and congratulated him on the completion of his communication merit badge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Underwood stated there is one item to discuss in Executive Session:

A. Legal Updates from Legislative Action Day.

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

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

Mayor Underwood stated there was no action to be taken for a vote at this time.

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about the ARP Church lot on McNeary Street right beside Mr. David Riley to look into for parking for events with the Gin. Discussion followed.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:55p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer