

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 19, 2024

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

Council Absence: Councilman Chad Hawkins.

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 February 20, 2024 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Robert Martin to approve the Minutes from February 20, 2024 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one to speak in open session.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Ms. Lorraine Bradley stated April 6th would be the first yard sale of the season from 7:30-11:30.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there was nothing to report.

Carolina Connect Installation:

Councilman Martin stated this project is ongoing. Craig Bowers asked Council about Carolina Connect in his area on Main Street. He stated Carolina Connect told him some of the things have not been done. Mayor Underwood asked what else do we need to do. Mrs. Livingston stated Carolina Connect stops at the old State Farm building on Main and goes to the light on the other side of Main Street and she said that part of Main has not even been talked about because they don't have the fiber. Discussion followed.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mayor Underwood stated they are working on inflation numbers and getting bonds ready to go and we will get back with them in April.

Mayor Underwood stated Zachary Steen with Troop 316 is working on his Eagle Scout Project and would like to install the flagpole and base at Town Hall and is asking for us to buy concrete and materials for him to do this project. He is planning to start this project by April 7th.

A MOTION by Mayor Underwood to purchase concrete and materials for this project; seconded by Councilman Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Presentation Officer of the Year:

Chief Palmore recognized Stephen Selestino as Officer of the Year.

Presentation of New Badges to Officers:

Chief Palmore asked Councilman Martin to come forward and stated the donations from the Cruise-In paid for the new badges for the Police Department. Chief Palmore presented all the Officers with the new badges.

Loud Trucks and Noises in Town Limits:

Mayor Underwood stated we have received complaints about loud vehicles going down Main Street. Craig Bowers asked Council what could be done about these vehicles. Discussion followed.

Solar Lights for Gateway Signs:

Mayor Underwood asked about solar lights for the Gateway Signs. Discussion followed. Mrs. Livingston stated she would get some quotes on solar lights.

Tree Trimming/Arborist Hire for Trees at Parks:

Mayor Underwood asked if we needed to hire an Arborist for the trees at the parks. Mrs. Livingston stated this could be paid through the project. Discussion followed.

Set Date for Budget Workshop:

Mayor and Council discussed and decided on April 8th at 5p.m. for the budget workshop.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin had nothing to report. Mayor Underwood asked about the poles being set for the power on Brookside Drive. Discussion followed. Councilman Martin stated he would meet with Jess in the morning to discuss where the two poles are being set for the power on Brookside Drive.

Public Safety and Streets:

Mayor Underwood stated Councilman Hawkins is out of the state.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated there are no new businesses in town but there are not any closing.

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 we have three teams for Coaches Pitch Softball, seven teams for Coaches Pitch Baseball, eight teams for T-Ball and thirteen teams for Wee-T. He stated there are five hundred ninety children registered in our spring sports.

Mrs. Livingston stated the Business Association is sponsoring a wine walk on May 3rd and Hoppin' would be on May 4th from 10-3. She stated we are having a car show, kid zone sponsored by ServPro and vendors.

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 CSX did not do a good job with detour signs in town

during the railroad closings, but the Citizens were glad we notified them on Dewalt Street. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about getting cameras to issue tickets to these trucks coming through town where they are not supposed to be going through. Lieutenant Hunter stated the state does not allow cameras to ticket people. Lieutenant Hunter stated he contacted DOT about the no through trucks and he said the only place they said we needed a sign was Shiloh Street. Discussion followed.

Officer Jones asked Council for permission to do a fundraiser for the Police Department with a tee shirt. He stated he would present to the Council within the next two weeks the design of the shirt. Discussion followed.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mr. Craig Bowers asked when the railroad crossing at South Main Street was going to be repaired. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Robbiette Hazel stated she would love to see us hire another Officer in the Police Department. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he agreed we need another Officer but he stated in our current fiscal year we have brought in \$71,000 in fines, \$40,000 of that went to the State Treasure, \$4500 of that went to the County and we actually kept \$26,000 which is still not enough to pay one salary for the Police Department. Mayor Underwood stated every town needs a Police Department, but it is very hard to budget because you can't use utility money in the General Fund, so we depend on our tax money for our Police Department. He stated we have a low tax rate of 41 mills, The City of Newberry is 81.7 mills, Little Mountain is 52.07 mills, Town of Pomaria is 3.7 mills, Town of Whitmire is 105 and Newberry County is 368 mills. He thanked everyone for the great comments in general comments.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer