

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 18, 2025

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Mike Hawkins, Chad 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 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 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the Minutes from February 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Jimmie and Karen Gallmon asked Council if they could opt out of the trash service because Waste Management was not picking their trash up. Mayor Underwood stated they could not opt out of any service that the town offers. Discussion followed.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Kenyetta Gallman stated the Prosperity Business Association is planning their Hop, Sip and Stroll wine walk for Friday May 2nd from 5:30-8. She stated they are finalizing the town brochure. She stated they are designing a new website and it will be up by the end of the month. She stated the billboard is being updated and redesigned and will be up by the end of the month. She stated the meeting has been moved to the 3rd Monday in the month at The Blend.

CTC Committee:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he attended the meeting this afternoon and some of our sidewalks are on the list. He talked with the DOT on the issue on Colony Drive with trees in her right of way and they were going to look at and see what could be done.

Capital Project Sales Tax Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated we have ordered our park equipment and it will take around five to six weeks to be delivered. She stated there is an Eagle Scout removing the border around the park on Langford Street. She stated Crosspoint Church would be removing and relocating the old playground equipment. Mayor Underwood asked if that was ok with our liability. Discussion followed. Council decided to talk with the City of Newberry and research what they do with old equipment. Mrs. Livingston stated we have at least five weeks to get it removed.

NEW BUSINESS:

County Moratorium On Subdivision Discussion:

Mayor Underwood stated Newberry County has put a pause on Subdivision's right now and we adopted their zoning ordinances so they could enforce our ordinances by their rules. Discussion followed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:

Councilman Martin stated we have two employees out due to an accident in the town vehicle and we are hoping one will be back mid-April.

Public Safety and Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated the paving will begin in April. Mayor Underwood stated he got a call from Bernard Workman over the weekend where he has the drainage issue on Pine Street but it is on private property. He stated he asked Mr. West to research any plan for the runoff at this location.

Economic Development, Buildings and Properties:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated hopefully we can fill some store fronts and looking forward to the new restaurant coming this summer.

Parks, Recreation and Events:

Councilman Gallman thanked the town for their support with the Women Ministry. He stated we have sixty-two teams for baseball spring sports. He stated fifteen years ago we changed the boundary lines and our recreation has been growing more each year.

Police Department:

Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry. He stated they attended the Newberry Exchange Club meeting and the Prosperity Business Association meeting. He stated the department participated in the National Drug Take Back Program and disposed of the drugs at SLED. He stated they attended the funeral for Mike Hawkins, Lieutenant for the City of Newberry and asked that we keep them in our prayers. The Chief stated we will be assisting the Hop, Sip and Stroll wine walk and Hoppin' coming up in May. He stated we will acknowledge Communications Week April 13-19th.

Councilman Mike Hawkins invited everyone to attend a breakfast April 3rd at the Sheriff's Office from 7:30-9. He stated our Chief would be one of the speakers that morning.

Councilman Chad Hawkins thanked the Chief and Sergeant Hunter for the Fentanyl bust and getting that off the streets.

Town Attorney:

Mrs. Senn stated she worked on several research projects this month and will talk about in Executive Session and a personnel matter.

Town Administrator:

Mrs. Livingston stated the new roof is completed at Town Hall and the dormers will be done Thursday or Friday this week. She stated we are debating on getting porta potties for recreation this year for the baseball season.

OLD BUSINESS:

Brochures for Depot:

Kenyetta Gallman reported earlier in the meeting these would be finalized by the end of the month.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

There were no General Comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman 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 we discussed the parking lease and there was no action to be taken at this time.

Councilman Robert Martin stated we met with Great Southern Homes and they are wanting to build 94 homes on this property off of Church Street and Eureka Street. He stated Newberry Electric Cooperative agreed to put electric in and give us a five percent franchise fee. Mrs. Livingston stated they misrepresented themselves because they scheduled a meeting and the person that scheduled the meeting did not show up for the meeting. Discussion followed.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we need to authorize Mrs. Livingston to send an email to say everything is on hold for subdivisions.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:59p.m.

Michelle B Wise Michelle B Wise, Clerk/Treasurer