

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers
Public Hearing on 2022/2023 Budget
June 21, 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 opened with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Underwood opened the Public Hearing on the 2022/2023 Budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from May 24, 2022 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the minutes as presented from May 24, 2022 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Mrs. Dorothy Wicker from Forest Hills Boulevard addressed the Council with concerns with the road and trash on the side of the road in her neighborhood.

Mayor Underwood stated Forest Hills is not on the list for paving. He stated it is hard to get a secondary road paved because it is just the residents of that street driving on it.

Mayor Underwood stated we do a voluntary trash pickup day twice a year in Prosperity to keep our town clean. He stated the DOT is responsible for cutting the right of ways on their road.

Mrs. Livingston stated we have put up no dumping signs in places on Forest Hills but they seem to move to another location.

Mayor Underwood asked Mrs. Wicker to call him after the 4th of July to walk through her neighborhood and show him all her concerns.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Lorraine Bradley stated National Night Out will be on August 2nd from 5:30-8. She stated Kimberly applied for the Accommodations Tax and presented. She stated a softball game has been scheduled August 6th at 6p.m. with the local Fire Department and Police Department. She stated they are working on back to school needs for Gleamns and Prosperity Rikard and have been asked to donate some snacks and breakfast items for the MCMS Beta Club National Convention. She stated Upper Cut has opened their second location in town on Main Street. She stated Southern Crush planned to close on June 30th and All You Knead is moving into that building.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated the Vision 2020 Committee will bring the needs from the Community back to Council so that we can make decisions on the funding of the projects.

CTC Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated there was nothing to report.

Parking and Fencing at Substation Update:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the parking is finished but the fencing needs to be on the priority list.

CTC Street Sign Project Update:

Mrs. Livingston stated the company sent the quotes and the designs by email but could not do samples. Mayor Underwood asked Mrs. Livingston to send the email to Council so that we can make a decision on what we want and get them ordered.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion to Install Charging Station in Prosperity:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we have no charging stations from Spartanburg to Columbia and would like to see Prosperity get one. Council stated Newberry has one but it would be nice if we had one too. Mrs. Livingston stated it needs to be on town property. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated we will discuss at the MASC conference with other towns.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin stated the Utility Department has been working hard on different projects and there was a main water break they had to fix at Williamswood that a contractor hit while digging.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he had nothing to report until later in the meeting.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the event venue has torn down their metal building. He stated there was a funeral at the old Piggly Wiggly building over the weekend and they used the parking at the Event venue. He stated this is the property that was temporarily leased and now they are needing additional parking at this location. Discussion followed.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated the Juneteenth event turned out great. He stated we offered to work with them on this event for next year. Mrs. Livingston congratulated the Dixie Youth on their District III win. She stated they would be heading to State on July 14th to Dillon for the tournament.

Police Department: Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated his department broke up a theft auto ring that were stealing vehicles from the Columbia area. He stated they were in the Circle Drive area for a second time and a Citizen caught them breaking in a vehicle and called the Police. He stated they wrecked the vehicle on Dominick Street and one left the scene. He thanked the Citizens and Business Owner that called and helped the Police Department catch this individual. He stated the police department attended the Prosperity Business Association meeting. He stated the police department attended the Memorial Day service in Newberry. He stated the Juneteenth celebration was a success with no problems. He stated they attended some training through the MASC. He stated they are attending a critical training on active shooter training with Newberry County Sheriff's Office at the end of June.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the radar sign at the cemetery is not working properly.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn stated she received the pole attachment from the Attorney and the NEC cost of putting in the fiber changed to 1.2 million dollars.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston read a thank you card from the Dominick /Davenport families. She stated she had been contacted by Larry Spotts attorney concerning a meeting to be held on June 28th at 10a.m. for the Frances Spotts Memorial fund and they would like for us to appoint one person from our Council to be on this board. Council agreed to appoint Councilman Mike Hawkins and he was honored to serve on the board. Mrs. Livingston thanked everyone who volunteered for Pride in Prosperity. She stated the Primary Election was held June 14th and there would be a runoff on June 28th. She stated there have been some changes made to the distribution on campaign material on Election Day. She stated the Election Commission will be enforcing the law on Election Day. She stated there are three major changes as follows:

- 1) The prohibition is extended to 500 feet from 200 feet.
- 2) Unlawful for any political signs to be within the 500 feet of the polling place.
- 3) Candidates only within the 500 feet to the entrance of the polling location.

Mrs. Livingston stated holding signs on sidewalks is considered to be in the right of way. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of the Carolina Connect Pole Attachment Agreement:

Mayor Underwood stated we have the pole attachment agreement but we do not know the number of proposed attachments and their locations. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we should know how many attachments and their locations before having a second reading. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to accept second reading of the Carolina Connect Pole Attachment Agreement; seconded by Councilman Gallman, and approved by four with Councilman Chad Hawkins voting no.

Mayor Underwood closed the Public Hearing at 7:53p.m. There was no discussion from the public.

Second Reading of 2022/2023 Budget:

Mayor Underwood stated the 2022/2023 Budget as follows:

Water and Sewer rate increase of 5% as passed on from Newberry County Water and Sewer.

Electric rate increase of 2% for Operations and Maintenance of Lines.

COL salary increase to all Employees of 3%.

2% merit increase for Police and Utility based on training and certifications received in 2021-2022 fiscal year.

Other salary adjustments due to industry trends and wage surveys from MASC participating Municipalities.

No tax increase-Millage remains at 41.0 mills.

Mayor Underwood stated the total revenues for the General Fund is \$675,400. He stated the total revenues for the Utility Fund is \$2,444,700; with the total operating budget being \$3,120,100 at a percentage change of 3.49%.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to accept the second reading of the 2022/2023 budget; seconded by Councilman Martin, and so approved unanimously.

Rerouting of Truck Traffic on Main Street and Installation of Additional Crosswalks on Main Street @ or near Pearl and Broad Streets:

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated the email was forwarded to the District Engineer and he stated there are no alternate routes available but he sent to the permit engineer to see about putting truck route signs up.

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated the driveway is the whole width of Bowers BP and the crosswalk will not be able to work at that location. Discussion followed.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood stated we will be attending the MASC meeting in Charleston and we will discuss the battery stations in networking with other towns. He stated the Town is going to miss Stanley so much. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he was glad that we awarded Stanley with the Bennie Bennett award this year. Councilman Gallman stated he appreciated working with all of us.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:05p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer