

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting and Public Hearing**  
**June 16, 2020**

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Allen Gallman, Chad Hawkins, Mike Hawkins 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 meeting to order. He asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. He asked Councilman Martin to recite The Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPEN PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020-2021 BUDGET:**

Mayor Underwood opened the Public Hearing on the 2020-2021 budget. He stated the total General Fund revenues are \$602,500. He stated the total Utility Fund revenues are \$2,253,400; with the total Operating Budget for The Town of Prosperity at \$2,855,900. He stated the total Operating Budget Percentage change will be zero and the total millage will be 41.0 mills. He stated there would be no increase on rates.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from May 19, 2020 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the minutes as presented from May 19, 2020 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION:**

There was no one to speak in open session.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Washington Street and Williamswood Water System Improvements Projects:**

Mrs. Livingston stated there is no update.

**Prosperity Business Association No meeting COVID 19:**

Mayor Underwood stated the first meeting is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup> with the location to be announced.

**Vision 2020 Committee:**

Mayor Underwood stated Glenn Hamm and Carter Lake plan on a meeting in July.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Drainage Issues Throughout Town:**

Mayor Underwood stated we have some areas throughout town that we have major flooding when it rains. He encourages all Citizens that are affected by this to write a letter to our Council and we are going to send the DOT a letter listing all the problem areas with this drainage issue. . Mrs. Livingston stated there is a work order in process for us to mark lines at Potato House Road and Pine Street for this drainage issue to be resolved. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated there are several areas that need debris picked up out of ditches and we need to be more proactive on picking up debris quicker or we need to tell Citizens not to put debris in the ditches. Discussion followed.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:** Councilman Mike Hawkins had nothing to report.

**Public Safety and Streets:** Councilman Chad Hawkins stated thoughts and prayers go out to all Public Safety, Fire and Rescue statewide and nationwide for their service. He thanked our Chief and his department for doing an awesome job in our town.

**Economic Development, Buildings & Properties:** Councilman Robert Martin had nothing to report.

**Parks, Recreation & Events:** Councilman Gallman stated he was glad to see the kids playing baseball but was shocked that the parents and kids were not wearing mask. Mayor Underwood stated mask were optional but we would follow the safety guidelines. Councilman Gallman stated we have three hundred forty five children in our recreation program.

**Police Department:** Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated we had court this month and with Mrs. Livingston and the Clerk of Court helping that went well. He stated there is an active investigation on a shooting that occurred in Froglevel Commons. He stated his department has participated in several drive by parades this month, the unity march in Newberry and the MCHS graduation parade. He stated they have participated in the food drives and the numbers are increasing. Officer Jones reported areas of flooding including Church Street at the entrance of Froglevel Commons, Elm Street at Pine Street, Pine Street at Potato House Road, Williamswood and South Main Street near Deanna Wilbanks property. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated he received a letter from Ralph Norman on our town hosting an appreciation breakfast for Law Enforcement and he thought this would be a great move for the town if Council were on board too.

**Utility Department:** Mrs. Livingston stated we are working on a few projects. We had a Citizen that cleaned up the Langford Street Park. She stated we appreciated the Citizen doing that but she addressed with the Utility Department. She stated they are working on getting yard debris cleaned up around town. She stated we have had complaints this month on illegal dumping on properties around town that we need to address. She stated we have hired two people this summer just for grass cutting since so much time is spent with recreation. Mayor Underwood stated we need to come up with a weekly checklist for our parks. He stated we do not want people complaining about our parks.

**Town Attorney:** Mrs. Senn stated she was staying in touch with the County Attorney concerning the lease of the land of the Bedenbaugh building. She also brought up to Council about a possibility of a donation of a sidewalk to the town. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated this is the sidewalk in front of the State Farm building and we would need to make sure it is up to safety requirements before we take ownership. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated we need to see what the cost would be to bring it up to safety standards and that we would take for information and get more guidance.

**Town Administrator:** Mrs. Livingston stated there was a ribbon cutting at a Beautiful Home and they had their front of the building redone by Bonnie's Art and Vinyl. She stated SC Made It has changed his to name to Carolina General Store and he is growing his business adding his 8 Mile Art to the business and outdoor events. Mrs. Livingston stated she visited with Karen Dial yesterday and she is donating map drawers to the town to use for sewer and electric maps and this is a very generous donation to the town. She stated we would recognize her in the July Council meeting. She stated letters were sent to the nominees for the Zoning Board of Appeals and we would appoint in our July Council meeting. She stated there would be free online training through the Municipal

Association. She asked everyone to share the word to fill out the Census forms because every person counts. She stated the banner/flag contest deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Gate Way Signage:**

Mrs. Livingston stated she sent the image to the Council and did not know when Mr. Lee Boozer would be installing the sign due to Covid in his paint shop. Discussion followed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading of 2020-2021 Budget:**

**A MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to accept the first reading of 2020-2021 budget; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor and Council decided the Special Called Meeting would be held on June 30<sup>th</sup> for the second reading of the 2020-2021 budget at 5p.m.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the checking account balance looked good but asked if we had any outstanding bills to pay. Mrs. Livingston stated we have one payroll left, Newberry Electric and Newberry County Water and Sewer to pay before the end of the month. Mayor Underwood asked about the utility collections from last month that we sent letters to our customers. Mrs. Livingston stated we collected most of the money and disconnected seven customers.

Mayor Underwood stated we do things based on right and wrong and our Community is strong. He stated we respect what you do and we are protected by our Police Department. Councilman Gallman thanked the Administrator and her team for doing a fantastic job keeping everything in order. Councilman Robert Martin thanked everyone who works with the Town, Council and Mayor for all they do.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:00p.m.

**Michelle Bundrick** Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer