

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**June 21, 2017**

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; Ed West, Utility Director and David Beddingfield, Police Chief.

Administrative Absence: Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

Mayor Underwood called the Regular Meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Underwood opened the Public Hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak on the 2017-2018 budget.

**OPEN SESSION:**

Mr. Jason Hogan and Mr. Glenn Hamm II brought their concerns and intent of the business for Rescue Auto Care to Council and asked to obtain a variance for the 119 Elm Street location. Discussion followed. Council agreed to give them beyond the end of the month until this could be resolved through Zoning. Mrs. Livingston stated she would have to get with Mrs. Peters at the Zoning office.

Mayor Underwood closed the Public Hearing at 7:42p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Debris Policy Discussion/Handouts:** Councilman Chad Hawkins stated Mr. West, Mrs. Livingston, Councilman Robert Martin and he had a meeting to go over our current ordinance. Mr. West was going through the DHEC regulations and we had added some verbiage to our current ordinance. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated our rates would be included with the first and second reading for the budget.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to accept first reading amending Chapter 51; Garbage, Chapter 51.45; Hazardous waste and automotive parts and Chapter 51.46; Town code enforcement fee schedule; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

**Park Hours:** Mayor Underwood stated we have had several parents and walkers asking about the park hours. He stated we have had complaints between the hours of ten and midnight of vehicles parked with their lights on and people talking loud in the park area. Mayor Underwood stated the park hours are from 7a.m. until 9p.m. in the summer months and wanted the Police to be aware of the complaint.

**Second Reading of the Transfer of Authority to Conduct Municipal Election from the Town of Prosperity Municipal Election Commission to Newberry County Voter Registration and Election Commission:**

Mrs. Livingston stated Shanna Proctor had contacted her and stated the earliest this committee would meet would be September 11<sup>th</sup> and then it has to have three readings with the County Council; therefore the election this year would not be changed in time.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to accept the transfer of Authority to conduct Municipal Election from The Town of Prosperity Municipal Election Commission to Newberry County Voter Registration and Election Commission; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**Close Public Hearing:** Mayor Underwood stated the Public Hearing was closed at 7:42p.m.

**Second Reading of the 2017-2018 Budget:** Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we try to keep our rates as low as possible and our increases come from the providers in which we pass along to our customers. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated every year we put off and lose the opportunity to increase our taxes and he added a statement for the record on the 2017-2018 budget which will be attached to the minutes.

A **MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to accept the second reading of the 2017-2018 budget including the current fee schedule to be reflected in the budget; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**Electrical & Economic Development:** Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he met with the Business Association and they are planning to do the Shopper's Walk again this year. He stated we need to work on getting more parking in the square and hoping we can look at the one way around the square with this sidewalk project.

**Public Safety, Streets & Sanitation:** Councilman Chad Hawkins stated there was no report with Fire and Rescue. He stated the sidewalk project is scheduled to be let on July 11<sup>th</sup>. He stated we were working through some issues with the sanitation service.

**Public Works, Buildings & Properties:** Councilman Robert Martin stated we are getting a new restaurant Tres Amigos in the building beside The Blend. He stated Mr. West would give us an update on upgrading our water and electric meters.

**Parks, Recreation & Events:** Councilman Gallman stated the younger Dixie Youth team is still in the playoffs. Mrs. Livingston stated the Town of Prosperity had participated in the Summer Enrichment program at the Depot last week. She stated Mr. West had two days with the kids talking about Utility and Recycling, the Police Department had one day and Mrs. Livingston shared the history of Prosperity and talked about the Sizemore frog. She stated we may not have enough teams for the Summer League program. She stated the Girls Softball team is in the Championship game tonight.

**Police Department:** Chief Beddingfield stated the department had an unlawful communication complaint, harassment complaint, motor vehicle theft, fraud, assault, three domestic disturbances, a larceny case, cruelty to animal, pointing and presenting a firearm, and two attempted suicide cases for the month.

**Utility Department:** Mr. West stated we have an old water line that is leaking on Shiloh Street that is going to be a costly project. He stated he cannot get the approval from the DOT to cut the road. Discussion followed. He stated he is looking into a cell based line for radio reads on water and electric and attended a class in Charlotte yesterday. He stated it is a tremendous difference in cost and would try to have a package from this company to present at the next Council meeting.

**Town Attorney:** Mayor Underwood stated Mrs. Senn had been excused from the meeting.

**Town Administrator:** Mrs. Livingston stated she met with the CTC this afternoon and they approved \$39015.00 for road repair on South Main, Washington, and McNary Street. Mr. West stated they would have to meet with the DOT one more time before this project starts and there are two high priority fiber optic lines that have to be moved. Mrs. Livingston stated she had met with the Planning Commission last night on rezoning behind the Town Hall including 8.1 acres to R-7 for the ballfields and tennis courts so that we could move forward on this recreation project. She stated they approved the rezoning of the property but it had to go before the County Council to approve. She advised Council there is a new business going in at the corner of Broad and Main Street and they have not been in yet but we are understanding they are wanting to have a bar/pool room. Discussion followed. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he wanted us to revisit the no smoking ordinance again.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Sidewalk Repair:** Mr. West stated it is ongoing progress.

**Update on CPST Project:** Mrs. Livingston stated they approved the rezoning and the project is moving forward.

**Update on Washington Street Water System Improvements Project:** Mayor Underwood stated we discussed earlier in the meeting.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Underwood stated our Council would be attending the MASC meeting in Hilton Head this year from July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 22<sup>nd</sup>. He stated this is an opportunity to share ideas with other municipalities.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: Contractual Matter**

**A MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to move into Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

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

Upon returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Underwood stated there was no action or vote to be taken.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:58p.m.

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

Statement for the record by Councilmember Mike Hawkins June 21, 2017

The budgeting process can be confusing even for those of us who deal with it on a regular basis. My understanding is that we are required to advertise to the public what the bottom line is going to be before we give it a first reading. After the first reading we cannot change the bottom line but we can move items around within the budget itself.

It is my opinion that we have not allocated enough funds to provide for a police department which will give us full time coverage in our town under the present system which we are utilizing.

After years of observation I have concluded that we are too small to be able to afford our own police department. The administrative functions have obviously grown to the point that unless we can afford a minimum of six officers we will not be able to have a staff which will allow us to have an officer on duty twenty-four hours a day seven days a week.

Traffic has increased and the speed of that traffic has increased to the point that we need officers patrolling for the safety of our pedestrians.

We need officers out in the field being seen by our residents daily.

It is my opinion that we can contract with some other entity which already performs these administrative functions to handle ours freeing up four officers to be in the field. I believe this can be achieved within the funds presently allocated.

It is also my belief that under the present system or under a modified arrangement we should turn over serious crime investigation to the county or the state. We do not receive any revenue from these cases so therefore we should let those who get the revenue do the work.

Our concentration should be on enforcing existing laws and becoming acquainted with our residents so that they feel comfortable calling on our officers when needed. Community policing and prevention are important components of our mission.