

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
January 17, 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; David Beddingfield, Police Chief and 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.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one to speak in open session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from December 20, 2016 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the minutes from December 20, 2016, Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in of Police Officer Stephen Selestino: Mayor Underwood asked the Chief and Officer Selestino to come forward. The Oath of Office was presented and Officer Selestino recited the Oath as the Chief held the Bible.

Appointment/Reappointment of Standing Committees: Mayor Underwood stated the only changes to be made on the appointment of standing Committees would be Councilman Mike Hawkins with Electrical and Economic Development and Councilman Chad Hawkins with Streets, Sanitation and Public Safety.

2017 Goals: Mayor Underwood stated the 2017 Goals as the following:

Staffing for the Town.

Hospitality funding- matching grants and park enhancements.

Advertisement- how we can share what we have to offer.

Sidewalks- new locations-look at opportunities for other areas.

Police- staffing –specific expectations-scheduling-grants

Ordinance review

Employee handbook review

Utility- electrical infrastructure

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated our water and sewer lines need upgrading. He stated if we are encouraging people to have businesses downtown then we are going to have to look at parking. Councilman Robert Martin stated we needed to really look at diverting the truck traffic through town. Discussion followed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Public Safety & Economic Development: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated they are having the groundbreaking January 25th at Mid Carolina Commerce Park for the supplier for BMW.

Electrical, Streets & Sanitation: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he has been in contact with SCDOT and CTC project Managers to set up a construction meeting. He stated this sidewalk project would not be going through a budgetary line item for the Town.

Public Works, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Robert Martin stated there are a couple of buildings in town people are looking at. Councilman Allen Gallman asked if Councilman Martin had spoken with the property owner on the Pine Street location. Discussion followed.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated we have had a good year in Recreation. He stated there has been some work done on the ballfield this season including tearing down the old dugouts. He stated Dixie Baseball and Softball registration deadline is February 12th and T-Ball, Coaches Pitch and Soccer registration deadline is March 3rd. Mrs. Livingston stated Hoppin' would be the first Saturday in May. Councilman Gallman stated Black History recognition of the month is coming up next Council meeting and we needed to come up with some names and make sure the person we choose is available for the next meeting. Mrs. Livingston suggested us changing the name to the Bennie Bennett Community Servant Award. Discussion followed. Councilman Robert Martin asked if we could push the Christmas Parade up with the Shopper's Walk following the parade for next year. Mrs. Livingston stated this would need to be brought to the Business Association Meeting for discussion.

Police Department: Chief Beddingfield stated they have had some property crimes, an attempt to distribute drugs, animals at large, parking violations and traffic violations this month. Mayor Underwood asked about the parking violations and Chief Beddingfield

stated they needed more time to see how it is going as a whole. He stated there are some deficiencies in the Department that are being corrected and we are moving in a positive direction with our Police Department. Chief Beddingfield expressed his gratitude working with Councilman Mike Hawkins the past two years with the Police Department.

Utility Department: Mr. West stated the County's emergency services have been effective and he appreciated being included in their meetings on preparation and planning. He stated we have new fences installed around our buildings; which is a punch list for our sanitary survey and mandates for our well and lift stations. He stated we have a staff shortage right now and are looking to fill two positions. He stated Allen McEntire would be coming down in the next week to discuss current standards with sanitation. He stated they are doing more work on the ballfields and there are more coaches and parents getting involved this year. He stated January and July are record keeping months for DHEC and meeting requirements. He stated we are a small and involved community and appreciated everyone's support. Councilman Allen Gallman suggested having a beautiful yard of the month. Council suggested talking with the Prosperity Garden Club to participate with this project. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about the progress on the clock and Mr. West stated he was out with his surgery during the time he was to get back with them to order parts.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated we have been awarded four grants that equal \$817,000 for this year. These grants include the Police Department with body cameras, the walking track, the One Cent Project which includes upgrading our recreational parks and the Palmetto Pride Grant to renovate our downtown fountain. She stated our One Cent Project will use the same engineer for us, the Town of Silverstreet and the City of Newberry and the funds will be released in April on this project.

OLD BUSINESS:

Debris Removal Policy: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated there has been staff shortages and our sub-committee has not been able to meet to finalize the policy. He stated they would have a rough draft prepared for the February meeting.

Sidewalk Repair Update: Mr. West stated there is no more information at this time.

Hospitality Advertisement: Mayor Underwood stated our speaker did not show for the meeting and we would look at other avenues for advertisement at this time.

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GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood reminded Council of the Governmental Association meeting on January 30th in Little Mountain. Mrs. Livingston stated the Legislative Action Day would be February 1st and Economic Interest Forms deadline is March 30th.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:11p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer