

MINUTES
Public Hearing 2021-2022 Budget
Regular Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers
June 15, 2021

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Mike Hawkins, Allen Gallman and Robert Martin.

Council Absence: Councilman Chad Hawkins.

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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Underwood opened the Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from May 18, 2021 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to approve the minutes as presented from May 18, 2021 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Mike Hawkins, and so approved unanimously with the absence of Councilman Chad Hawkins.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one to speak in open session.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Williamswood Water System Improvements Projects:

Mrs. Livingston stated we are looking to start in two weeks with the work to be completed by the middle of July.

Prosperity Business Association:

Lorraine Bradley stated they rented all the spots for the yard sale on June 5th and it was great. She stated she would be setting up a table for National Night Out. She stated they are looking to get quotes for the book bags for National Night Out.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mr. Glenn Hamm stated we met at The Blend this past week and Mrs. Andy Hawkins would be sending out some notices on things coming up. He stated they are working on refocusing our vision and would like to meet with Council and Mrs. Livingston before the next Council meeting.

CTC Update:

Mr. Glenn Hamm stated we have several projects with the CTC right now including paving Connelly Drive, Circle Drive and School Drive. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recognition of Lovelace Family Medicine:

Mayor Underwood presented a plaque to Dr. Dixon for Dr. Lovelace and his staff. He stated the Town wanted to recognize Lovelace Family Medicine for stepping up during the pandemic offering outreach immediately with testing and vaccines. He stated they followed up with their patients after testing and provided a drive thru for Covid testing and vaccination shots. They set up mobile testing units to provide services for businesses. He stated they have administered 16,000 vaccinations across Newberry County. They traveled to Saluda, Batesburg, Columbia and Chapin to administer the vaccinations. Mayor Underwood stated he was thankful for their commitment of taking care of our community.

Presentation to Town Council from Prosperity Rescue Squad:

Chief Adam Crouch and Assistant Justin Cassada presented a plaque to The Town of Prosperity for their dedication and support. Mayor Underwood thanked the Rescue Squad for this recognition to the town and we appreciate everything you all do for this town.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin stated we have a grant for a sewer camera with a fifty percent match to be used by spring 2022. He stated we have a new fire hydrant on Main Street which was finished this week and Mr. West and crew are working on fire hydrant replacement at Grace Street and Hwy 76. He stated the utility crew removed a rotten pole at Anderson Drive. He stated the ditch at Brookside and Brown has been cleaned out. He stated McCall Thomas have been working on the pole audit the past couple of weeks. He stated we had two pumps down at McFall lift station and found the pumps in Simpsonville. He stated we have had water leaks at Shiloh Street and Brown Street. He stated the HVAC system at the utility shop has been replaced. We are working on radio read meters and software for the electric and water. Discussion followed. Councilman Martin stated Karen is doing a great job. Mrs. Livingston thanked Pete Duty and Associates for reaching out to Simpsonville about the pumps we had down and them helping us out.

Public Safety and Streets: Mayor Underwood stated Councilman Chad Hawkins was not present tonight because he is representing the Town at the Ozone Minor Baseball District Championship game.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he talked with a retired resident from SCE&G that is interested in solar energy. He offered to do research and his services for free to The Town of Prosperity. Discussion followed. Mrs. Livingston stated we have a new business All You Knead Baking Supplies at 202 South Main Street and J Alan Homes at 316 North Wheeler Avenue.

Mayor Underwood closed the Open Hearing for the 2021-2022 Budget.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated it was a great year in baseball. He stated summer baseball deadline is on the 9th of July. Mrs. Livingston stated the older soccer league ages 13-17 are having a very successful program.

Police Department: Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated the department assisted with the mobile food pantry. He stated they have been helping with traffic at Lovelace for the Covid vaccine shots. He stated they are planning for National Night Out on August 3rd and a school supply drive. He stated they are currently investigating a stabbing at Miller Street Apartment reported through the hospital. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about the new signed agreement if we had to sign a new one when we got a new Chief. The Chief stated when any person changes it has to be a new agreement signed. Chief Palmore stated Lauren's County donated four tires for the hummer. Chief Palmore stated Don Evans retired on Friday and wanted to thank The Town of Prosperity for hiring him and giving him an opportunity here.

Utility Department: Mr. Martin reported earlier in the meeting.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated we are revisiting the Depot grant which has to be used by December 2021. She stated we are waiting on quotes for the parking lot and looking at fixing floors and the door going into the foyer. Mayor Underwood thanked Mrs. Livingston for stepping up and handling everything this past month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Second Reading of 2021-2022 Budget:

Mayor Underwood stated there would be a three to five percent increase for the employees. He stated there would be a three percent increase on water and sewer which is being passed directly from NCWSA. He stated there would be a three percent increase on electric to be placed in operation maintenance in the reserve for electrical upgrades. He stated there would be no pole light, sanitation or recycling increase this budget year. The millage will remain at 41. He stated Covid relief funds will be used for meter upgrades and software. Mayor Underwood stated the total General Fund revenues are 613,200. He stated the Utility Fund revenues are 2,401,900; with the total Operating Budget for The Town of Prosperity at 3,314,900. He stated the total Operating Budget percentage increase is 5.57 percent.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to accept the second reading of the 2021-2022 budget; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously with the absence of Councilman Chad Hawkins.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

There was no Executive Session.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood thanked the Prosperity Rescue for the recognition plaque and how much it is appreciated.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:50p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer