

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
Audio Conference
January 19, 2021

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.

Administrative Absence: Ed West, Utility Director

Mayor Underwood called the meeting to order. He asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. He asked Councilman Robert Martin to recite The Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Underwood asked to add CTC update under section 5 item D.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to add CTC update under section 5 item D; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from December 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the minutes as presented from December 15, 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:

Williamswood Water System Improvements Projects:

Mrs. Livingston stated no update.

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated she did not attend the meeting due to sickness in her family.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated the updates would be covered under the goals.

CTC Update:

Mr. Glenn Hamm stated the cracked sidewalk has been removed and they have expanded the catch basin and did some additional improvements on the drainage issue in front of the State Farm building.

NEW BUSINESS:

2021 Goals:

Mayor Underwood read through the 2020 goals:

- 1) Square project plan presentation from Vision 2020 Committee- Apply for PARD Grant to aid in funding; presentation to all private companies in area.
- 2) Downtown traffic and parking enhancements.
- 3) Parking behind The Blend.
- 4) Property Maintenance Code Enforcement to include fines and property cleanup- added last year and we are working on enforcement.
- 5) Rezone R-7 to R-10 throughout Town with corridor adherence.
- 6) Signage into Town; metal, uniformed- need two more.
- 7) Walking Track Lighting- PARD Grant received to do the tennis court lights and walking track poles on site with lighting to be done.
- 8) Depot parking lot project- Received grant funds from MASC for parking lot and painting the Depot.
- 9) Tap Grant Application pending for remaining sidewalks needing upgrade- Tap Grant Program does not exist anymore.
- 10) Washington Street and Williamswood Drive water upgrades- Washington Street is complete and Williamswood Drive is pending.
- 11) Way lighting to public parking spaces.
- 12) High speed internet throughout town.

Mayor Underwood read through the new goals for 2021:

- 1) County/State agreement and expectations for Right of Way/Draining maintenance.
- 2) Pride in Prosperity
- 3) Palmetto Trail partnership
- 4) One Cent Sales Tax projects for 2022.
- 5) Restart Festivals, ideas and partnerships.
- 6) Rehab wells and upgrade water infrastructure on Brown, Elm, and McNeary – may involve SRF Funding.
- 7) Safety barrier at Town Center Concession stand at walking track with signage.

Appointment of Standing Committees:

Mayor Underwood stated we would maintain the current committees.

Emergency Preparedness for Town of Prosperity:

Chief Palmore stated he had a plan in place for emergency preparedness for the Town of Prosperity. He stated there are mutual aids in place with other agencies within Newberry County. Discussion followed.

Mayor Underwood thanked the Chief for having a plan, being prepared and having solutions.

First Reading of Ordinance Changing Franchise Fee Rate for Cable or Video Service Providers Holding a State Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority:

Mrs. Livingston stated this Ordinance is changing our percent from three to five to what the State franchise fee rate is currently.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to accept first reading of Ordinance changing the Franchise Fee Rate for Cable or Video Service Providers Holding a State Issued Certificate of Franchise Authority; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Underwood stated we would have a Special called meeting for the second reading on January 26, 2021 at 5pm on an audio conference.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he would like to not see so many cones up throughout town for a personal goal this

year. He stated he was pleased with the amount of recycling carts out in town. He stated the pole at McNearly and Dominick was scheduled to be replaced on the 29th but not sure what month.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he would like emergency plans for natural disasters too. He stated he was looking into the eighteen wheeler trucks turning down the side roads in town.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Robert Martin had nothing to report. Mrs. Livingston stated we have had a request from Mrs. Wendy Steiner's personal representative to use the public parking lot for a yard sale. Discussion followed. Council and Mayor stated we could not let them use the public parking lot for yard sale but could use the Depot for parking if needed.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman thanked and appreciated all the work that has been done at the ballfields including the drainage issues at the park.

Mayor Underwood stated we have got some complaints on a private company that is using town property for a driveway and storage for materials at the Depot. He stated we need to send him a letter and handle this in a diplomatic way with strict deadlines. Mrs. Livingston stated we have had the property resurveyed and there were flags out there showing the property lines. Discussion followed.

Police Department: Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated the Police Department assisted with the Christmas tree lighting and Shopper's walk. He stated they assisted with the mobile food pantry which it was moved back to the shelter at School Drive and that helped with the traffic situation. Chief Palmore finished up some things with the Grant and was preparing the department for the Covid vaccination the end of January. He stated they assisted with the Boys Farm toy drive that rode through Prosperity delivering toys to the Shrine Club and participated in a birthday drive by for Mrs. Gallman. Chief Palmore thanked the Officers for protecting and serving the Citizens of Prosperity because they did not slow down during Covid this year. He stated they are trying to get a handle on littering enforcement with tires and trash being thrown out at certain areas in town. Mayor Underwood stated we have hand delivered a letter to the Postmaster concerning the large mail trucks driving over the sidewalks and it has become a safety issue. Discussion followed.

Utility Department: Mr. West was absent from the meeting due to a water leak on Elm Street. Mayor Underwood stated he had requested a pole inventory from Mr. West and needs him to provide it to us and to set up the meeting with the County/State to discuss maintenance of right of ways.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn stated the deed was filed December 17th on the Bedenbaugh property.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston had nothing to report. Mayor Underwood thanked Mrs. Livingston for everything she does for the town. Councilman Gallman asked to keep Karen and her family in our prayers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Underwood stated we have a contractual matter to discuss in the Utility Department and a matter to discuss with the Comcast Pole Attachment Agreement. (Upon returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session)

Mayor Underwood and Council dialed into an additional audio conference number to go into Executive Session.

Mayor Underwood stated we discussed a contractual matter in the Utility Department and we have a Resolution authorizing the Town Administrator to notify Comcast of the termination of the Pole Attachment Agreement. Mayor Underwood stated it has been a year and Comcast has refused to sign an agreement with us.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution No. 2020-1215- A Resolution Authorizing the Town Administrator to Notify Comcast of the termination of Pole Attachment Agreement:

A **MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to accept the Resolution No. 2020-1215- A Resolution authorizing the Town Administrator to notify Comcast of the termination of the Pole Attachment Agreement; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Park Maintenance:

Mayor Underwood asked for everyone to check on parks and make sure they are maintained because it is easier to knock it out before it gets out of hand. Mayor Underwood thanked Glenn Hamm for what he does for the town.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 6:41p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer