

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
Council Chambers
May 18, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from April 20, 2021 regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to approve the minutes as presented from April 20, 2021 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Joann Bolos introduced herself to Council and stated she wanted to see if she could get the zoning changed from R-10 to R-7 off of McFall Drive. Mayor Underwood stated we have a corridor in town that we just changed to R-10 to protect the town from mobile homes coming in our town. She stated the reason for the change is she cannot build the homes in the price range she originally wanted because the cost of lumber is so high right now. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated we would take for information and asked her to prepare a plan with the restrictions, land size and type of homes and Council would consider putting on the Agenda for a later date.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Williamswood Water System Improvements Projects: Councilman Martin stated we received two bids but we are going to have to get with Mr. West and see if both bids are on the same exact items because it is a twenty thousand difference.

Mayor Underwood asked for a motion to add C under New Business for a proclamation regarding the CDC guidelines on wearing mask and to add under Executive Session; personnel in the Utility Department.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to add these items to the Agenda; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

Prosperity Business Association:

Lorraine Bradley stated it was a great turn out Saturday for the car show. Mayor Underwood thanked the Business Association for all their help.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated unless we are going to have a crowd that can't be handled by our local restaurants his request would be not to bring food trucks in for events.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mr. Glenn Hamm stated we will be having an in person meeting next week with this committee but unsure of the date at this time.

CTC Update:

Mr. Glenn Hamm stated we have exciting news for the Town of Prosperity. The CTC met today and has set aside four hundred thousand dollars to pave School Drive, Connelly Drive and Circle Drive. We are excited to renovate these roads. Mayor Underwood thanked Mr. Hamm for getting funding we need. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Scott Sandor-YMCA CEO –After School and Summer Use of Civic Center:

Scott Sandor stated they are working toward a better organization with the YMCA programs. He stated he had a meeting with Mrs. Livingston and discussed about an opportunity to help families and do a summer day camp program using our facility. He

stated we need around thirty children to make this happen and would be using the facility Monday through Friday 7am until 6pm. Discussion followed. Councilman Mike Hawkins suggested to the Chief to have something where the children get to know the Police Officers.

1st Reading of 2021-2022 Budget:

Mayor Underwood stated total revenues for the General Fund is \$613,200. He stated total revenues for the Utility Fund is 2,401,700 with the total operating budget; \$3,014,900. He stated there is a 5.57 percent increase in the budget and the millage stayed the same at 41.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to accept the first reading of the 2021-2022 budget; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated this 5.57 percent increase in the budget is over the last two years. Mayor Underwood stated we would have a Public Hearing at the next meeting at 7pm.

Proclamation Regarding the CDC Guidelines on Wearing Mask:

Mayor Underwood stated all vaccinated individuals do not have to wear a mask or maintain social distancing inside or outside. He stated all merchants should no longer require wearing a mask to the vaccinated customers to shop. Discussion followed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin had nothing to report.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins had nothing to report. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he had complained about the ditches and thought it would be great if the new grass service would cut McNeary Street before the car show. He stated they cut half of McNeary and we still needed some tweaking with this new service.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated there is a store front boarded up and something else is coming.

Councilman Robert Martin stated they had a 50/50 drawing at the car show on Saturday and would like to give half the money to the Police Department.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated it was a great turn out with the car show. He stated every song the DJ played was about cars and he loved it.

Councilman Robert Martin stated he had some people asking about a fifties-sixties dance along with a car show maybe in late September. Discussion followed.

Councilman Gallman stated recreation was going great.

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 19 shots. He stated they are planning for National Night Out on August 3rd and a school supply drive. He stated there is an agreement with the City of Newberry left in the office for all of Council to sign since they have changed their Chief. He stated the car show was one of the best he has been to. He stated he watched the air gun demonstration that included an air rifle with targets. He stated he is working on the golf cart pamphlet. Discussion followed. He stated he received an email about a senior parade on June 6th and the police would assist with traffic for this event.

Utility Department: Mr. West was absent from the meeting. Mrs. Livingston stated we are looking at the bids for the Williamswood project and getting a date to finalize the pole audit with McCall- Thomas.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated our schedule of events for the rest of the year include August 3rd National Night Out and Jaycees are looking to use the football field on the second Saturday in August for a food truck rally. She stated Spooktacular is planned for Sunday October 31st from 5:30-7pm. She stated the Christmas parade is December 5th and we need to check with the Business Association to make sure the Shopper's Walk is going to be December 4th. She stated the cruise in in the Square is planned for September. Discussion followed.

Mayor Underwood stated he has had complaints about the lighting at Food Lion and Dollar General parking lots. Mrs. Livingston stated she talked with Newberry Electric about the Food Lion lights and she believes they have changed out. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to change Executive Session to discuss staffing for the new budget year; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Underwood stated we are discussing staffing for the new budget year. (Upon returning to open session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session).

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

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

Mayor Underwood stated we discussed staffing for the new budget year and there is no decision or vote to be made by Council at this time.

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked everyone to take the time to review the audit.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:31p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer