

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
February 15, 2022

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; Lisa Senn, Town Attorney and Wesley Palmore, Police Chief.

Mayor Underwood called the meeting to order. He asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Underwood explained to the public how we conduct our Council meetings and the procedures of making decisions effectively and efficiently.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from January 18, 2022 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Allen Gallman to approve the minutes as presented from January 18, 2022 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

Mr. El Murray Bookman asked the Council if the town could sponsor a Juneteenth Celebration for June 19th. He stated this is a very important holiday for the African American Community. Mayor Underwood stated we would add as an agenda item for next month to discuss.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION:

Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to the Town of Prosperity Utility Department:

Mayor Underwood presented Certificates for the Utility Department for their commitment of time, support and outstanding service for the winter storm of 2022.

Presentation of the Bennie Bennett African American Community Leadership Award:

Mayor Underwood stated to honor Mr. Bennie Bennett we have recognized an outstanding African American in our Community with the Bennie Bennett African American Community Leadership Award and this year is presented to Stanley Dominick.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Prosperity Business Association:

Kimberly Kitchen the Co-Chair of the Business Association stated the Business Association promotes the Main Street and Commercial District for growth. She stated the Association meets the second Tuesday at The Blend at 8am and their Association consist of local merchants, banks and the Town. She stated they are sponsoring the after hour event with Prosperity's Hoppin' and have helped with two car shows in the Square in May and October 2022.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated the Committee is looking for options for the Square and we are adding to the project list for the Capital Sales Tax.

CTC Committee:

Mrs. Livingston stated we have received reimbursement for the sidewalk and hydrant repair. She stated the holes in town have been patched and there is a work order with the DOT to repair the pothole at the crosswalk. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated if they wait too long to repair they need to do something temporary because it is a trip hazard.

Parking and Fencing at Substation Update:

Mayor Underwood stated this complete project is outside the scope we can afford and he would like for us to get some crush and run or gravel and lay some poles to do temporary parking spaces.

NEW BUSINESS:

Crista Lukoski with Newberry Soil and Water Conservation- Great American Cleanup:

Crista Lukoski introduced herself to Council and stated Newberry Soil and Water Conservation partners with Cities, Municipalities and other groups to "Keep America Beautiful". She stated they have grants for many projects. She stated they will distribute

all materials for any event and they supply recycle bins to the public for free. She stated to sign up through the DOT website to join.

Resolution 2152022 Authorizing the Purchase of a Bucket Truck:

Mrs. Livingston stated this Resolution is not to exceed \$15,000 on the purchase of a bucket truck.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to accept the Resolution 2152022 Authorizing the purchase of a bucket truck not to exceed fifteen thousand dollars; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Robert Martin stated the Utility Department is doing a great job and everyone is back working from sickness.

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated we need to stay on top of the pothole on Main Street. He asked when the other speed signs would be installed. Mrs. Livingston stated we have not received the batteries. He asked if there was an update on the sidewalk on Main Street that was hit by the truck. Mrs. Livingston stated we received a bid today but we will need to get another bid. Councilman Hawkins asked if we could get the glass cleaned up because it is getting in the roadway. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated the Fire Department thanked the Town Council for the AED's and they were a much needed item. Councilman Gallman stated him and Councilman Robert Martin went down to talk to a customer where it is flooding on Pine Street. Discussion followed. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we need to put the work order to pick up a huge piece of concrete at the sidewalk at Church Street and McNeary Street on top priority since there is a lot of pedestrian traffic.

Mayor Underwood asked Mr. West to do his report at this time. Mr. West stated the road would have to be closed down when they fix the crosswalk because it may be a failure with the drain underneath the road. He stated they have had water main breaks and they would be starting flushing at the hydrants. He stated they would be pouring concrete for the base of the tower. He stated they are waiting on water meters to come in for this meter project. He stated they are finalizing the lead and copper rule and South Carolina Rural Water is going to come down and show us what this process will be for us in the future. Mayor Underwood asked Mr. West about Mr. Forrester on Wessinger Drive. Mr. West stated we still have him scheduled to do and it will be an open cut now and we

have all the permissions to go ahead with this project just trying to get some new water and sewer taps installed first.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated there has been more progress on the pink building on Main Street, the event building and the Wyche Derrick house at the corner of Church Street. He asked Councilman Martin about the property off Eureka Street. Councilman Martin stated it is not known yet what their plans are for that property.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated we have five Minor teams, five Ozone teams, three Angel Softball teams and three Ponytail teams. He stated they are still taking registrations for T- Ball and Coaches Pitch through February 23rd. He stated Hoppin' is May 7th with Vendors participating from 1-8pm, a car show from 1-4:30 and BlackBeard's Truck performing from 5-8pm and local entertainment will be from 1-4pm. Mrs. Livingston stated the Braylee's Art Club will be at the Depot from 1-8pm selling art.

Police Department: Chief Palmore stated they have been working with different agencies on the auto break-ins on Circle Drive. He stated we have had two Officers out sick this month. He stated they assisted with Chapin We Care mobile food pantry and assisted during the ice and snow storm. He stated the Exchange Club Appreciation dinner is tonight and Officer Selestino is attending. He stated they have updated their policies and procedures. He stated the SC Law Enforcement Association has donated two vest to our Department. He stated they will assist with traffic on March 19th for the Fire Department 5K/10K run. He recognized McKeve Kinard-Shelton on SRO Appreciation Day.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated she would report in executive session.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated last month we voted to extend the proclamation of emergency for thirty days to have a call in meeting if needed. He suggested to extend indefinitely until we decide it is ok since last month Councilman Chad Hawkins was not able to come and it could be someone else next month.

Mayor Underwood stated he did not agree with doing that since Governments and Schools are relaxing mandates.

Mrs. Senn stated the whole goal of Government is to be public and transparent and is difficult if you are having call in meetings. It needs to be for only emergency for public health.

Mayor Underwood asked to see what others are doing and stated the State of Emergency is being phased out. Councilman Gallman and Councilman Martin agreed with the Mayor.

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated if he would have had a number to call in tonight, he would have due to the fact we had someone out of the Country before this meeting.

Councilman Chad Hawkins asked Mrs. Senn to research and advise us. Mrs. Senn stated if you see the numbers going up again and see the positive percentage of the State going up we can revisit this to have a call in meeting. Mayor Underwood stated it needs to wait to the option is an emergency and not a convenience.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: A. Contractual Matter Concerning Property Leases

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

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins 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 Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

Mayor Underwood stated they discussed two contractual matters concerning property leases and instructed the Town Attorney to work up an agreement for one of the properties and to send a letter of unanimous support to answer the other property owner.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:55p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer