

**MINUTES**  
**Regular Town Council Meeting**  
**April 21, 2020**

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

Administrative Absence: Ed West, Utility Director.

Mayor Underwood stated we are doing a Proxy meeting due to the circumstances of COVID 19 in order to maintain social distancing and to protect our Citizens. He called the Proxy meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from February 18, 2020 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if we could change the vote to four to zero on the reappointment of the Municipal Judge since Robert Martin recused himself from the vote.

**A MOTION** by Mayor Underwood to approve the minutes from February 18, 2020 Regular Council Meeting with the amendment of the vote to four to zero of the reappointment of Barry Koon for Municipal Judge; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION:**

There was no one to speak in open session.

**UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Washington Street and Williamswood Water System Improvements Projects:**

Mr. West is to schedule a walk through with Council to close out the Washington Street Project. Mrs. Livingston stated the street sign would be up tomorrow. She stated the material is in place for the Williamswood Project; we just have to coordinate with NCWSA and Jennings Parker within the next few weeks to complete this project.

**Prosperity's Hoppin' Postponed-Date TBD:**

Mrs. Livingston stated they wanted to partner with National Night Out with a July 31<sup>st</sup> date but they have moved National Night Out to October. Mrs. Senn stated most Municipalities were advised not to move forward with any dates before August. Discussion followed. Mayor and Council decided to cancel Hoppin' for 2020.

**Prosperity Business Association No meeting COVID 19:**

Mrs. Livingston stated they were updating through emails.

**Vision 2020 Committee:**

Mayor Underwood stated not meeting at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Resolution of State of Emergency for Prosperity- until further notice:**

This Resolution is effective for sixty days or end of State of Emergency. Mrs. Senn suggested revisiting next month.

**Resolution No 2020-02 – Termination of Pole Attachment Agreement with Comcast:**

Mrs. Livingston stated we received the Comcast check for \$26,280.00 minus the interest and fees. She stated they have promised the interest and fees but we have not received this check. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated we would table until next month to see if we receive payment in full and if we don't we will proceed with the termination of the pole agreement and renegotiate our per pole rate.

**Donated Trees from SC Forestry Commission-Planting and Maintenance Plan:**

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated he had talked with Deanna Whitesides with the Forestry Commission and there is a grant with Clemson University and the SC Forestry Commission giving out three-gallon trees. He stated they are donating seventeen trees and we would be planting around the ballfields, Langford Street, new walking track and Town Hall. He stated he needed Mr. West to dig the holes and we needed volunteers to plant, mulch, stake and water the trees.

**Recreation Intergovernmental Agreement:**

Mrs. Livingston stated Newberry County has presented a Recreation Intergovernmental Agreement for review and approval. The agreement will allocate county tax dollars collected to provide recreational opportunities to Newberry County Municipalities based on assessed value. Mrs. Livingston stated that the agreement did not change the partnership formed with the County Recreation administering our programs. Councilman Chad Hawkins stated without the County and YMCA we would have to raise our tax millage to support a Recreation Department.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to accept the Recreation Intergovernmental Agreement; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation:** Councilman Mike Hawkins had nothing to report.

**Public Safety and Streets:** Councilman Chad Hawkins had nothing to report.

**Economic Development, Buildings & Properties:** Councilman Robert Martin had nothing to report. Mrs. Livingston stated the building beside Leon's has been demolished for a cost of \$2500.00 and we will be recording a lien against the property. Mayor Underwood stated he has been asked by several small businesses in town when they can open back up. Discussion followed.

**Parks, Recreation & Events:** Councilman Gallman had nothing to report.

**Police Department:** Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated there is no court and no training classes scheduled through May due to COVID 19. The department received two tasers on a federal grant. He stated our department has had complaints on speeding and many property checks. He stated they are paying attention to shipments coming in at Dollar General. He stated they did get some weapon training and emergency vehicle training with The City of Newberry and Laurens County Sheriff Department last month.

**Utility Department:** Mrs. Livingston stated the utility department had fifteen 811 tickets for locating lines for installation of utilities, three sewer main leaks, two water main breaks, one pole change out, seven yard debris pickups, four trash receptacle replacements, two new services, one electric meter complaint, storm damage cleanup throughout town, two lift station pumps stopped working, grass cutting and tree trimming on right of ways.

**Town Attorney:** Mrs. Senn stated the County has not made a decision about the lease of the land John Bedenbaugh building is sitting on. Mrs. Senn is looking to explore another possibility on the property beside Leon's once the lien is recorded on the property. Discussion followed.

**Town Administrator:** Mrs. Livingston stated Bonnie's Art and Vinyl are moving in the building beside State Farm. She expressed how important it is for everyone to fill out their Census forms. She stated we would kick off the flag contest in July and would like to have banners made for the light poles on the winner of the contest by Shopper's Walk in December. She stated NCWSA is only going up on the water rates this year with a three percent increase. She asked Council if we could think about using our current budget to move on with our readings since we do not have all numbers in at this point and revisit in August and September to do a mid- year change to the budget if needed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Gate Way Signage:**

Mrs. Livingston stated she ordered one sign so that we can look at it and make sure we like it before we order the other signs. The first sign will be installed at Lovelace.

**Demolition of Kibler Street Café:**

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

**GENERAL COMMENTS:**

There were no general comments.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 6:12p.m.

*Michelle Bundrick* Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer