

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
May 19, 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; Ed West, Utility Director and Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

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 April 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked for a correction on the wording with the vote on the reappointment of the Municipal Judge from the April 21, 2020 Minutes.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to approve the minutes from April 21, 2020 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Mike Hawkins, 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 stated the material is in place for the Williamswood Project; we just have to coordinate with NCWSA and Jennings Parker to complete this project.

Prosperity Business Association No meeting COVID 19:

Mayor Underwood stated not meeting at this time and there were no updates through email.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated not meeting at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donated Trees from SC Forestry Commission-Planting and Maintenance:

Sam Hawkins with Troop 316 introduced himself to Council and asked permission to plant the seventeen trees that were donated by the Forestry Commission as an Eagle Scout project and would be planting around the ballfields, Langford Street, new walking track and Town Hall this Saturday morning. Councilman Chad Hawkins thanked Councilman Mike Hawkins for getting the mulch to go around the trees. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated he dumped a load of mulch at his house if we needed it to use it. Mr. West asked if he could walk through with Sam or Councilman Hawkins tomorrow or Thursday to see where the trees were going to be planted. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about the walk through on the Washington project. Mr. West stated he could meet with Councilman Hawkins tomorrow morning at 9 for the walk through.

M-C Senior Recognition:

Mayor Underwood stated Councilman Chad Hawkins had been contacted by a parent about wanting to have a parade for the seniors in the Town of Prosperity. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated we would provide help with resources such as safety presence from our Police Department.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical, Public Works and Sanitation: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we had a power outage last Thursday evening at 5:30 due to a squirrel. The question was asked if we still give Citizens permission to kill squirrels in the town limits. Mrs. Livingston told the Chief it used to be a form to fill out available at the Police Department. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we need to get back to shooting the squirrels because they have multiplied. Councilman Mike Hawkins commented about the empty carts are still too close to the roadway and Mrs. Livingston stated there is an upside dumpster behind Top China that needed to be reported. Mayor Underwood stated Dr. Lovelace asked if we could do any kind of donation for the water tap at the Community Garden. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated Dr. Lovelace offered doing the Covid-19 screenings for our employees at one hundred dollars per person unless it would be over fifteen employees then he would discount the rate to seventy-five dollars.

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

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Robert Martin stated there is a new business going in beside State Farm. Mrs. Livingston stated Tom Lewis is opening Bonnie's Art and Vinyl. Mrs. Livingston informed Council that Business Owner Caldwell Dial had passed away.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated the events have been cancelled since the buildings are closed. Mrs. Livingston stated Dixie baseball would start practicing on June 1st with games starting around the fifteenth. She stated there would be restrictions on bats and everyone would have to wear their own helmet. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated he would like to have signs out letting people know what is open with our facilities and Council agreed to follow the Governor's guidelines.

Police Department: Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month. He stated the police department participated in three birthday parades. He thanked Councilman Robert Martin for the jump starter kit. He congratulated Officer Phillip Hunter for receiving SC DUI Enforcement Hero Award. He stated there is 121 cases for court in June and he is concerned about the social distancing. Discussion followed.

Utility Department: Mr. West stated we have had an excess amount of sewer problems including the pump down at South Main Street and McFall Drive lift stations. Mr. West encouraged everyone to eradicate the squirrels because they cause other damaging issues too. He stated we had 36 tons of yard debris that we picked up due to the people out of work with Covid-19. Mr. West asked if Councilman Gallman would help rebuild the catch basin at the ballfield and if they could meet by the end of the week on this project. Mr. West stated they relocated the underground service at the Depot. Mayor Underwood asked about the property behind Councilman Gallman. He stated the Citizen had

contacted him about the flooding in his yard. Mr. West stated this is the storm drain system and he would need to contact Newberry County about this. He stated the water is flowing and the ditches just need to be cleaned and remain clear so that it continues to flow properly. Mayor Underwood stated he would like Mrs. Livingston to do a letter to the customer letting him know it is private property and tell him the avenues he can take to address this problem.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated the cut off restriction has been lifted from the Governor and they would like for us to send letters to the customers letting them know when cut off will be and giving them information on places to go to receive help on their utility bills. She stated we would be sending these letters out to all the customers that are on the cut off list. She stated we have always had excellent customer service and we just have some customers who have taken advantage of this situation and have not paid anything on their bill since February. Mayor Underwood asked to see a copy of this list with the amounts and the last paid date on their account. Mrs. Livingston asked Council if we could have a budget review on June 9th to go over the numbers before having our first reading and public hearing on June 16th. She stated our lobby would remain closed until July 1st with appointments only to conduct any business inside. Mayor Underwood asked about Civic Center and Depot on the date we would open back up for rentals. Mrs. Livingston stated the primary for voting would be held on June 9th at the Depot and we have an employee who wanted to use the Depot the first week in June. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gate Way Signage:

Mrs. Livingston stated the sign would be installed the end of May at the Lovelace location.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood stated Prosperity's number is still low on filling out the Census 2020. He stated our next meeting would be a public meeting and we would not have any extra guest or would not be recognizing anyone at this meeting due to social distancing.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 7:33p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer