

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
May 16, 2017

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; Ed West, Utility Director; David Beddingfield, Police Chief and Lisa Senn, Town Attorney.

Mayor Underwood called the Regular Meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

OPEN SESSION:

Mayor Underwood stated he thought Mr. Bernard Werts was coming to speak in Open Session regarding the Restaurant and some of the fire issues before they open.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the Minutes from April 18, 2017 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Robert Martin to approve the minutes from April 18, 2017 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Phillip Anderson- Low Income Housing:

Mr. Phillip Anderson expressed to Council his interest in cleaning up the Wye Street area with removing the existing homes and replacing with built single family homes. Discussion followed. Mayor Underwood stated he would like a plan submitted to Council with the scope of work, USDA owner occupied, economic impact and replacing existing homes. Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the concept is great and we would accept for information and asked for Mr. Anderson to do some research and bring back to Council.

Transfer of Authority to Conduct Municipal Election from the Town of Prosperity Municipal Election Commission to Newberry County Voter Registration and Election Commission:

A **MOTION** by Councilman Mike Hawkins to accept the transfer of Authority to conduct Municipal Election from The Town of Prosperity Municipal Election Commission to Newberry County Voter Registration and Election Commission; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

Councilman Chad Hawkins asked if we would have to change our election time to the General Election. Mrs. Livingston stated that we would have to present an agreement between the County and The Town and they would accept or either ask us to change. She stated we would have to have an ordinance in place and two readings. Mrs. Senn stated the Commission for the County is made up of seven members to have a full Election Commission and you will possibly be losing a voice that represents Prosperity when you transfer authority. Discussion followed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical & Economic Development: Councilman Mike Hawkins stated the Auction business on the square is having their first auction tonight. He stated the elevator at Prosperity Drug is going up.

Public Safety, Streets & Sanitation: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated our Police Department has been busy this month with the tragic occurrences that happened in Town. He stated he had helped the Chief at Prosperity Rikard with the children and that is a great program. Councilman Hawkins stated that he had talked with the Fire and Rescue Chief to start doing reports at the Council meetings. He stated we are still waiting on the sidewalk project to be let. He stated recycling is Monday. He stated Council would be doing some easement control this weekend in the parking lot behind Mrs. Rosette's building.

Public Works, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Robert Martin stated he was learning a lot from Mr. West. He stated the water project on Washington and McNeary Street is moving in the right direction. He stated we are proud to have two new businesses in town; an Auction Company and Insurance Company. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about the forward movement in the building besides Roma's. Discussion followed.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated the parks are full and everyone is having fun. He stated this was the best Hoppin' ever. Mrs. Livingston thanked the following people for a successful 2017 Hoppin': Andy Hawkins, Gail Benson, Pete Kohl, Aminee Point, ServePro, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Laura Kneece, Hamm's Hardware, First Community Bank, Lovelace Family Medicine, Prosperity

Utility Department and Police Department, Council and Mayor, Johnny Merck, Munson Music, Downtown Business' for opening and making people feel welcome, Mike Bedenbaugh, Roots and Recall, Melissa Long, other volunteers to man tables, park cars and special thanks to Pete Kohl for getting Mrs. Joann Cousins to donate a quilt to raffle off at Shopper's Walk. Mrs. Livingston stated the quilt is on display at Town Hall.

Police Department: Chief Beddingfield stated the department has been busy this month and shared some data out of LawTrak for the month. He stated the school safety program is going great and showing a great benefit. He thanked The Blend and Prosperity Drug for donating gift certificates at Hoppin' to give out. Councilman Chad Hawkins thanked the Police Department for all they do. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked about the speed sign and the Chief stated it was non-operational. Discussion followed.

Utility Department: Mr. West stated he is working with an engineer on the water project at Washington, South Main and McNearly Streets. He stated he is meeting with DHEC on permitting requirements and moving in a forward direction with this project. He stated Blake Culbertson will be taking his CDL test next Thursday and they are excited about that. He stated he is still working on the clock and trying to figure out how to reset it. He stated the utility crew has been busy with a lot of broke poles and down power lines due to delivery trucks and new electrical issues at Prosperity Drug with the installation of the elevator.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn had nothing to report.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated the Boys and Girls Club would be renting our facility from May 30th through August 4th and Mrs. Paula Hamm would be having the summer feeding program again this summer at the Depot in June and July from 11-1 Monday through Thursday. She stated a temporary Business License has been issued for Rescue Auto Care through May 30th for the McCullough building. She stated we would be hosting the Governmental Association Meeting May 22nd at the Depot at 7PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

Debris Removal Policy: Mrs. Livingston stated she went over to the shop this afternoon to have a meeting with the utility crew on the debris pick-up. She stated we have had numerous complaints about debris sitting too long at these locations in Town. She stated her, Joe and Ed would be getting together to come up with a steady plan for debris removal. Discussion followed. She stated there would be a plan in place to implement on July 1st.

Sidewalk Repair: Mr. West stated they cancelled all of our meetings. Mayor Underwood asked Mrs. Senn if we could send them a demand letter. Mrs. Senn asked if Mr. West could get all the information to her and she would write the letter and let Karen and Ed approve it.

Update on CPST Project: Mrs. Livingston stated she had talked with Steve with Alliance and we are needing a fourteen feet construction easement. She stated she had left a message with the Pastor from the Church of God but he had not called her back.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Underwood stated we are hosting the Governmental Association meeting on May 22nd at the Depot. He stated it is Election Day today for the Republican run-off.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to add a legal update in the Utility Department under Executive Session; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Contractual Matter-Utility Department

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

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

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

Mayor Underwood stated there was no action or vote to be taken.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:06p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer