

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
October 20, 2020

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: Allen Gallman, Chad Hawkins, Mike Hawkins (remote) and Robert Martin.

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Bundrick, Clerk Treasurer; Ed West, Utility Director; Wesley Palmore, Police Chief and Lisa Senn, Town Attorney (remote).

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 September 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Chad Hawkins to approve the minutes as presented from September 15, 2020 Regular Council Meeting; seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

There was no one signed up to speak in open session.

UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Williamswood Water System Improvements Projects:

Mr. West stated no further update at this time.

Prosperity Business Association:

Mrs. Livingston stated the Prosperity Business Association did not meet this month. She stated they are waiting on our decision with the parade to make their final decision on Shopper's Walk. Mayor Underwood asked since the parade is outdoors, are we considering not having the parade. Mrs. Livingston stated there is an executive order still in place for gatherings of more than 250 people. Discussion followed.

Vision 2020 Committee:

Mayor Underwood stated no update from the Vision 2020 Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prosperity Parade Discussion:

Mayor Underwood stated he wants to plan to have the Christmas Parade unless the Governor's order is not lifted. Councilman Robert Martin stated they have cancelled the Carillon Christmas Parade and we need to follow suit. Mrs. Livingston stated it is a lot of work putting the parade on and you will have to give refunds back if we cannot have it. Discussion followed.

A MOTION by Councilman Mike Hawkins to postpone the Christmas Parade until 2021; seconded by Councilman Robert Martin, and so approved unanimously.

Police Car Equipment Purchase:

Mrs. Livingston stated we have one quote for \$4000 but we have added to the quote a camera, cage and radar to be included which has pushed the bid up to \$11,000 but we do not have the updated quote. She stated MASC has a grant that will give us fifty percent back for the camera. She stated their money is exhausted for this year, but we will be able to submit in February 2021. Discussion followed. She stated we had another bid from Florence, but it was higher.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

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

Public Safety and Streets: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated all good on Public Safety.

Economic Development, Buildings & Properties: Councilman Robert Martin stated an Antique car dealer is interested in the 104 Grace Street property. He stated we need some kind of plan for these empty buildings in downtown Prosperity. Discussion followed.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Gallman stated many people are at the parks with soccer games and the adults are not being an example for the children. He stated we have a project at the railroad track with drainage issues.

Police Department: Chief Palmore reported the cases for the month and have had several investigations. He stated they recalibrated the radars. He stated he was starting evaluations with the Officers and they were training on policy and procedure manuals. He stated the Bi-Lo was changing over to Food Lion. Mrs. Livingston stated they would be closing around ten days to rebrand the store but was not given the date. Mayor Underwood stated there has been a lot of crime in the county and asked what proactive things we are doing about this. Mayor Underwood stated there are known criminal activities and known drug deals at a particular location in the center of our town. Chief stated we get tips from management, but they do not want to press charges. He stated we are doing more property checks and changing the schedule. Mayor Underwood stated we need to start focusing on this location and do more property checks at this location.

Utility Department: Mr. West thanked Chief Palmore for helping the Utility Department with traffic. He stated they are doing routine flushing. He stated the hydrant at State Farm has been hit again. He stated they were working on pole replacements and had a few outages this month. He stated they have been working on a project with underground wire at Town Hall and with the tennis court lights. Mr. West expressed his excitement with our new employee Elijah Abrams. He has brought a ton of positivity to the department and productivity has been outstanding the past few weeks. He stated they are working with Bob Beard on some parcels to put on a map for a landscaping project. Mr. West stated the SCDOT is changing requirements for open cuts on the road and asked Councilman Chad Hawkins to check on the new utility regulations for us. Mayor Underwood stated Jeremy Knight needs any kind of video of the issue with the culvert at the State Farm building. Mayor Underwood asked if we had decided what to put around the new sign. Discussion followed.

Town Attorney: Mrs. Senn stated she and Mrs. Livingston had a conference call with an attorney with Dominion concerning a lawsuit on a catastrophic injury with a lineman that was not taught proper procedures. Mrs. Senn stated she was impressed that Mrs. Livingston provided him with all the answers he needed on both our linemen with the Town. She stated The Town of Prosperity goes above and beyond and very proud of our town. She stated Mrs. Bedenbaugh signed the bill of sale on the property and when she called the Town Attorney about preparing the deed there was no survey area to describe in the deed. Mayor Underwood stated we need to get a survey done to move on with this process.

Town Administrator: Mrs. Livingston stated Carolina Connect has been installed at the Public Works building and we are waiting for installation at the Police Department.

OLD BUSINESS:

Park Maintenance:

Mayor Underwood stated we discussed in the utility report.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Councilman Mike Hawkins stated we do not need to renew our contract with Comcast at this time.

Mayor Underwood adjourned the meeting at 8:05p.m.

Michelle Bundrick Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer