

**MINUTES**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**January 19, 2010**  
**7:00 PM.**

Council Attendance: Mayor Derek Underwood, Councilmen: G.W. Dawkins, Allen Gallman, Chad Hawkins, Mike Hawkins

Administrative Attendance: Karen Livingston, Town Administrator; Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer, Fred Sexton, Utility Director, Benji Sease, Police Chief, and Henry Bufkin, Town Attorney

Mayor Underwood called the meeting to order and asked Councilman Gallman to open with prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mayor Underwood presented two sets of minutes for approval.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve minutes from December 15, 2009 Regular Council Meeting and January 4, 2010 Special Called Meeting; seconded by Councilman Dawkins, and so approved unanimously.

**OPEN SESSION:**

No one signed up to speak

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**First Reading of Ordinance §31.05 – Police Coordinator/Administrator:**

Mayor Underwood stated that as a new mayor he was charged with restructuring the police department. After discussion with Ms. Livingston, and Chief Sease along with Council members it was decided to create a new position appointed by the town council to be an administrator over the police department and will move all responsibility and oversight to the police department hiring, firing, budget control, and bring more accountability and professionalism to the police department. Councilman Mike Hawkins asked if changes could be made before the second reading and was told yes by Mayor Underwood.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Gallman to approve First Reading of Ordinance §31.05 – Police Coordinator/Administrator; seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins, and so approved unanimously.

**Palmetto Trust/Save the Depot Update:** Mayor Underwood introduced Andy Hawkins and stated that she was going to give an update on the Save the Depot Project. Ms. Hawkins asked that the Town Council submit the Save the Depot Project as one of their penny sales tax projects with a few stipulations. The Palmetto Trust will turn over ownership of the building to the Town of Prosperity until such a time as the penny sales tax no longer funds the project. The Palmetto Conservation has also partnered with the Save the Depot Project and is interested in using the Depot as a stop on the Palmetto Trail. Mike Bedenbaugh spoke on all the Tourism opportunities we have here in Prosperity. Nancy Stonecolumn then spoke on the Palmetto Trail, a biking, hiking trail from the mountains to the sea, and the possibility of putting an Outdoor Center in the Depot once it is restored.

Mike Bedenbaugh and Andy Hawkins then went over the cost projections for the Depot Project and elaborated on the uses for the building once restored. Thirty percent will be used for Outdoor Center, a catering kitchen, a unisex bathroom, and two meeting rooms. The goal is to renovate the building and then go to CSX and ask one more time to leave it where it is. If they will not agree to leave it where it is, then the Depot will be moved as a renovated building. Mayor Underwood confirmed that water and sewer can be hooked up at either location and was affirmed that it could.

Mr. Bufkin commented on the railroad and the likelihood of the railroad allowing the Depot to stay in the same spot once the Depot has been renovated. Discussion followed concerning the Depot and possibilities of its being included on the Capital Sales Tax Project list, renovated and left in its current location, and the possibility of it having to be moved and where it will be located on Elm Street if it does.

Councilman Chad Hawkins stated that he felt the Depot would benefit the Town through economical development and tourism for the citizens of Prosperity. Mayor Underwood agreed.

**Folder, Inserter Lease/Purchase:** Ms. Livingston presented a quote for a Folder/Inserter to council with the information that the current folder is no longer usable and parts cannot be obtained to repair.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Dawkins to lease a folder/inserter for \$75.00/mo and maintenance plan for \$55.00/mo for one year; Seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman and so approved unanimously.

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:**

**Electrical & Economic Development:** Mike Hawkins reported that Mr. Sexton is making him familiar with the electrical system and he had met with the Business Association, as did Ms. Livingston. He voiced the concern of the Business Association and himself about the empty store fronts and stated that we needed to go out and find businesses to fill these store fronts by advertising, updating the website, and meeting with the County Economic Development Committee and Chamber of Commerce.

**Sanitation, Streets & Buildings:** Sanitation and Garbage is running even with budget. The sidewalks will be worked on this weekend. Ms. Livingston reported that the buildings and citations will no longer be on the agenda, however, if a property is reported then we will go after them. Councilman Dawkins asked about the ADA ramp on Elm Street. Councilman Chad Hawkins said it had been left and we are in line for the project to start.

**Water, Sewer, Fire & Rescue:** Councilman Chad Hawkins stated that he was trying to get himself familiar with his new assignment to the water and sewer department and wants to get with Mr. Sexton and Mrs. Livingston to talk about Forest Hills Elbo Waste Water Treatment Facility and the Clinic Well. The budget is in line for Water and Sewer. Councilman Chad Hawkins also reported that we are working with the Fire and Rescue Departments concerning their utility bills since they are now billing from one power meter due to the grant that paid for their generator.

Henry Bufkin stated that the Forest Hills Waste Water Treatment Facility is an issue that needs to be talked about. Mr. Bufkin introduced David Bowers owner of Forest Hills Lagoon and entire sewer system; stated that there needed to be some meetings to discuss the future of the oxidation pond at the end of the Forest Hills as it relates to DHEC, The Town of Prosperity, Newberry County Water and Sewer and Forest Hills Elbo. Mr. Bufkin is concerned about the citizens within the town limits who are currently on the Forest Hills sewer system. The Council took this for information and agreed that meetings are in order.

David Bowers stated that Forest Hills Elbo couldn't do anything with the system except close it down. He has asked the town to create a new agreement with Forest Hills however; he plans to notify DHEC of his intentions to close the lagoon down in March of 2010, which will leave the lagoon with no monitors or upkeep. Another solution may be that the Town leases the system from Forest Hills for \$500.00 per month plus cost of permits. Mr. Chad Hawkins suggested we call a meeting with NCWSA, Walt McLeod, Town Administration, Mr. Bufkin, and Central Midlands Council of Governments, to discuss what can and cannot be done to resolve this issue. The meeting has been called for February 11, 2010 an update will be given at the next council meeting.

**Parks, Recreation & Events:** Councilman Allen Gallman stated that registration opens for Spring Sports tomorrow, January 20 – February 16, 2010. Forms are available online, at Town Hall or at the YMCA. Mr. Gallman also noted that Wightman United Methodist Church Youth wants to do an update to the Town Center Park. The update includes adding sand, boarders, and picnic tables to the park. Ms. Livingston is applying for PARD funds that are available for our County.

**Police Department:** Chief Sease stated that traffic was being directed at the school daily and businesses are being called on daily. Chief Sease also stated that the Charger would be marked per Mayor Underwood. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked if there are times when we needed a unmarked unit and was told that there were times that we needed an

unmarked car however, marking or unmarking was fine. Mayor Underwood asked that we mark the charger with a magnet. Councilman Chad Hawkins, thanked the Police Department for directing traffic at the school and stated that he is proud to see us step up to the plate and do this task even though we are not mandated to do it. Mayor Underwood expressed the same feelings, as did Councilman Gallman.

**Utility Department:** No report at this time.

**Town Attorney:** No report at this time.

**Town Administrator:** Ms. Livingston read out the list of projects that may be looked at for the Capital Sales Tax Project. These projects are in no priority order: Sewer Lift Stations, Sidewalk Project(s), Lights at Dixie Youth, Dixie Boys, and tennis courts, Phase 2 of the Civic Center to include two renovation of two class rooms and the basement, and Prosperity Depot. Ms. Livingston reminded Council to turn in the Ethics Forms to me by February 15 and let me know if you want business cards. Ms. Livingston reported that Servpro is coming in to clean the carpet in the Police Department, training room and spot clean other areas in the building. Ms. Livingston stated that Duke Energy would be in Prosperity February 5, 2010 to meet Mayor Underwood, Councilman Mike Hawkins and go over some billing issues.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Closing Black Smith Well:** Information was taken last month showing the need to close the Blacksmith well and Clinic Well. Mr. Sexton stated that this was something required by DHEC and must be done. Councilman Chad Hawkins asked if this had to be done during this budget cycle or could it be added to the budget for next year. Mr. Sexton stated that they must be closed within six months of notification of non-use and we are in violation of that now. Discussion followed.

**A MOTION** by Councilman Chad Hawkins to Close the Black Smith Well and Clinic Well; Seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman and so approved unanimously.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Mayor Underwood thanked everyone for coming out tonight. The one cents sales tax will be vital for Prosperity and he asked for all citizens to support this referendum and remind people that this is not an additional tax but a continuation of a tax that we currently pay.

Mayor Underwood welcomed the new position created by Council in the Police Department. Adding this position is the first step in restructuring the police department. He thanked everyone again for coming and asked that Prosperity move forward and prosper.

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**A MOTION** by Councilman Billy Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm; Seconded by Councilman Allen Gallman and so approved unanimously.

Michelle Bundrick, Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer