

MINUTES
Regular Town Council Meeting
March 16, 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 Administrator, Phillip Reta, Police Chief and Henry Bufkin, Town Attorney

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

Mayor Underwood stated that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to address the Capital Sales Tax Projects submissions and priority of each. Discussion followed with input from both the public and council concerning each project that is to be submitted to the CSTP Commission.

Mayor Underwood closed the Public Hearing at 7:14pm and called the Regular Council Meeting to Order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Underwood presented the minutes from February 23, 2010 and March 2, 2010 for approval.

A MOTION by Councilman Gallman to approve minutes from February 23, 2010 Public Hearing and Council Meeting and the special called March 2, 2010 meeting; seconded by Councilman Dawkins, and so approved unanimously.

OPEN SESSION:

No one signed up to speak

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in Chief Phillip Reta:

Mayor Underwood stated that at this time we would like to call Chief Benji Sease forward to swear in Chief Reta. Chief Reta read his Oath of Office. Administrator Sease welcomed him aboard and presented him with a nameplate.

Mayor Underwood gave Chief Reta his full confidence and thanked him for his service. Councilman Chad Hawkins welcomed Chief Reta.

Recognition of Stanley Dominick: Mayor Underwood recognized Stanley for completing his Municipal Lineman Certification. Mayor Underwood thanked him for his service and appreciated him for the years of service.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

Electrical & Economic Development: Mike Hawkins reported that he and Fred have no report on electrical. Councilman Hawkins stated that he had attended a SC Commerce Rural Summit at Myrtle Beach and learned that Saluda County is close to filling the old Millikin Building and Laurens County has a good lead on an industry that could lead to a lot of jobs. Mr. Hawkins stated that we should not have empty storefronts with the traffic count we currently have through Town.

Sanitation, Streets & Buildings: Sanitation and Garbage is running even with budget. The trash truck tires were replaced. Councilman Gallman asked that we look into adding a turn lane at the post office to keep cars from breaking the law by passing on the right. The sidewalks will be worked on this weekend. The railroad crossing in front of Wightman has been temporarily repaired and will be paved again in the coming weeks.

Water, Sewer, Fire & Rescue: Councilman Chad Hawkins stated that after talking with Alliance Corp using our Census 2000 numbers, the most we would qualify for with the USDA grant would be a 45% match which would leave the town with a 55% match. He further stated that after speaking with two engineering firms and DHEC we were going to try to get the project funded through the State Revolving Fund. No report from fire and rescue.

Mayor Underwood stated that we were going to pursue all avenues for funding to get the Forest Hills customers on the Town Sewer System.

Parks, Recreation & Events: Councilman Allen Gallman stated that the PARD grant has been approved to upgrade the Town Center Park and Langford Street Park that includes a toddler apparatus and picnic tables for both parks.

Mr. Gallman asked council to have the timber surveyed behind Town Hall and see how much money can be generated from cutting the timber. The money from the sell of trees could be used for grant matching money.

Police Department: Administrator Sease welcomed Deanna back to work. Chief Reta is working on getting some vehicles for the Police Department. Councilman Gallman thanked Benji for bringing Chief Reta to Prosperity.

Utility Department: No report at this time.

Town Attorney: No report at this time.

Town Administrator: Ms. Livingston congratulated Stanley Dominick and thanked him for the wonderful job he does and expressed what an asset he is to the Town. Ms. Livingston reminded everyone to fill out his or her Census Forms and stated that there would be a Census worker at Town Hall daily from 9am – noon from March 19th through April 19. Ms. Livingston stated that a deposit has been made to the reserves. Mayor Underwood and Ms. Livingston will be scheduling a workshop to look at the budget numbers together. The PARD Grant has been approved and we should be getting our Ok to start ordering equipment.

Mr. Gallman thanked Michelle Bundrick for letting him know that there was a water leak at Shiloh Church and that the water had been turn off. Our staff is concerned about the citizens of Prosperity and work hard for them.

OLD BUSINESS:

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Councilman Mike Hawkins asked that we add the Pledge of Allegiance to the Agenda each month. Mr. Hawkins went on to say that next time we hear negative things about the stimulus money; tell them that the government does serve a purpose and to look around at what we have accomplished with it. Councilman Chad Hawkins reiterated that he is seeing more stimulus money coming into South Carolina through highway repairs and other projects.

Mayor Underwood stated that CSTP presentations have been scheduled beginning with the Sewer Improvement Project, March 22, Brown Street, School Drive, S. Main Sidewalks April 5, The Depot and Ball Field Improvements April 19, and The Civic Center and Downtown Sidewalks May 3.

The Council will be attending the Governmental Association March 29 in Whitmire.

Again, Mayor Underwood thanked Chief Reta for choosing Prosperity and thanked Stanley Dominick for his service.

A MOTION by Councilman Billy Dawkins to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm; Seconded by Councilman Chad Hawkins and so approved unanimously.

Michelle Bundrick, Michelle Bundrick, Clerk/Treasurer