TOWN OF HEMINGWAY

MINUTES OF MEETING ON APRIL 15, 2019

 2266 HEMINGWAY HIGHWAY AT 6:00 P.M.

**Present:**  George Sutton-Mayor Pro-Tem, Keith Baxley, Jimmy Chinnes, Charlie Carter, Joseph Lee-Town Administrator, Samantha Lewis-Town Clerk, Chief Bryan Todd, Denise Santoro, Shamira McCray-Pee Dee Weekly, Teavis Young-Pee Dee Coalition, John Michael Collins, Skip Whitfield

**Public Hearing was called to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

There were no comments from the public on allowing Williamsburg County to collect the Town’s taxes.

**Council Meeting was called to order**

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Carter made the motion to accept the minutes as written for March 14, 2019 and it was seconded by Mr. Chinnes and it carried unanimously.

**Persons Appearing Before Council: Teavis Young-Pee Dee Coalition:**  Mrs. Young thanked council for allowing her to speak to them on behalf on the Pee Dee Coalition. The Coalition services individuals that is vulnerable to sexual abuse and domestic abuse in our community. The Coalition has obtained a building in Kingstree located at the Court House. It is an advantage to have a physical location so they can get help to individuals. April is known as child abuse and sexual assault month. The services they provide is free. There are now three shelters in the area. They are in the process of doing fundraisers, donations or any help to get the building in Kingstree open. They are asking the Town for their support. Mr. Carter stated that he thought this is a good cause and we will look into helping with the building. **Denise Santoro:** Ms. Santoro has decided not to run for president of the United States due to her health. She is still going to work hard on her passion for the kids in this area. We have a lot of needs and the right people to get it done. She likes to work with the Boys & Girls Club. Churches need to get involved. Kids are being bullied and killing themselves. Churches need to step up and do something to get help. Right people in place to make Williamsburg County great. It will take a couple years to start noticing the difference that we can make.

**Old Business: 1)** Mr. Sutton thanked the BBQ Shag Festival on a good job. He also thanked Chief Todd on the security. It takes a lot of work and we are thankful for all that John Michael does for the Festival.

**Boys & Girls Club Grant Application:** Michael Woods from the Boys and Girls Club stated that they are asking for funds to put on a three-day basketball tournament. This will be from several counties. They will utilize the Boys & Girls Club gym and also Chavis One Stop gym. They are hoping to have 16 teams. This is estimated to bring around 1200 people to our area to use our restaurants and businesses in Town. They are going to keep a count of the number of participants and spectators and report it back to the Town. They are asking for $4750. Mr. Carter accepted the request to provide the funds and it was seconded by Mr. Chinnes and it carried unanimously. Mr. Carter stated that they have done a great job and will continue to do a great job for our young children. Mr. Sutton stated that we need an itemized statement from each hospitality tax grant application request.

**Fair Housing Resolution:** Mr. Sutton read the Fair Housing Resolution that declares April as Fair Housing month. Mr. Baxley made the motion to accept the resolution and it was seconded by Mr. Chinnes and it carried unanimously.

**Construction Update:** Mr. Lee told council that we are finished with the new Town Hall and they started today on the old building. The budget is running as it was earlier. We had changes to the drainage pipe, upstairs, redoing the steps, etc. that has increased the cost.

**2nd Reading on Williamsburg County to Collect Town Taxes:** Mayor Sutton stated that the 2nd reading is to allow Williamsburg County to collect our property and real taxes. The county already collects our vehicle taxes. Mr. Chinnes made the motion to accept 2nd reading and it was seconded by Mr. Baxley and it carried unanimously.

**2nd Reading on Mutual Aid Agreement with Williamsburg County Sheriff’s Office:**  There were no changes to the agreement from last reading. It was not intended for a second reading. It was a resolution that passed last month.

**Administrator’s Report: 1)** Mr. Lee stated that we need to sell, lease or rent this building. One group is asking about it and maybe a second one is interested. It is a nice building and we keep it clean. We come in every week and make sure it is clean. 2)Mr. Lee stated that he is very proud of our new Town Hall and we are going to have an Open House as soon as the second phase is completed. We are occupying a building that wasn’t used before. 3)BBQ Shag Festival went over well and they don’t get a lot of compliments, but they do get ridiculed. They did a good job and it’s a lot of work.

Mr. Chinnes made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Baxley at 6:28 p.m.

Sincerely

Samantha Lewis

Town Clerk