TOWN OF HEMINGWAY

MINUTES OF MEETING ON AUGUST 8, 2019

 110 SOUTH MAIN STREET AT 6:00 P.M.

**Present:**  George Sutton-Mayor Pro-Tem, Keith Baxley, Charlie Carter, Jimmy Chinnes, Solomon Lewis, Bennett Cox, Joseph Lee-Town Administrator, Chief Bryan Todd, Ken Laster-Public Works Director, Officer Brenda Lambert, Greg Glisson, Glenda Tanner, Gregg Askins Absent: Mayor John Michael Collins

**Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.**

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Public Hearing was Called to Order**: No comments from the public on the 2019-2020 Budget. Public Hearing was adjourned.

**Regular Council Meeting was called to Order**

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Baxley made the motion to accept the minutes as written for July 11, 2019 and it was seconded by Mr. Chinnes and it carried unanimously.

**Persons Appearing Before Council:** No one was on the agenda to speak.

**Old Business: 1)** There was no old business discussed.

**2nd Reading on the 2019-2020 Budget:** Mr. Lee told council that the budget that was distributed is balanced. There is no millage increase in taxes. There is a 3% raise for employees. We have to do something with the old buildings. The budget is made by taxes, license and state income. We are losing population and taxes are going down. There is no license or tax increase. Mr. Lewis asked what business have closed. Mr. Lee stated CitiTrends. The state money is based on population. Mr. Charlie made the motion to accept the second reading and it was seconded by Mr. Lewis and it carried unanimously.

**1st Reading on Increase in Water/Sewer Rates:** Mr. Carter stated that last year we had a study done and it showed that we need a 12% increase to meet our target rate. Mr. Baxley stated that the increase the maximum. This will keep us from having to do it every year. Mr. Carter stated that it puts us ahead and maybe it won’t have to be done next year. Mr. Baxley stated that at 14%, we will still be lower compared to our size. Mr. Laster stated that we have lost two standby generators for the water operation. It will close to $150,000 to replace them. At this rate, it doesn’t take long to use up the funds. Mr. Baxley made the motion to increase water and sewer rates at 14% and it was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously. Mr. Lewis stated that we need to replace the equipment and not rent them. We will have a second reading in September with a public hearing on the increase.

**Administrator’s Report:** 1) Food Vendors**-**look over the ordinance that was handed to council pertaining to food trucks. Have any questions for the next meeting. 2) Swearing-in of council after an election-on the following Thursday, the election is certified. It can be protested. Mr. Lee stated that be sworn in at the next council meeting of the following month. Mr. Askins stated that you need to set this up as soon as possible so they don’t run into problems with having a quarum. Mr. Carter stated that two weeks after the election, do the swearing in then. Mr. Sutton asked Mr. Askins if there is a problem, what will they do? Mr. Askins stated they need to look at the ordinance. Be ready to discuss this at the next meeting.

Mr. Carter made the motion to go into executive session and it was seconded by Mr. Cox and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Laster asked council about the generators. He asked if he and Joe can do it or would they like to bring it before council. Mr. Carter stated that he needs to bring it before council. He asked him to have the information for the next meeting.

No actions or votes were taken in executive session.

Mr. Sutton adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Sincerely

Samantha Lewis

Town Clerk