TOWN OF HEMINGWAY

MINUTES OF MEETING ON JUNE 13, 2019

2266 HEMINGWAY HIGHWAY AT 6:00 P.M.

**Present:**  George Sutton-Acting Mayor, Keith Baxley, Jimmy Chinnes, Charlie Carter, Joseph Lee-Town Administrator, Samantha Lewis-Town Clerk, Chief Bryan Todd, John Michael Collins, Sabra Poston, Bennett Cox, Ken Laster-Public Works Director, Jonathan Laster, Denise Santoro, Gregg Askins-Attorney.

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

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:** Mayor Sutton made the motion to accept the minutes as written for May 9, 2019 and it was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously.

**Persons Appearing Before Council:** Denise Santoro-Ms. Santoro stated that this country and community has a serious problem. Laws are changing and this room should be full of people. She had a paper with the flags of many countries. She stated that these people are taking over our families and our community. They are taking over our jobs and land. They meet in large groups. We need to be fighting to keep American and to educate our families. This is a new trend that we are going though. America is being drained as we speak. Our leaders need to prepare. Churches must support the ministry; youth needs to be in politics. They need to learn what is going on in our community. We need to take back our communities and our families. Suicide rate is up and our graduates don’t know what they want to do with their lives. There is no education. She still doesn’t know what she is asking the Town to do but she wants them to know there is a problem.

Michanda Williams was no in attendance.

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

**Resolution for Loan Assistance Monies from the SC Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority:** Mayor Sutton stated that the resolution is to authorize and approve the acceptance of certain loan assistance monies from the SC Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority; authorize the mayor to execute that certain loan assistance agreement between the Town of Hemingway and the SC Water Quality Revolving Fund Authority; and other matters relating thereto. Mr. Laster stated that this is for the new ECA well. This was to correct the consent order for TMI. Mr. Baxley made the motion to accept the resolution and Mr. Carter seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

**Discussion of Swearing in of New Council Members:** Mr. Askins addressed council. Williamsburg County holds our elections now and there is a 48-hour protest period. The period isn’t over until 7:00 Thursday night. As of 5:00 today, no one has filed a protest. Council needs to decide when they would like to swear in the new members. John Michael Collins will take Mayor Richardson’s place as Mayor, Solomon Lewis will take Doug Joye’s place as councilman, Bennett Cox will take John Coker’s place as councilman. Council can decide to hold a special meeting, or it can be done at the July meeting. Mr. Carter stated that he felt that they need to call a special meeting and Mr. Sutton agreed. Council agreed on Tuesday evening at 6:00 at new Town Hall.

**Administrator’s Report: 1)** The numbers are out for the amount that the Town can increase taxes. The CPI (Consumer Price Index) increased by 2.44% and the population in Town decreased almost 2% which they count as a zero growth. Therefore, we can raise millage 2.44. 2) Our auditor, Newell and Richardson, will no longer be doing our audits. They are giving up the municipal audits. They are going to help us find a new auditor. They will continue to help us as needed. They also dropped Johnsonville. Mr. Chinnes asked if this requires bids. Mr. Carter answered yes. 3) James Pasley, Director of EOC, wants to meet with council for 15 to 20 minutes. Mr. Chinnes asked if he couldn’t meet at the next meeting.

**Executive Session:** Mr. Carter made the motion to go into executive session and it was seconded by Mr. Chinnes and it carried unanimously. Mr. Baxley made the motion to come out of executive session and it was seconded by Mr. Chinnes and it carried unanimously. No actions or no votes were taken in executive session.

Mr. Carter made the motion to allow town administrator, town attorney and town council to notify Fishnet of the violation of the Town Ordinance and take whatever proceeding necessary to suspend their license. It was seconded by Mr. Baxley and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Askins added that the public hearing will be before the next regular meeting in July and must be advertised to the public.

Mr. Carter made the motion to sell the excess fire equipment to the private individual. It was seconded by Mr. Baxley. Mr. Baxley made the motion to add that they need to dictate that the funds from the sale of the equipment be put back into the Fire Department fund. It was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Chinnes made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Carter at 6:45 p.m.

Mr. Lee thanked Mayor Sutton for stepping in as mayor until the election. He stated that he felt that Mr. Sutton did a good job.

Sincerely

Samantha Lewis

Town Clerk