TOWN OF HEMINGWAY

MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 12, 2019

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

**Present:** George Sutton-Mayor Pro-Tem, Charlie Carter, Jimmy Chinnes, Solomon Lewis, Bennett Cox, Joseph Lee-Town Administrator, Samantha Lewis-Town Clerk, Teavis Young, Monica Richardson, Raymond Washington, Becky Dunahoe, Benjamin Hall and Debra Burns Absent: Mayor John Michael Collins and Keith Baxley

**Council Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Sutton.**

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes of Meeting:** Approval of minutes of meetings for February 13, 2020 was motioned by Mr. Carter and it was seconded by Mr. Lewis and it carried unanimously.

**Persons Appearing Before Council: A)** Teavis Young from Pee Dee Coalition presented council and the Town of Hemingway with a plaque for their appreciation of sponsoring the Legacy Campaign. **B)** Mr. Raymond Washington is a water customer. He was in the hospital for a few days and was notified that he had a water leak. Ken Laster stated that when they were doing the readings for the new month, his account was flagged for high usage. One of the employees told Mr. Laster that Mr. Washington was in the hospital. They went out to look and a line in the back yard had burst and was flowing water. Mr. Washington is asking council for help with his water bill. Council agreed that they should help him due to the circumstances. Mr. Sutton gave Mr. Lee and Mr. Laster permission to proceed with helping Mr. Washington in any way they can.

**Old Business:** A) Mr. Lewis stated the drain beside Food Lion was cleaned out and the water went down quickly. Mr. Lee stated that Society Street is on the books for repaving soon. Hopefully this will help also.

**Friends of Library Hospitality Grant Request-Becky Dunahoe:** Mrs. Becky is the director of the Hemingway Friends of the Library. She has always had a vision for the Library. She is looking for someone to take over her position that has her same vision. She wants to get it where it will be different from other libraries and more lightings. She wants it to be very attractive to people to visit. She wants local trees and plants to be planted there. She is looking for a buckeye tree and also a popular tree. These trees can’t be purchased from a nursery. She wants the cedar tree to be the holiday tree. Each major holiday, she wants someone to volunteer to decorate it. She is trying to establish an herb garden and a bird sanctuary. She has bird houses that she is going to put up next week along with bird feeders. It is a rainbow color of houses. She had Mr. Benjamin Hall who is the director of the library. He is supportive of her. She wants to change the look for our Town. Mr. Carter asked if there were more visitors from out of town or in town. Mrs. Dunahoe stated that they are from out of town. She had the benches and picnic tables moved to the front side of the library and more people are using them now. Mr. Sutton commended Ms. Dunahoe for her work and dedication. Mr. Sutton stated that Mrs. Dunahoe has submitted an application for $6,000 to do these things. Mr. Chinnes made the motion to give Friends of the Hemingway Library $6,000 from the hospitality fund and it was seconded b Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously.

**2018-2019 Audit Report-Monica Richardson:** Mrs. Richardson went through the audit report with the council. She stated that the Town is very healthy. Her main concern is the sewer fund. It needs a positive cash flow. Mr. Carter stated that we increased the water and sewer rates. This will help with the cash flow. The rates didn’t go into effect until January 2020. The sewer system costs a lot more to maintain. She suggested looking at the allocation rate and maybe adjusting it. We are currently on 80% water and 20% sewer for salaries and general expenses. Other than the sewer everything looks great. There is a possibility that we can refinance a couple of loans to a lower interest rate and that will help also. Mrs. Richardson stated that as long as we are below depreciation and have a positive cash flow, we will be fine. Mr. Sutton made the motion to accept the audit report and it was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously.

**Administrator’s Report:** a) He stated that we don’t need to go into all the details with the Corono Virus. Wash your hands, stay out of crowds, if you are sick stay at home. B) Shag festival is March 27-28. C) Make sure you file your Statement of Economic Interest on the ethics website. It is due March 30th. D) Mr. Lee asked if council had anything in mind for the playground. Samantha has been working on it and has some ideas. We have books if anyone would like to stop by and look. We would like to pave an area for parking at the front and redo the bathrooms. Mr. Lewis stated that we can put up a camera at the bathroom area for security. Mr. Lee stated that he hasn’t spoken with the mayor yet but feels the track field will be too wet for the carnival rides. They may have to put the rides on the front field. In this case, we need to remove some of the fence so the trucks can get in and out and also for the flow of crowds. E) Mr. Lewis stated that someone was horse playing with their trucks at the track field Sunday and he went to call but they left before he dialed the phone. Chief Todd instructed him and anyone else that needs an officer to dial 911. The officers may not be in the office to answer the call so if you call 911, they will send them out. Chief Todd stated that we have hired a new officer and we will be covering the nights better. Mr. Sutton told Chief that his department is doing a good job.

Mr. Sutton made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Sincerely

Samantha Lewis

Town Clerk