TOWN OF HEMINGWAY

MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 14, 2019

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

**Present:** Mayor John Michael Collins, George Sutton-Mayor Pro-Tem, Keith Baxley, Charlie Carter, Jimmy Chinnes, Solomon Lewis, Bennett Cox, Joseph Lee-Town Administrator, Samantha Lewis-Town Clerk, Ken Laster, Jonathan Laster, Officer Lambert, Dale Johnson, Tamara Johnson, David Stuckey, Greg Askins, Eric Lewis, Kendall Washington, Denise Santoro, Teavis Young, Prinzella James, Robert Bell and Sabra Poston

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

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes of Meeting:** Approval of minutes of meetings for October 10, 2019 and November 6, 2019 was motioned by Mr. Sutton and it was seconded by Mr. Cox and it carried unanimously.

**Persons Appearing Before Council:** Mayor Collins read the procedures for addressing council.

A) JP Truesdale was not present.

B) Dale Johnson stated that he a couple of things to bring before council. He stated that 90% of business owners do not live in town limits. These owners do not have rights to vote. He feels that business owners need to have a right to vote and run for council. Mr. Johnson stated that he has check on this and it can be done at the state level first. Businesses makes the town. Second thing is the annual fundraiser for the Police Department. He stated that he is starting on the fundraiser now and we did a great job last year raising over $9000. He doesn’t know if any of the money has been spent. Mr. Lee stated that not a penny has been spent. All the food sold was donated by businesses, citizens and surrounding areas. He asked if the Town could help and if not let me know now. He was told last year that no town employees could help. He also stated that he didn’t even have trashcans. He stated that they made a few mistakes last year but have learned some lessons. The first one is not to sell tickets. Sold out of plates and people had tickets. There will be no ticket sales this year. He will sell from 10:00 am until. He feels that every officer should be there to help. The money raised is for them. He also would like council to be on board and help also. Mr. Sutton commended him for doing this and he said he didn’t do it for the praise. He just wanted to help out the Police Department. It is set on an annual date of the third Friday in February. He would like it on the marque. Mr. Carter stated that in defense of the employees, they can only do what council allows them to do. They can’t just stop their work and help with a fundraiser. Mr. Chinnes stated that we need to know if he needs help. Mayor Collins told Mr. Johnson to get a list together and bring it to us to see what we can do.

**Old Business:** Mayor Collins asked on behalf of the Hemingway Christmas Festival committee if the Christmas lights be lit for the festival on the 7th. Mr. Lee stated yes. Mr. Carter asked if everything is ok with the Street Dance since the last meeting. Mayor Collins stated that it is going good.

**Tag Readers-Mayor Collins:** Mr. Lee stated that each car that is equipped with the tag reader will cost around $20,000. The tag readers are stationary. Mr. Baxley stated that we are trying to purchase two new cars and it needs to be put in the newest car. Mr. Lee stated that he will get concrete prices for the next meeting and we can go from there. Mayor Collins stated that this is also for officer safety. An officer will know if the car stopped is wanted from another state. This will give the police a heads up before approaching the vehicle. It will also cause them to drive around Hemingway.

**Administrator’s Report:** a) Mr. Lee stated that a letter was hand delivered to the owners of the two buildings on the corner. Mr. Lee stated that he got a price to tear it down. A lady is coming Monday to look for asbestos. One building has collapsed and if asbestos is found in there the price will go up. He will bring to council next month the cost of tearing the buildings down. Mr. Sutton asked if the wall with the mural can stay. Mr. Lee stated that the man who he got a price from said he feels he can keep it. The buildings look terrible and we need to move quickly if we can. b) Mr. Lee stated that he went to Columbia for a meeting and the Town won a safety award with a $2500 check.

**Executive Session: SECTION 30-4-70 (a) (2)** **DISCUSSION OF NEGOTIATIONS INCIDENT TO PROPOSED CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PROPOSED SALE OR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY, THE RECEIPT OF LEGAL ADVICE WHERE THE LEGAL ADVICE RELATES TO A PENDING, THREATENED, OR POTENTIAL CLAIM OR OTHER MATTERS COVERED BY THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE, SETTLEMENT OF LEGAL CLAIMS, OR THE POSITION OF THE PUBLIC AGENCY IN OTHER ADVERSARY SITUATIONS INVOLVING THE ASSERTION AGAINST THE AGENCY OF A CLAIM.** Mr. Baxley made the motion to go into executive session and it was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously.

No actions were taken in executive session. Mr. Carter made a motion for first reading to amend the most recent water and sewer increase of 14% to exclude the large heavy industrial user rate to continue as the set rate of 2017 and it was seconded by Mr. Sutton. It carried with one abstention from Mr. Baxley.

Mayor Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Sincerely

Samantha Lewis

Town Clerk