TOWN OF HEMINGWAY

MINUTES OF MEETING ON OCTOBER 10, 2019

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

**Present:** Mayor John Michael Collins, George Sutton-Mayor Pro-Tem, Keith Baxley, Solomon Lewis, Bennett Cox, Joseph Lee-Town Administrator, Samantha Lewis-Town Clerk, Chief Bryan Todd, Teavis Young-Pee Dee Coalition, Dianne Owens, Dale Johnson, Rebecca Dunahoe, Ruth Davis, Jimmy Greene, Sabra Poston, Skip Whitfield, Dayne Coker, Bryan Miller, Kendall Washington, Officer Brenda Lambert, Greg Proctor, Greg Askins-Attorney, Jonathan Laster, Ken Laster and Greg Glisson ABSENT: Charlie Carter, Jimmy Chinnes

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

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

There were no comments for the USDA Grants

There were no comments for the Mobile Food Truck Ordinance

Comments on the Water/Sewer Rate increase: Greg Proctor asked what the cost and who it affects. Mr. Laster stated that it is an increase of 14% across the board. All customers whether they are residential, commercial, etc. Mr. Proctor asked if it is water and sewer. Mr. Laster stated that it is water increase and a sewer increase. Example is in town residential water will increase $3.89 based on 5,000 gallon average and $3.89 for sewer totaling $7.78. Mr. Greene asked if he wanted to turn water on at a vacant house, is the cost of that going up. Mr. Laster stated that we are not increasing those fees. It is still $141 for water and $216 for water/sewer. There was an increase in tap fees last year but there is none included in this increase.

**Council Meeting was called to order.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Baxley made the motion to accept the minutes as written for September 12 and it was seconded by Mr. Sutton and Mr. Sutton made the motion to accept the minutes as written for September 23 and it was seconded by Mr. Lewis and they carried unanimously.

**Persons Appearing Before Council:** A**:** Mrs. Dunahoe was here from the Hemingway Friends of the Library. They raise local money for the library without going through the county agency. Their budget was cut $10,000 this year and they need $700 to do a few things around the Library. They would like to cement benches and seats. They are scared someone is going to get hurt. They need the carpet cleaned, books for children. They are trying to do an herb garden for the community. Mr. Baxley asked if she is only asking for $700. She said yes. Mr. Sutton thanked Mrs. Dunahoe for her work that she is doing for the Library.B: Teavis Young from the Pee Dee Coalition. October is Domestic Violence month. Pee Dee Coalition has obtained property in Kingstree. They serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, etc. They are trying to reduce the number of these related incidents in SC. They want to inform churches, businesses, individuals and many others. She stated that any donation or contribution would be greatly appreciated. Mr. Sutton asked what amount they are asking. She stated that whatever you can do. C: Ms. Williams state that she is here tonight in regard to 7 to 8 weeks ago there was a water leak on a property building adjacent to her property. She said she fought and lost the battle of her water bill. She is here tonight for the penalties. Mayor Collins asked if she signed an agreement with the Town on payment. She states that she did, but it was told that she agreed to it until she met with council again. She came to council about the leak and council waited several months before they came to a decision. During this time that council was deciding, the penalties were still accumulating. She stated that the leak was not on her property or her land. Mr. Lee asked if the penalties were from the old bill. She stated yes. Mr. Baxley asked if she is current with her bill. Mr. Laster stated no she is not. She stated that her bill is usually not over $60 a month. The penalties are from the original bill. Mr. Laster stated that he is not going to address Ms. Williams because Mrs. Tanner (Utility Billing Clerk) is not here. She can explain how and what was adjusted. She stated that she knows common mathematics, and this is not it. Council direct Ken, Joe, Mrs. Tanner and Mrs. Lewis get with Ms. Williams Monday to look at her bill with her. Mr. Laster stated that we did the adjustments that council instructed them to do. Ms. Williams stated that this is ongoing for months. Mr. Laster stated that Ms. Williams never came and sat down with them to discuss her bill. Mr. Laster stated that she wasn’t paying the amount that was agreed. Ms. Williams stated that she did.

**Old Business: 1)** No old business was discussed.

**Christmas Event:** Mayor Collins asked council on the Hemingway Merchants Association to waive the business license fee for the Christmas Festival. The festival will last 4 hours, and it is hard to get vendors to pay that for the amount of time. Mr. Sutton made the motion to suspend the business license fee for the special event and it was seconded by Mr. Cox and it carried unanimously.

**Second Reading on Mobile Food Vendors:** This ordinance establishes a fee, where they can be, hours of operation. A copy of the ordinance will be available for anyone who would like to read it. Mr. Lewis asked if the trucks can set up close to a restaurant. Mr. Lee stated no, it has a distance in the ordinance from restaurants. Mr. Baxley made the motion for the mobile food vendor ordinance and it was seconded by Mr. Sutton and it carried unanimously.

**Second Reading on Increasing Water/Sewer Rates:** There will be an overall increase of 14% for water and 14% for sewer. Mr. Baxley stated that this has to be done but not because they want to. This should put us where we need to be but may have to go up again. Mr. Collins made the motion to accept the second reading on the increase of water and sewer rates. It was seconded by Mr. Baxley and it carried unanimously. These rates will go into effect the December 1, 2019 water bills.

**Administrator’s Report:** 1) The Christmas Festival is set for Saturday, December 7th and the parade is Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 p.m. 2) Homecoming parade is set for October 16th at 5:30 p.m. They were told to take flyers around to the businesses informing them of the event and the closing of the road for that period of time.

Mr. Baxley made the motion to go into executive session and it was seconded by Mr. Cox and it carried unanimously. Mrs. Owens asked for what reason and Mr. Lee responded personnel.

Mr. Sutton made the motion to come out of executive session and it was seconded by Mr. Baxley and it carried unanimously.

No actions or votes were taken in executive session.

Mr. Cox made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Lewis and it carried unanimously.

Sincerely

Samantha Lewis

Town Clerk