TOWN OF HEMINGWAY

MINUTES OF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 12, 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, Chief Bryan Todd, Ellen Hamilton and Fred Cox-Pee Dee Coalition, Denise Santoro, Bill Moore and Dianne Owens

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

**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:** Mr. Baxley made the motion to accept the minutes as written for August 8, 2019 and it was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously.

**Persons Appearing Before Council: A:** Ellen Hamilton from the Pee Dee Coalition thank council for allowing her to come and speak with council. Pee Dee Coalition has obtained property in Kingstree and is asking for donations to help restore the building for use. Their goal is $250,000. They serve victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, etc. They also offer self-defense training for women free of charge. They are seeking donations from churches, businesses, individuals and many others. Pee Dee Coalition is very responsible to help with the victims in Hemingway as well as throughout the county. Ms. Hamilton stated that funds from the Victim’s Assistance Fund can be used for donations. B: Denise Santoro is asking the mayor and council for money. She has given her time over 13 years. She isn’t going to run for president in 2020 but stated she didn’t have the skills. Hopefully she will be able to run in 2024. Ms. Santoro has been advertising for the First United Methodist Church in Hemingway in a newspaper. She lets the public know what is going on and any events that the church may have. She stated that she has begged, screamed, borrowed and is depressed and don’t see a change that is need in our community. We need to make Williamsburg County as great as all counties in America. Our people deserve to meet their full potential. She believes we as leaders, our families have a plan that you don’t count on the government. We need to get rid of illiteracy. We have to do something about it. Make sure every individual meets their potential. Mr. Lee told Ms. Santoro to put in a written request and give it to him and he will give it to council. Mr. Lee thanked her for coming.

**Old Business: 1)** Mayor Collins stated that they discussed the Bluegrass Festival at the last meeting. Mayor Collins stated that we would not have a festival but a street dance. He is figuring that it would be around $4-$5000.00 to put it on. It would be a lot cheaper than the Bluegrass Festival. It would only be a ½ day event. We can still have the chili cook-off. He is looking at November 9th. Council asked Mr. Collins to get a better figure of the cost and bring it back to council next meeting. Mayor Collins stated that we would have to pay for a band, port-a-potties, chili cook-off prize money.

**Christmas Event:** Mayor Collins stated that Williamsburg County Chamber of Commerce and some of the local business owners has gotten together and would like to do a Christmas event. They would like to get churches and businesses involved and it would be no cost to the Town. They are talking about having Santa Clause, local businesses with their merchandise, popcorn, hotdogs and a movie. He stated that they couldn’t be here for the meeting and wanted him to present it to council. Someone asked about the Big Country Chevrolet parking lot and Mayor Collins stated that he has tried to contact him twice but no answer. Mr. Lee stated that children will be running around at night. Mr. Sutton asked where the local people where that wanted this. Mr. Carter asked if they would come and do a presentation of what they want to do. Mr. Carter stated that we need more things like this around here. Mayor Collins stated the he would like to do something every three to four months to keep people coming into town.

**First Reading on Mobile Food Vendors:** An updated and corrected copy of the ordinance was in their packet. We will have to have a public hearing at the next meeting. Mr. Baxley made the motion for the first reading of the mobile food vendor ordinance and it was seconded by Mr. Lewis and it carried unanimously.

**Administrator’s Report:** 1) Mr. Lee stated that Monica came and looked at the three proposals for new auditor. The auditors are from Camden, West Columbia and Columbia. The one from Camden was the lowest bidder and Monica was familiar with them. Monica will come in and get the accounts in order and then the auditor will come in and do the audit report. Mr. Chinnes asked if there wasn’t someone closer like Jim Lawrimore. He was informed that they no longer do municipalities. Mr. Baxley made the motion to go with Sheheen Hancock & Godwin LLC out of Camden and it was seconded by Mr. Chinnes and it carried unanimously. 2) Mr. Lee stated that when he was hired, he was told to keep an eye on the money. We have a lot of bills and the outpatient facility roof needs to be replaced. The building is leaking. Whether we sell, lease or keep the building, a roof needs to be put on it. He is trying to obtain grants, etc. to help finance the cost. He has contacted three roofing companies and will let council know when he has the bids. Mr. Sutton asked if we need a new roof or just repairs. Mr. Lee stated that the roofers will look at it and let him know. 3) Mrs. Lewis stated that the next meeting we will also have a public hearing for the RDA grant/loans that we may be applying for. These loan/grants are 75/25. Usually it is 55/45 but we serve Williamsburg County and they are considered poverty so some of the grants we apply for will be the 75/25. This is procedure before we apply for these grants.

Mayor Collins made the motion to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Carter and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Sincerely

Samantha Lewis

Town Clerk