

BETHUNE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

RECREATION BUILDING

The Bethune Town Council met Thursday, November 12, 2020, at 7:00 PM at the Recreation Building, with the Honorable Mayor Charles McCoy presiding.

Mayor McCoy called the meeting to order.

Councilman Witham opened the meeting with prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the October 8, 2020 minutes was read. Councilman Witham made the motion that these minutes be accepted as read. Councilman Heflin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial statements were provided to each of the Town council members and to the mayor for review.

Mayor McCoy called on Darlene Thomas to read a Resolution that the Town of Bethune proclaimed November 15-22, 2020 as National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept. Motion made by Councilwoman Hunter, seconded by Councilman Lucas. Motion carried. Copy of this Resolution is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Also, Mayor McCoy asked that Bubba King, son of Mr. Carroll King, to come forward as the town wished to make a presentation to the King Family. The Mayor then read a Proclamation which proclaimed that October 13, 2020 was Carroll Grady King Day in the Town of Bethune. The Mayor asked for a motion to accept. Motion made by Councilman Witham, seconded by Councilwoman Hunter. Motion carried. Copy of this Proclamation is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Amy Kinard, Executive Director of the Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce, was present and brought a supply of the updated chamber's "Bizy Mag" Magazine for distribution. She also explained a new program the chamber has established which involves a NEW community eGift card. This is to encourage the citizens of Kershaw County to shop local, to shop small, and to "give back" which will drive more businesses into our local stores.

Bubba Hinson spoke to the Council regarding several issues. Some of which are as follows: he understands that some of the council members did not see a quote before voting for the web site. He went into detail on how the Hospitality tax can be used. He suggested that the community should have more of an input into what is decided for the town, i.e., form a hospitality committee. Council members should be seen by the business owners. Members should be visiting the businesses.

Old Business:

Councilman Witham stated that there would be another free Covid 19 testing at the Woman's Club next Tuesday. He encouraged those who had not been tested to do so.

With regards to the water situation, completion date has been moved to January 23, 2021. In council's packet there were copies of a Lease Agreement and an Equipment Damage Agreement. Councilman Witham asked that the members look these over as a vote will be taken on these at the December meeting. We are seeing a slight decline in our electric bill because of the set up we now have where the pumps do not continually run. That is one of the good things to come out of this. We are working on purchasing water from Bethune Rural Water. Copy of this Agreement is also in your packet and there will be a vote on this in our December meeting. We are presently installing meters on the Bishopville side of town as we have DHEC approval. We don't have

approval yet from DHEC for other side of town. The tests have been taken. We are just waiting on approval from them. Uptown will be the next section for meters. We have had issues with milky water and some sand. This is in the lines and we are flushing them. We are having an issue with people who have pumps that are connected to their water system in their house. What that means is that unregulated water within the well is mixing with regulated water of the town. We have an ordinance in place that says you have to fix one or the other. You can not have both systems going to your house. If you select the well, you will continue to be billed the minimum each month because you have access to the town water. This is an ordinance that was established May 12, 2016. We are currently doing a survey of all those having wells, and if they are using wells and we are supplying water to their house, they will have to make a decision.

Councilman Witham inquired of Councilman Heflin as to the town's ADA status. Councilman Heflin stated that he had acquired at least three bids which should be on file in town hall. The clerk was asked to secure copies of these for Council.

Also, Councilman Witham stated that the Sandhill Medical Clinic should open either the last week in December or the first week of January. Please encourage people to use the clinic.

With regards to the condition of Railroad Avenue. Councilman Witham reported that he had spoken with Nick Anderson of DOT and he has told Councilman Witham that this road would be fixed within the next two weeks.

Mayor McCoy informed the Council that the Police Department was being restructured. Their office will be moved out of the trailer into the old medical office and fire bay. Some renovations will have to be done to their part of the building but the town will save on not having to bring the trailer up to ADA code.

New Business:

Councilman Witham stated that he was concerned about a huge hornet's nest between the track at the elementary school and Brown Street so he called animal control to see if they would get rid of it. They stated that they do not do hornets' nest. He then called the rec department who the next day came and took care of the nest.

A brief discussion was held regarding new businesses in town and the fact that we no longer recognize their openings. Councilwoman Hunter stated that she would like for Council to start this again.

Councilman Witham stated that a number of organizations are no longer reading their minutes in their meetings but furnishing them to their members beforehand. With that in mind, Councilman Witham made a motion that Council have copies of their minutes sent to them before the meetings and to no longer read them in their meetings. There was a discussion with some negative input. With no second motion, Councilman Witham rescinded his motion.

Councilman Witham made a motion to go into executive session. Councilwoman Hunter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilwoman Hunter made a motion to exit executive session, and Councilman Witham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Councilman Witham made a motion that Council approve a \$60,500 transfer from the Water Money Market Account, if required, to complete the new water system, and, if so, all Council members would be advised. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Hunter made the motion to adjourn, and Councilman Witham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Stephens

Clerk

Present:

Mayor Charles McCoy

Don Witham

John Heflin

Cindy Hunter

Jimmy Lucas

APPROVED: 1-14-2021