

## BETHUNE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020

### RECREATION BUILDING

The Bethune Town Council met Thursday, October 8, 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 September 10, 2020 minutes was read. Councilman Heflin made the motion that these minutes be accepted as read. Councilman Witham seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Julian Burns, Chairman of the Kershaw County Council, was present and spoke on several issues. In-person voting has started and the first day 500 people voted; reminded those present the importance of getting a flu shot; no increase in taxes nor fees this year, with tax notices coming out by the middle of November. He also thanked the council for their help with the Census.

Republican State Senate Candidate Penry Gustafson of Camden was also present and gave a short talk about her promises to the voters of Senate District 27.

#### 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. A question was raised as to it being free. He stated that your insurance would be filed but should it not pay, the test was still free.

With regards to the water project, 93% of the pipes have been laid. Target completion is either late November or early December. The new generator has been installed and looks nice. Several bores have been completed. Also, putting a hydrant at the corner of Hwy. 1 and College; will start connecting meters uptown first. The Town has already received partial approval to place into operation from DHEC. There is a need for a locator which costs between \$3-\$5,000. With regards to removal of fire hydrants, at bidding the cost was \$15,000. Now it is at \$30,000. Councilman Witham stated that he was trying to get them to come down on that cost since we do not have the equipment to get the hydrants up. You cannot dig them up with a shovel. Councilman Heflin suggested that we negotiate with the City of Camden to see if they would handle this. Councilwoman Hunter asked if there would be a walk through at completion of project. The Mayor stated that there will be a final walk through.

Councilman Heflin expressed condolences to the Farmer and Jett families on their recent losses.

Before discussing tonight's issues, Councilman Heflin stated that he wished to address the web site, which is beginning to become a major topic. He invites everyone to come to our Council meetings as there are no secrets at our meetings; we have full transparency. We have a vision for the future but, obviously, no one is going to have the same vision. The question is asked. Why \$10,000? Because you pay for what you get. With our new web site, it will not be necessary to go to town hall. A few of the things that the site will include: rules of our town; members of the Council; Council minutes; Freedom of Information Act; list of county representatives; business licenses; building requirements and permits. There will be much, much more on this site that will be

very helpful. The funds used to pay for this site came from the Hospitality Taxes. Councilman Heflin understands that Camden initially paid over \$30,000 for their website.

Councilman Heflin stated that since the Mask Ordinance was for only 60 days, he would like to see this ordinance extended for another 60 days; therefore, he made a motion that upon the expiration date of November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Town's Mask Ordinance be extended for that same length of time. Councilwoman Hunter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Heflin asked that the Clerk continue with robot calling the in-person absentee voting.

New Business:

Councilman Heflin had looked into the condition of Railroad Avenue and had also brought it to the attention of Chairman Burns. There was some confusion as to whether it was a state or county road. The Mayor stated that last year the road was to have been fixed and that it was a county road. Councilman Witham stated that he had contacted Nick Anderson of DOT about this problem.

Councilman Heflin informed council that the Town Ordinances was in the adoptive stage. Since our Planning & Zoning Board needs to play a role in this requirement, we need to add more members to the board. Councilwoman Hunter recommended that Chris Johnson, James Donevant, Jeff Gardner, Lotoya Hubbard be added as new members to this Board. John Heflin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor McCoy inquired as to any training that would be required. Councilman Heflin stated that the new members would need training and probably those already on the board would perhaps need updated training.

Councilman Lucas made a motion to go into executive session. Councilman Heflin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Heflin made a motion to exit executive session, and Councilwoman Hunter seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Personnel issues were discussed but no action taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Stephens

Clerk

Present:

Mayor Charles McCoy

Don Witham

John Heflin

Cindy Hunter

Jimmy Lucas

Unapproved: 10-23-2020