

BETHUNE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Teleconference

June 11, 2020

The Bethune Town Council met Thursday, June 11, 2020, via teleconference with the Honorable Mayor Charles McCoy presiding.

Mayor McCoy called the meeting to order.

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

Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Meeting were read with Councilman John Heflin requesting a correction to the minutes in that he did not abstain from voting with regards to the Sandhills Medical Clinic. He was in favor of the clinic. However, his "yes" vote was received late. Therefore, Councilman Heflin made a motion to have the minutes reflect this change. Councilwoman Hunter 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 presented a resolution calling for the Adoption of the Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Santee-Lynches Region of South Carolina, effective the 11th day of June 2020. Mayor McCoy made the motion to accept this Resolution, Councilman Helfin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Copy of Resolution attached and hereto made a part of these minutes.

Old business:

Councilman Witham gave an update on the water project. 80% of the pipes have been laid. At present we are down to one crew as we have lost another one to Fort Jackson so work will slow down for two to three weeks. New generator is being installed at the well house. There will be testing on the north side of town for water pressure. Closing on the Rural Development loan was the 28th of May. The Town had to set up three drafts: \$4,432 monthly from the Debt Service Fund Account which will be used to repay the loan; \$445.00 monthly from the Debt Service Reserve Fund Account. We will have to accumulate a year's payment in this reserve fund. And in the Asset Reserve Fund \$250.00 per month which we control that will be used at our discretion. The funds in this account can be used to fix any water system problems. Drafts will start on the 28th of this month. A question was asked if the town was going to raise water rates. Councilman Witham stated that he would like to evaluate this in a month or two.

Councilwoman Hunter asked about Butter helping with the water crew when they cut a line. The Mayor stated that Butter was to keep up with the time he spends in helping them so the Town can receive reimbursement.

Councilman Witham inquired as to those who had visited their people on the Community Welfare list. Several mentioned visits and/or had seen their folks.

Councilwoman Hunter stated that she had not approved the detailing of the police cars but noticed that this had been completed.

Mayor McCoy stated that the budget would need to be completed by month end. Therefore, council will need to meet at Town Hall at 6:00 PM every Tuesday, starting June 16th and every Tuesday thereafter in order to get the budget finalized and approved.

Councilman Heflin stated that the town needed to find someone to cut the grass during the growing season, and to bid it out. He has asked several for bids, and one from a Camden group, but have not heard back from

anyone but Zack McAllister whose bid is \$1,350 monthly for cutting grass, limbs, edging, etc. Councilman Heflin stated that he would like to have three bids, but legally okay with two. It is understood that everyone needs to know what is involved, and that their own insurance is a requirement.

Councilman Heflin spoke briefly about AT&T desiring to be added to our cell tower. He stated that he was looking for the original contract with American Tower. He would have further details on this later.

Also, Councilman Heflin stated that the town's ordinances were in need of being updated. He had spoken with Stephen Huntley, our town inspector, who told Councilman Heflin that he and Randy Pruitt had updated McBee's ordinances. Chris McKinney of Santee Lynches is still working on our ADA project. Also, Chris is still handling Santee Lynches membership and dues for the town.

Councilman Heflin then spoke about a website for the town. He mentioned the websites of Camden and Bluffton. He stated that a website would help the town financially but also bring us into the modern age. The upstart cost would run around \$10,000 with a yearly cost from \$500 to \$1,000. This cost would come from our Hospitality Tax account.

Short discussion held regarding ambulance and the 2004 police car. With regards to ambulance, Mayor will check on the status of this. It was stated that we should put the car out on sealed bids also.

Amy Kinard of the Chamber offered assistance with the town's future website. She stated that our council minutes are now on the chamber's site: kershawcountychamber.org\Bethune. Amy stated she has been updating the website with more resources as businesses reopen and has some links to accelerate SC. The Mayor inquired if there were going to be any changes in the county or state with regards to businesses. She stated that she understood that the Governor was not going to put additional restrictions on people but it was important to social distance and to wear masks. However, she stated that she was concerned with personal liability with regards to businesses being protected from ridiculous law suits.

Councilman Heflin stated that he had furnished the Council with copies of repair estimates of sidings, awnings, etc. He asked that they look them over.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Stephens

Clerk

Attachment

Present:

Mayor Charles McCoy

Don Witham

John Heflin

Cindy Hunter

Jimmy Lucas

Unapproved 7-06-2020