

**Town of Bowman**

**Council Meeting**

**May 7, 2024**

**Present: Mayor Patsy Rhett**

**Council: Councilperson, Ada Smith**

**Councilperson, Delesera Roger's**

**Councilman, Ike Carter**

**Office Manager: Yvonne Lewis**

**Office Assistant: Shamain M. Johnson**

**Chief of Police: Kevin Pendarvis**

**Character Trait for the month is Ingenuity**

Mayor Rhett called the meeting to order at 7pm. Our prayer was given by Councilperson Ada Smith followed by our Pledge of Allegiance by Councilperson Roger's. Mayor Rhett then asked for a motion to accept the April 2024 meeting to be adopted and become a part of the town's records. Councilperson Ada Smith second the motion. Motion carried.

**Finance Report**

General Fund Balance as of March 31, 2024: \$80,678.65

Sewer Operation and Maint. Balance as of March 31,2024: \$29,147.14

The Finance Report was motion by Councilperson Roger's and properly second by Councilperson Smith. Motion Carried.

**Admin. Updates**

Mayor Rhett stated that the first item to discuss was zoning however the issue was rescinded. Mayor Rhett stated that Mrs. Weathers did a wonderful job with her presentation to County Council. Mayor Rhett asked her to stand and asked everyone to give her a round of applause. Mayor Rhett stated that because of the efforts of everyone the battle was won. Secondly, we are in the final stages of our audit. Mayor Rhett stated that the auditor will come and present the audit and council will get a chance to meet the auditor. The Farmer's Market is coming and it will be on June 1, 2024, from 8am-1pm., and it will be held at the park across from the library. The event is not a town sponsored event its an 1890 Program. One request from a young girl wanting to sell eggs and she will be there among the other local farmers. Finally, there was a request from Mr. Mario Davis is planning an event for the Bowman Seminos and is asking for financial assistance to help with a celebration that will be held in the Inner City Park in June. Council agreed to allow Mayor Rhett to give a donation, up to \$500.00. Motion by Councilman Carter to give a donation, Motion second by Councilperson Smith.

## Departmental Reports

**Streets- Councilman Ike Carter-** Councilman Carter stated that SCDOT has a Web Site where complaints can be heard. Question was asked by Councilperson Smith how do we control the trash in our parks? Councilman Carter stated that he is still doing work to secure a grant for funding to help with the improvements at the Inner City Park. Mayor Rhett stated that she has the staff to pick up trash early in the mornings. Councilman Carter stated that he has been riding around making sure streets are ok.

**Parks- Councilperson Ada Smith-** Councilperson Smith stated that in conjunction with the Farmer's Market, we are working to have the Library open on that day. The flags have been replaced. The grounds look great at the Inner Park and Nature Park. The only issue is the trash. Councilperson is asked that we repair the broken benches. Working on the lights at the Nature Park. Final question to be open and close the gates at the park. The police department close at night and water department opens. The Sherriff Department uses the park as well. The park closes at nine stated the Chief of Police.

**Police Department-Councilperson Roger's-** Stated that there were a total of 7 incident reports-23 citations written for the month. Councilperson Roger's stated that we received a call about all the police officers had quit and we didn't have any officers, she stated that that was a rumor. Councilperson Roger's stated that some of our current vehicles are down but we are in the process of getting them to the shop. We are still being secured just having a little issue with our vehicles. Councilperson stated that the Chief has been in training and they (police) department is requesting a dumpster. There were many questions from the floor as it related to the police cars, budgeting and shooting. Questioning budget items on budgeting asked about leasing programs. Questions were asked about body cameras. Mrs. Weathers stated he worries that our police department is not equipped with all they need to be efficient. Mayor Rhett stated that there is no budget online because we have not completed our audit, and due to our size, finance is limited and the lease information is on her desk for review. Chief Pendarvis stated we do have body and car cameras. We are currently awaiting installation from Motorola. We have purchased over 100,00 worth of equipment per approval of town council. We were told that we had to have cameras install the equipment in the cars. Motorola will install equipment in the officer however were then told that our internet needed to be upgraded. The Motorola stated that they would be here on June 19<sup>th</sup> however Sled said it has to be completed by the end of this month our we will be penalized or even disband. Broadband has agreed to have it done by May 22, 2024. Councilman Carter stated his concerns and grievances.

**Water Department\_ Councilman Glenn-Absent:** Mayor Rhett read the operator report. Everything is going ok. Our two-million-dollar upgrade is coming along and completion should be sometime this summer. We are still having flushing problems with the wipes.

Mayor Rhett recognize Mr. Montez Haynes who is currently running for public office. He wanted to introduce himself to our town. Spoke briefly on his platform. He currently serves a deputy coroner.

Small floor discussion meeting adjourn until the next meeting.