

**TOWN OF HONEA PATH
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WATKINS BUILDING
May 19, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Christopher Burton called the Council meeting to order. The Mayor asked Chief Boseman to pray. All stood for the pledge to the flag. Members present: Mayor Christopher Burton, Beverly Crawford, Clerk/Treasurer, Council members: Andrew Sullivan, David Fields, Jean Perrett, Rebecca Robinson, Dot Evans and Jim Taylor.

Sullivan made a motion to dispense with the readings of the April 24, 2020 meeting. Taylor seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the minutes were approved as written.

Mayor Christopher Burton recognized Julie Berry with Colonial Life and another representatives who presented information about various benefits offered.

Mayor Christopher Burton discussed the current situation with the Covid-19 crisis and everything the Town of Honea Path was doing to help our citizens and employees. The Town Hall will be reopened June 1, 2020, unless the Governor changes closure policies. Mayor Burton provided an update on the activities of the Police and Fire/EMS departments for the prior month. HPPD will be hosting a day camp for children June 22-26. Also, 2 tractors are being repaired and is causing a delay in picking up limbs and leaves.

Mayor Burton recognized Tim Pace, Recreation Director. Both the Mayor and Mr. Pace discussed the process of opening the Town pool this summer and following the new guidelines established by SCDHEC, in light of the Covid-19 crisis.

Paul McGaha discussed the new 2019 Ford ambulance recently placed in service by Honea Path Fire/EMS.

Mayor Burton gave an update to the town council on the new website being designed by Cyber Solution. It is anticipated that the website should be up and running by June 1, 2020 and be able to take credit/debit card payments.

The Mayor and Town council discussed various issues relating to zoning enforcement in the town limits. Mayor Burton stated that we need a part-time zone/code enforcement officer to help us with various zone/code enforcement issues. With the uncertainty of the budget revenues, it was decided to hold off on hiring a part-time zone/code enforcement officer.

Mayor Burton discussed the need for paving roads in Honea Path. He asked all council members to get to him all state roads that need to be resurfaced in HP. He will turn the state roads into the Anderson County Transportation committee for their review.

An update was provided on the EPA Assessment Grant. The EPA Assessment Grant is a \$300,000 grant from EPA to determine the level of asbestos and lead paint abatement services needed. The proposal and bid from NEO Corporation was discussed at length. There are two

different proposals. One proposal would totally remove the debris field, piles 4, 6, 10 and 11 from the site to various landfills. The Town, with assistance from Gail Jeter with Cardno and S & ME Engineering, have prepared bid documents for required EPA Assessment testing of the Chiquola Mills brown field site. The lowest bid to move the above debris fields was NEO Corporation. See attached bid documents. Gail Jeter with Cardno estimates that the Town of Honea Path will need an additional \$50,000 to come from the Town or other sources to move the debris field, piles 4, 6, 10 and 11 off site to various landfills. If the additional \$50,000 is not available by June 1, 2020, the testing of the above sites will be completed by just moving the debris field around locations on site to test. This means the debris field material would stay on site and not be removed to land fields. The total amount of debris is estimated to be 2,374 cubic yards and it is estimated that 75 percent is C&D and 25 percent is asbestos and lead paint material. This proposal includes project design and air monitoring and all DHEC permits and fees. The total price is \$166,500 or \$122,985 depending on the level of work.

The Town Council will need to meet before June 1, 2020, to make a decision on whether to proceed with removing the piles 4, 6, 10 and 11 off site to various landfills and where the extra money will come from.

An update was provided on the on the Still Branch Project. The low bid of \$229,915.49 was awarded to Covalen Corporation for \$229,915 for 58 sewer grinder pumps. The SC RIA grant is for \$247,610 and the local match from Honea Path is \$192,000. It is estimated that HP will have to spend approximately \$90,000 of cash funds and approximately \$102,000 of in kind match. HP in kind match will be labor to install lines and the 58 sewer grinder pumps. The estimated completed close out will be June 1, 2021.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked that we go over the budget. The budget information was presented for FY2019-20 in detail. The monthly summary for the various operating budgets and the water/sewer flows was presented. The detail revenues and expenditures for the Fire/EMS department was discussed and updated. The income from the Fire/EMS budget is coming in better, since the Town met with Ambulance Pro. Ambulance Pro Consulting has improved the requests from the Town regarding financial reports and cash flow.

The Town needs to continue the FY2019-20 budget, with the same projected revenues and expenditures into the new fiscal year FY2020-21. This will continue until such time as the Town is able to better understand the Covid-19 crisis on our revenues and expenditures. At the last council meeting, the Town of Honea Path adopted a continuing resolution to keep the same budgeted items, as adopted in FY2019-20, for FY2020-21. If the Covid-19 crisis continues past October or November 2020, Honea Path is at great risk of significant revenue losses and deficits.

Normally, the Town of Honea Path, has 60 – 70 cutoffs on water and sewer. Last month the numbers were 100-110. It is estimated that this month it will be 130. The receivables are beginning to increase each month that we are in this Covid-19 crisis.

The new credit/debit card system is working well. The Town will delay the 2.75% fee for customers until the Town Hall is reopened to the public, June 1, 2020.

Taylor made a motion to go into executive session for contractual issues. Seconded by Fields and the motion passed.

Fields made a motion to go out of executive session. Seconded by Taylor and the motion passed.

Sullivan made a motion to amend the agenda and add several items, including additional budget items. Seconded by Taylor and the motion passed.

Taylor made a motion to have the first reading on amending the continuing FY2019-2020 budget to add \$15,000 to sewer salaries. Seconded by Sullivan and the motion passed.

Sullivan made a motion to have the first reading on amending the continuing FY2019-2020 budget to add \$25,000 to provide funding for a grant writer for 40 days with a signed contract. Seconded by Fields and the motion passed.

The Town Council discussed the purchase of (one) 2020 Dodge Durango Police Package vehicle. See attached proposal. Council agreed to proceed with the purchase above and decided the purchase will be financed over a period of five years within the approved budget line item.

Sullivan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Taylor seconded the motion. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Christopher Burton
Mayor

Beverly K. Crawford
Clerk/Treasurer