

**TOWN OF HONEA PATH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WATKINS BUILDING
August 18, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Christopher W. Burton – Q&A session 5:30 to 6:00 pm

FY2020-2021 - Public Hearing Budget – The Town of Honea Path held the FY2020-2021 - Public Hearing on the proposed budget. The proposed FY2020-2021 increases in property taxes to 2 mills (123.5), increases the Franchise Agreement for Piedmont Natural Gas from 3 to 4 percent, increases the Franchise Agreement for Spectrum from 3 to 4 percent, and provides a 2 percent increase for all employees. The Town will use \$65,000 of the general fund reserve account to balance the general fund. The Town will use \$136,000 of the sewer reserve account to balance the sewer fund. The Town will use \$125,507 of the general fund reserve account to balance the Fire/EMS budget. It is estimated that the water/sewer fund will end the year with a surplus of \$1,587 and the general fund will end the year with a surplus of \$1,118. This is after transfer the above reserve accounts to the specific funds listed above. There was no public comment and the public hearing on the FY2020-2021 proposed budget was adjourned.

Mayor Christopher Burton called the regular Council meeting to order at 6 pm. The Mayor asked Capt. Elder 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 approve the minutes from July 21, 2020. Taylor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Christopher Burton called Tim Pace to come forward to present a special recognition. Pace presented plaques to Karon Jones, Summer Holcombe, Sky Holcombe and Johnny Holcombe for saving the life of an individual at the Town swimming pool.

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. Mayor Burton provided an update on the activities of the Maintenance Dept., Police and Fire/EMS departments for the prior month.

The Town of Honea Path secured bids for residential trash pickup from 3 vendors – after reviewing the 3 bids, it was decided to continue with the current Town residential trash collection process. The Town of Honea Path will need to purchase a new garbage truck in the future, in order to continue the current residential trash collection program.

An update was provided on the EPA Brownfield 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. Gail Jeter with Cardno, town consultant, for the above project, reported that 119 truckloads of debris removed – avg. of 16 tons per truck- begin testing of samples at four locations. The Town has requested EPA extend the grant for 3 months.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked that we go over the budget.

The proposed FY2020-2021 budget increases property taxes to 2 mills (123.5), increases the Franchise Agreement for Piedmont Natural Gas from 3 to 4 percent for a period of 5 years, increases the Franchise Agreement for Spectrum from 3 to 4 percent for a period of 5 years, and provides a 2 percent increase for all employees. See attached proposed FY2020-2021 budget. The Town council discussed the proposed FY2020-2021 budget in detail. The Town will use \$65,000 of the general fund reserve account to balance the general fund. The Town will use \$136,000 of the sewer reserve account to balance the sewer fund. The Town will use \$125,507 of the general fund reserve account to balance the Fire/EMS budget. It is estimated that the water/sewer fund will end the year with a surplus of \$1,587 and the general fund will end the year with a surplus of \$1,118. This is after transfer the above reserve accounts to the specific funds listed above.

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 5-7-260(3), as amended, requires that municipal councils enact by ordinance and levy taxes pursuant to public notice:

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained, by the governing body of the Town of Honea Path Council duly assembled and by the authority of same:

Section 1.

That a tax to cover the period from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2021, both inclusive, and for the sums and in the amounts hereinafter mentioned, is and shall be levied, collected and paid into the treasury of the Town of Honea Path, for the use and service thereof, a tax of **123.5 mills** on assessed value of all real estate, land, personal property of every description owned and used in the Town of Honea Path, South Carolina, except as it exempted from taxation under the Constitution of the State of South Carolina; and that such tax shall be levied and paid to the Town Treasurer for credit to the Town of Honea Path to be used for corporate purposes, permanent improvements, and for the purpose of paying current operation expense of the municipality; making a total tax levy of **123.5 mills**. Council hereby adopts the budget of estimated revenues and expenditures.

Section 2.

That the Mayor, in connection with appointed Town officials, is charged with proper implementation of the provision, of this ordinance, and that he is authorized or appointed town official, is authorized to transfer funds within and between accounts.

Section 3.

That the penalty date for taxes will be the same date as the penalty date for Anderson County. That if, for any reason, any sentence, or clause or provision of this ordinance shall be declared invalid, such shall not effect the remaining provisions, sentences or clauses.

Section 4.

That the Town of Honea Path increase the Franchise Agreement for Piedmont Natural Gas from 3 to 4 percent for a period of 5 years and increase the Franchise Agreement for Spectrum from 3 to 4 percent for a period of 5 years.

Taylor made a motion to approve the 2nd and final reading on the FY2020-21 budget as presented above, including sections one through four above. Seconded by Evans and the motion passed.

McCullough stated that the tractor is fixed and up and running. Also, one of the old dump trucks has lost its transmission and it is not worth repairing. The Town needs to purchase a new dump truck and the price would be approximately \$37,500 on state contract. This will be presented at the next meeting.

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

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

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

Christopher Burton
Mayor

Beverly K. Crawford
Clerk/Treasurer