

**TOWN OF HONEA PATH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WATKINS BUILDING
October 20, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

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

Mayor Christopher Burton called the regular Council meeting to order at 6 pm. The Mayor asked Dr. Smith 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 August 18, 2020. Taylor seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Christopher Burton stated that loaning the town trucks to allow residents to load the trucks with junk and debris was working well. Mayor said that the reason that the September council meeting was canceled was due to COVID affecting several office personnel and the Mayor.

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 Maintenance, Police and Fire/EMS departments for the prior month.

Fields stated that we need to bring the community wide yard sale back in November. Fields said that it would be good for commerce and the town. Evans made a motion to bring the community wide yard sale back, Saturday, November 14th and the alternative date Saturday, November 21st. Seconded by Robinson and the motion passed.

Matt McCullough discussed the need for a new garbage truck. The ones we have now are in and out of the repair shop on a continuing basis. Two of the garbage trucks are in the repair shop now. All three are worn out and the last garbage truck was purchased in 2014. McCullough stated that usually after the 3rd year, garbage truck repairs greatly increase. A new garbage truck will cost approximately \$180,000. The town would need to finance the truck over a 5 year period and the additional annual payments would be \$35,000 to \$38,000 per year. Currently, the town has no funds in the budget for a new garbage truck and it would have to be added in the new budget year. Taylor made a motion to get bids from several vendors for a new garbage truck. Perrett seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Burton asked Dr. Smith for an update on the COVID numbers in Honea Path and his recommendations for Halloween. Sullivan asked the Mayor to check with the Governor's Office on what size crowd that is legal now.

Sullivan gave an update on the Christmas parade that is being planned by the Civitans.

Mayor Burton has sent out invitations for the State of Honea Path address. This event will be on November 9, at 6pm in the Watkins Center.

Jan Bratcher gave an update on the various grants she is working on.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked that we go over the budget. The budget information for FY2020-21 was presented in detail. The revenue and expenditures for the General Fund, Water and Sewer Funds and the Fire/EMS department was reviewed in detail. The revenue is coming in very slowly for the Fire/EMS department. The main problems are: patients are not paying their bills, declining reimbursements for EMS services from patients, Medicare, Medicaid and individual insurance. Ambulance Pro Consulting continues to be very slow responding to requests from the Town regarding financial reports and cash flow. An update and proposal for refinancing the combined waterworks and sewer system revenue bond series 2002 \$305, 211 estimated balance as of September 30, 2020 was presented. The Commercial Bank has agreed to modify/amend loan number 115000499, from a rate of 3.9 percent to 2 percent. The term and maturity date will not change. Sullivan made a motion to approve the proposal from The Commercial Bank and allow the Mayor to sign all documents to execute the agreement. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed.

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

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

Taylor 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