

**TOWN OF HONEA PATH
PUBLIC HEARING FY2021-2022 BUDGET
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WATKINS BUILDING
MAY 18, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Christopher Burton - Q & A Session - Facebook - 5:30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Mayor Burton presented a plaque to Earl Lollis Meyers for 37 years of exceptional service to the Town of Honea Path as Councilmember for 16 years and Mayor for 21 years. The Town of Honea Path honors Earl Lollis Meyers for his numerous accomplishments during his years of service. Several of former Mayor Meyers' family members were present, as well as Senator Mike Gambrell and Representative Jay West.

Senator Mike Gambrell stated that Lollis Meyers gave him good advice when he was elected as Senator. He expressed that Mr. Meyers took his role as Mayor very seriously and because of his leadership, the Town of Honea Path is better place in which to live.

Representative Jay West commented that Mr. Meyers was dedicated to the citizens of Honea Path, and that he appreciated phone calls from him with information on any events that were taking place in the Town of Honea Path. He expressed that he wishes him the best in the future.

Mayor Burton stated from this day forward, August 27th will be *Earl Lollis Meyers Day* in the Town of Honea Path, and the town will work on receiving donations for our local Eye Clinic in his honor.

Mrs. Leslie Walker opened the Public Hearing for the FY2021-2022 budget. She presented the budget in detail. There will be a millage increase for property taxes from 123.5 to 126. There will be no salary increases in this budget. The Recreation Department will receive a John Deere tractor at a cost of \$16,000. (See sheet with complete details). Ms. Walker closed the Public Hearing with no comments or questions from the public.

Mayor Christopher Burton called the regular Council meeting to order. The Mayor asked Captain Kevin Elder to pray. All stood for the pledge to the flag. Members present: Mayor Christopher Burton, Beverly Crawford, Clerk/Treasurer, Leslie Walker, Administrator, Council members: Farle Ashley, David Fields, Jean Perrett, Rebecca Robinson, Dot Evans and Jim Taylor.

Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2021. Taylor seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Mayor Burton expressed that although Covid-19 is now on a downward slope, citizens need to continue with precautionary measures so this virus will dissipate.

Mayor Burton recognized Ms. Anty, a citizen of Honea Path, with a concern she would like to speak to Mayor and Council about. She expressed that there has been a water issue on 7 & 9 Polly Street that has been going on for four years. She stated she has contacted Senator Gambrell about this issue, and has now contacted an attorney. After much discussion between the Town Attorney Jimmy King, Council members and Matt McCullough, Mayor Burton stated that the Town is looking into this issue as to what can be done about it, and will contact her with any new information concerning this problem.

Mayor Burton expressed his thanks to the First Baptist Church and town employees who volunteered for cleaning up several streets in town. There were 140 bags of trash removed. The town and First Baptist Church supplied a hot dog lunch for approximately 80 volunteers.

Ms. Walker went over the FY2021-2022 budget for the 2nd and final reading. The millage increase of 126 for property taxes will generate \$20,000. There will be no salary increases due to the South Carolina Retirement increase for the employer portion. There will be a small surplus for combined sewer funds.

Taylor made a motion to approve the 2nd and final reading for the FY2021-2022 budget. Fields seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Mayor Burton gave a report of the upcoming July 4th Celebration which the Town will hold on July 3rd, 2021. He presented all the activities that will be taking place beginning at noon and ending with fireworks in the evening. He is requesting \$10,000 to be taken from the Hospitality Fund to cover these activities. Hospitality tax is set up by the State for businesses that has prepared food served inside the facility. It is an additional 2% added to the regular tax. Hospitality tax is set up to draw people to smaller towns. The Mayor stated whatever isn't used for the celebration would be returned to the Hospitality Fund.

Taylor made a motion to accept the above request for Hospitality Funds. Evans seconded. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Matt McCullough stated that the sanitation truck should be here in two weeks.

Evans reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Service May 31st at 10 a.m. at the monument and encouraged everyone to attend.

Mayor Burton stated there will be a parade for the BHP seniors on May 24th at 6 p.m.

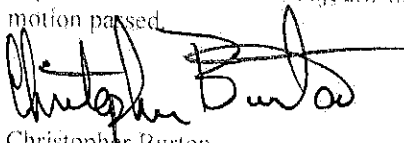
Ashley applauded Mayor Burton for helping with the trash pickup in town, and expressed that these efforts build stronger communities.

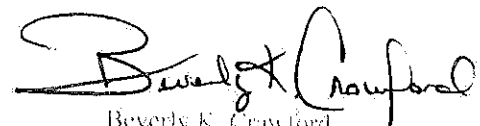
Taylor expressed his thanks to the First Baptist Church for the ones who volunteered to help clean up our town.

Taylor made a motion to go into Executive Session for receipt of legal advice. Seconded by Robinson. All in favor, and the motion passed.

Taylor made a motion to go out of Executive Session. Seconded by Perrett and the motion passed.

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


Christopher Burton
Mayor


Beverly K. Crawford
Clerk-Treasurer