

**Town of Honea Path
Council Meeting
April 18, 2023
6 PM**

Mayor Christopher Burton called the budget review meeting to order. He asked Hall to review the proposed FY2023-24 budget in detail for the public and town council.

The total estimated budget for FY2023-24 is approximately \$4,523,351 and included an increase in millage from 134 mills to 137 mills. The Town is experiencing major increases in inflation in several areas including: proposed total gas and diesel - \$168,306, tort liability - \$134,910, increase of approximately \$25,000, adjustment in salaries increases – approximately \$100,000, street lights approximately \$90,000. The total estimated salaries for the Town will be \$1,631,955 and estimated fringe benefits will be \$652,955. There are no funds available, if we are to balance the budget, except for emergency overtime. B-HP Water Authority is proposing an eight percent increase in rates. The proposed FY2023-24 budget includes a three mill increase, which will only generate approximately \$27,000 in new revenue. General Fund expense are projected to increase from approximately \$2.6 million to over \$2.8 million. This is a very tight budget with very small surpluses. See attached proposed budget. The proposed budget includes: the Mayor and Council approve moving \$47,000 from Special Reserve Account to General Fund for FY2023-24.

After discussion and no more questions, Mayor Christopher Burton called the budget review meeting to closed.

Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Christopher Burton called the regular meeting to order. All members were present, Leslie Walker Clerk/Treasurer, Earle Ashley Ward 1 council member, Sheila Caldwell, Ward 2 council woman, Jean Perrett, Ward 3 council woman, Rebecca Robinson, Ward 4 council woman, Dot Evans, Ward 5 council Woman, and Jim Taylor, Ward 6 Mayor Pro-Tem and council member. Mayor Christopher Burton asked Chief Smith to pray. Mayor Christopher Burton asked the group to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked the council to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 meeting. Evans made a motion to accept the minutes of March 21, 2023, as written. Perrett seconded the motion. All approved the minutes. All in favor, it is so ordered, 5 to 0. Taylor did not vote, as he was Mayor Pro-Tem, signing paper work.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked the Youth Council member, Jarred Morris, to discuss their events for March 2023. Mattie Wilson was sworn into the Youth Council.

Mayor Christopher Burton stated that the Fireman's Hall of Fame event on Sunday, April 16, 2023, was a great success. Mayor Christopher Burton recognized Fire Chief Jimmy Smith for his many

years of service and his 29 years as Fire Chief. Mayor Christopher Burton commended Chief Smith for his outstanding service to the Town of Honea Path.

The Town council reviewed a proposal to change the firemen from SCRS to PORS, effective July 1, 2023. It is estimated that the additional cost will be approximately \$3,800 per year. This will be an increased fringe benefits for our firemen resulting in reducing the retirement from 30 years to 25 years. Taylor made a motion to accept the above proposal, second by Perrett, all voted in favor.

The proposed FY22-23 budget was passed out and reviewed. Mayor Burton has worked with the department heads to review all budgets item by item. The total estimated budget for FY2023-24 is approximately \$4,523,351 and included an increase in millage from 134 mills to 137 mills. It will be a very tight budget and we are all working to provide the best services to the citizens of Honea Path in the most cost-effective matter. See attached proposed budget. The proposed budget includes: the Mayor and Council approve moving \$47,000 from Special Reserve Account to General Fund for FY2023-24.

The following ordinance is proposed for the first reading:

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, 2023 through May 31, 2024, 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 137 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 137 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 affect the remaining provisions, sentences or clauses.

Pursuant to Section 6-1-80 of the S.C. Code of Laws, public notice is hereby given that the Mayor and Council for the Town of Honea Path will hold a public hearing on the municipal budget for the FY2023-2024 fiscal year on May 16, 2023, at 6:00 pm, at Watkins Community Center.

	Current	Projected	Percentage	Estimated
	Fiscal Year	Revenue	Change in	Millage for
	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY2023-2024</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY2023-2024</u>
General Fund	\$2,714,151	\$2,810,651	3.5%	137
Water	\$771,200	\$816,200	5.8%	
Sewer	\$866,500	\$896,500	3.4%	
	Current	Projected	Percentage	Estimated
	Fiscal Year	Expenditures	Change in	Millage for
	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY2023-2024</u>	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>FY2023-2024</u>
General Fund	\$2,645,208	\$2,810,276	6.2%	137
Water	\$789,565	\$857,634	8.6%	
Sewer	\$876,093	\$853,968	2.5%	

Estimated Millage Equals 137 for FY2023-2024, increase of 3 mills

Section 4.

That the Mayor and Council approve moving \$47,000 from Special Reserve Account to General Fund for FY2023-24.

Robinson made a motion to pass the above ordinance and for this to constitute the first reading on the FY2023-24. Taylor seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Taylor made a motion to accept the recommendation by Matt McCullough to approve the Davis and Floyd bill for \$6,500 for the environmental engineer study concerning limb dump. The motion was seconded by Ashley and the motion passed.

Taylor made a motion to go into Executive Session, second by Caldwell, all voted in favor.

Taylor made a motion to move back to regular session, Robinson seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Taylor made the motion to adjourn. Robinson seconded, all voted on favor.

Christopher Burton, Mayor

Leslie Walker, Clerk & Treasurer

