

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

Mayor Christopher Burton called the regular meeting to order. Members present, Earle Ashley Ward 1 council member, Sheila Caldwell, Ward 2 council woman, Jean Perrett, Ward 3 council woman, Rebecca Robinson, Ward 4 council woman, and Dot Evans, Ward 5 council woman and Ward 6 - Mayor Pro Tempore Jim Taylor.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked Jan Bratcher 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 June 20, 2023 meeting. Evans made a motion to accept the minutes stated above, as written. Perrett seconded the motion. All approved the minutes. All in favor, it is so ordered, 6 to 0.

Mayor Christopher Burton thanked all citizens who attended the meeting tonight and reminded everyone of the Honea Path's upcoming November 7, 2023 election for Mayor and council wards 2, 4 and 6.

Mayor Christopher Burton stated that the Youth Council Update was unavailable.

Mayor Christopher Burton recommended the appointment of Beverly Crawford, Robert Greer, Chairman, and Ruth Cunningham as members of the Honea Path Board of Election Commissioners, for a three year term, ending December 31, 2026. Taylor made a motion to accept the above motion. Perrett seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Christopher Burton read the proposed election notice for November 7, 2023. He announced that the 4 - year election for mayor and wards 2, 4, and 6, will be held this year in November. The Anderson County Elections Commission will assist with the election. The fees for filing are as follows: \$100 for mayor and \$50 for council. There is also a refundable fee for campaign signs of \$50. Please see attached notice. Taylor made a motion to accept the above motion. Ashley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Christopher Burton discussed the proposed increase in water rates due to the increase in rates from the B-HP Water Authority. The B-HP Water Authority increased their rates that the Town of Honea Path pays effective July 1, 2023. Mayor Christopher Burton stated that the Town needs to increase the water rate by \$.20 per thousand gallons effective August 1, 2023. This would constitute the second and final reading. Taylor made a motion to accept the above motion. Ashley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Mayor Christopher Burton discussed the Local Government Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. See attached resolution. Taylor made a motion to accept the above motion. Caldwell seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Hall discussed the FY2023-24 budget. Cash flow is at a critical point. He projects that the Town will have a deficit for this year based on the below issues. Overtime in the Police Department is exceeding budget by a large amount, the S.C. State Accident Fund informed the Town that our annual premiums are increasing from \$68,316 to \$98,072. We are still experiencing increasing in various repair and maintenance budgets throughout the Town that were not planned or budgeted.

Mayor Christopher Burton discussed the need to increase the rates on Multiple Poly Carts for the Town of Honea Path. See attached proposed rates. Taylor made a motion to accept the above motion by title only. Ashley seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Department heads had no new business to inform council.

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



Mayor Christopher Burton



Amanda Porter, Clerk & Treasurer