

**Town of Honea Path  
Council Meeting  
March 21, 2023  
6 PM**

Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Taylor called the meeting to order and asked the group to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Taylor asked Captain Eldor to pray. All 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 Pro-Tem Jim Taylor asked the council to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting. Robinson made a motion to accept the minutes of February 21, 2023, as written. Perrett seconded the motion. All approved the minutes. All in favor, it is so ordered.

Blake Anderson spoke to Town council regarding a proposed new business at 109 West Greer Street, called Faithful Hearts, that would use a water-based alternative to traditional fire-based pet cremations. This new business would utilize an alkali bath that consists of salt from the soil that would naturally help to break down a body when it's buried. While the process can be used for both humans and pets, it is generally more common to be used for dogs and cats. Mr. Morris asked the council for assistance to run water/sewer service to his new business. The council decided to take the request and discuss it at a later date.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Taylor asked the Youth Council member, Jarred Morris, to discuss their events for February 2023.

Mayor Pro-Tem Jim Taylor ask Hall to brief the Town Council on the proposed contract for the two Town water tanks. Town Engineer Keith Dunn prepared the specifications for the bidding out the two tanks located on Black Street and Carolina Avenue. The contract will be for a bid of 10 years. The contract will take care of all of the repairs and upkeep of the above tanks for this same time period. The only company to bid on the above project was Utilities Services, Inc. The estimated cost per year to service the 2 water tanks will be approximately \$45,000 per year. The Town engineer recommended the Town accept this bid. The Town attorney will review the contract. Evans made a motion to accept the above proposal, subject to review by the Town Attorney, second by Robinson, all voted in favor.

The proposed FY22-23 budget was passed out and reviewed. It was announced that the first reading on the FY2023-24 budget will be in April and the second and final reading will be in May 2023. The budget workshop will be at 5 PM on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Burton has worked with the department heads to review all budgets item by item. 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.

It was reported that the South Carolina Municipal Association will have their annual meeting in Greenville, SC, at the Hyatt Regency, from July 27 to 30, 2023. The annual meeting gives elected officials the opportunity to network with other elected officials to share ideas, concerns and proven strategies.

Chief Smith reported that the Wall of Honor at the Fire Department would be Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM.

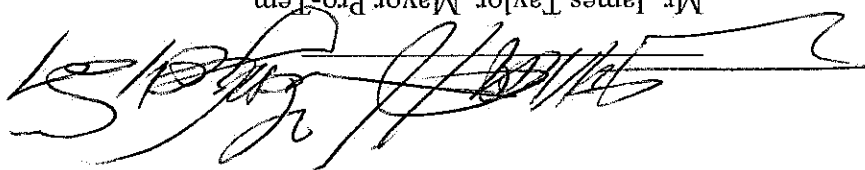
Ashley made a motion to go into Executive Session, second by Robinson, all voted in favor.

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

Caldwell made a motion to accept the pay recommendation from police chief New on the new salary categories for the police department. The Town need to attract the best officers and remain competitive to keep our officers up to the minimum salary scale. The motion was seconded by Robinson and the motion passed.

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

Mr. James Taylor, Mayor Pro-Tem



Leslie Walker, Clerk & Treasurer

