

**Town of Honea Path
Council Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2025
6 PM**

Mayor Christopher Burton called the meeting to order. Members present, Ward 1 Council Member, Earle Ashley, Ward 2 Council Lady, Sheila Caldwell, Ward 4 Council Lady, Marie Jenkins, Ward 5, Council Lady Dot Evans and Ward 6 Mayor Pro Tempore, Jim Taylor.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked the group to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Christopher Burton then asked Councilman Ashley to pray.

Mayor Christopher Burton asked the council to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2025 meeting. Evans made a motion to accept the minutes stated above, and Taylor seconded the motion. All were in favor, 5 to 0, and it was so ordered.

In opening remarks Mayor Burton read a thank you note from Ms. Loretta Mulle', thanking council and the Town for the donation made to Wreaths Across America.

Mayor Burton then addressed the issue of water rates increasing 12%, based on the fact that BHP Water Authority has gone up on their rates. Taylor made a motion to accept the 12% increase, with Caldwell seconding the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0.

Sewer Tap Fees were next on the agenda, and this would be the second reading since the fees had been voted on in the December Meeting. The Sewer Tap Fees would be raised from \$5000 to \$7000. Taylor made the motion to accept these rates and Ashley Seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0.

Chief Smith informed that the Forensic Audit is in full swing and hopefully there will be some answers soon.

Chief Smith also said that the contractors are going to make one more pass to finish cleaning up debris. Jenkins has big concerns of the debris in her ward.

Mayor Burton suggested that Chief Jimmy Smith be appointed as Department Head Chair, to help with his duties as mayor, since his schedule has changed and he will not be available as much. Taylor made the motion to appoint Chief Smith as Department Head Chair, and Jenkins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0.

Attorney Bramhall addressed the 1st reading of the Annexation of property adjoining town limits, and the reasons this is necessary. Taylor made the motion for the 1st reading of this annexation ordinance to pass, and Caldwell seconded the motion and all were in favor, and the motion passed 5-0.

There was also a 1st reading for the ordinance for outside water and sewer taps, Chief Smith recommended doubling the price for outside town limits. Taylor made a motion to accept and Ashley made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0.

Chief Miller suggested to sell the excess police vehicles not being used through the State Purchasing Program (surplus). Taylor made the motion to accept the suggestion and Ashley seconded, all were in favor and the motion passed 4-1.

Chief Smith announced that the demolition of dilapidated houses should be underway, and within the next 45 days 10-15 should be gone.

Bids for the RFQ's for Design and Build the Soccer Field should be turned in by March 3, 2025.

Mayor Burton will not be here for the March Council Meeting.

In new business, Chief Smith said that the Chiquola Mill Site cleanup is still going on, and that the town should have good news coming about the FEMA relief help.

Evans asked for everyone to please come to the Black History Celebration Event on February 23 and show support.

Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Jenkins seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed 5-0, and it was so ordered.

Mayor Pro Tempore, Jim Taylor

Amanda Porter, Clerk & Treasurer