

**Town of Honea Path
Council Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2025
6 PM**

Mayor Jim Taylor 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.

Mayor Jim Taylor asked the group to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Mayor Jim Taylor asked Mr. Earle Ashley to pray.

Mayor Jim Taylor asked the council to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2025, meeting. Ms. Evans made a motion to accept the minutes stated above, and Mr. Ashley seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-0.

In the opening remarks, Mayor Jim Taylor recognized that there were several important guests at the meeting to support the newly elected Mayor James A. (Jimmy) Smith. These included Senator Mike Gambrell, Due West Mayor Gayle Beaudrot, Belton Town Administrator Alan Sims, Abbeville County Administrator Brian Moon, Abbeville County Council Member Brandon Johnson, Anderson County Council Member Greg Elgin, and S.C. House of Representative Member Lee Gilreath. Mayor Jim Taylor gave a speech elaborating on The Town of Honea Path and on how fortunate this town is to have Jimmy Smith elected as its new mayor. He then stepped down and congratulated Mayor Jimmy Smith. At this time, Magistrate Darrell Green swore in Jimmy Smith as the mayor, while Marsha Smith held the Bible. Mayor Smith then took the mayor's seat and announced a ten-minute recess, to allow citizens to leave if they pleased.

In new business, Mayor Smith appointed committees beginning with the:

Public Safety Committee: Chair Jim Taylor, Jean Perrett, and Marie Jenkins.

Public Works Committee: Chair Earle Ashley, Marie Jenkins, and Dot Evans.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Chair Sheila Caldwell, Jean Perrett and Dot Evans.

Finance Committee: Chair Earle Ashley, Jim Taylor and Sheila Caldwell.

Mayor Smith then swore in the newly appointed Fire Chief Paul McGaha, as well as Assistant Fire Chief Jeff Giovanetti. Mayor Smith then appointed Larry Young as the Interim Part Time Town Administrator. Mayor Smith then asked for a motion from the council to bill the water usage for the soccer field and the pool to hospitality at the wholesale rate on an annual basis. Mr. Taylor made a motion to bill the water usage for the soccer field and the pool to hospitality at the wholesale rate annually, Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Smith spoke on the C-Fund paving list, and asked the council to ride their roads and make a list to be turned in to the Public Works Committee. Mayor Smith suggested that the council meetings be moved to the Second Monday of every month beginning in October 2025. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept this suggestion, and Ms. Jenkins seconded the motion, and the motion passed 5-0. Mayor Smith announced that the financial report would be posted the day after the council meeting. Matt McCullough brought before the council the need for some equipment for some upcoming capital projects in the water and sewer department. This would include a Hydro-Excavator, a Track loader, an F250, and an F650. He had gotten some quotes for leases and United Financial gave the lowest rate at 4.59% for \$360,000 for 5 years. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept this rate, and Mr. Ashley made the second. All were in favor, and the motion passed 5-0. Mr. McCullough also announced that the contractors doing the upgrades on the sewer lines should be back to finish up within the next couple of

weeks. Mayor Smith announced that the town has received \$52,000 from FEMA to help cover costs from hurricane Helene. He suggested using \$4,000 to cover overtime that was paid during that time, and the rest to replace 800MH radios used by the Fire and Police Departments. Mr. Taylor made the motion to use this FEMA money as suggested, with Ms. Caldwell seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5-0. Mayor Smith encouraged everyone to vote for the one cent tax for road repair, as this is the only answer to getting the roads repaved.

The Independence Day celebration was a huge success. According to Empower, over 2,500 people attended this event.

There will be an election held in November for Wards 1, 3 and 5. Signups for candidates will begin August 1, 2025, at noon, and will close on August 15, 2025, at noon.

Under old business, the town's plan to move the recycle center to Laurel Street is in motion, according to Mr. McCullough.

The First Reading for the Annexation of the property on Mitchell Street was held. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept the annexation ordinance, with Ms. Jenkins making the second. All were in favor, and the motion passed 5-0.

The new soccer field is looking good and should be completed by September 1, 2025.

Mayor Smith announced that the mayor's office is open, and he will be happy to meet with anyone.

Ms. Evans informed everyone that the New Living Center will be handing out new clothes in the Town Hall parking lot on August 2nd. She also thanked the WCC for working so hard with the children's theater camp this year. It was a great program and there was a good turnout.

The sealed bids on the surplus vehicles were opened by Mayor Smith, with Emergency Remarketing having the highest bid on the 2013 Taurus at \$758. Travelers Rest Auto Sales having the highest bid on the 2005 Crown Victoria at \$600.88, and also on the 2007 Crown Victoria at \$600.88. Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept these highest bids, and Mr. Ashley seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the motion passed 5-0. There will be several more vehicles that will be coming up for bids soon. The PD will have an Expedition up for bid, the FD will have 2 F150s up for bid, and the Maintenance Dept. will have a Garbage Truck, a Ford Ranger and Chevrolet 1500 up for bid.

The closing for the property sales for 1300 Chiquola Ave., and 118 Trussell Street will be held on July 31, 2025. The same person bought both properties totaling \$27,000.

At this time, Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion, and all were in favor, passing the motion 5-0, and it was so ordered.

X

Jimmy Smith, Mayor

X

Amanda Porter, Clerk/Treasurer