
May 2026

Attendees: Mayor Benita England; Council Members: Harry Baughn, Joe Slaton, Lauren Tiger; Planning & Zoning Administrator: April England; Town Clerk: Suzanne Hedden. Others: Crystal Bryson (Town of Hayesville Attorney), Lorraine Bennett (Clay County Progress), Sandy Zimmerman (HHI), Anthony McDonald and Kelley Lafond (Fat Dog on Main), Mike Thornburg (HHI), Tommy and Roni Davis.

Mayor England led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and offered a prayer. She then called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm. Before requesting approval of the agenda, Mayor England explained the need for an amended agenda to add a second item requiring increase for line item #57602 (Dues and Subscriptions). Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the amended agenda; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

MINUTES

Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the April 2026 Town Council minutes as written; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

FINANCE REPORTS

April 2026 Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss Statement – reports are attached.

- Mrs. Hedden presented financial information, mentioning that item #57602 (Dues and Subscriptions) needs to be increased to \$250.00 to finish out this fiscal year. She also added that item #57182 (Legal) needs an increase to \$3,000.00 to cover expenditures incurred by recent need for legal assistance concerning the Lipoff legal charges. Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the Profit and Loss Report, along with the Balance sheet, as written; Mr. Baughn seconded the motion; motion approved. Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve addition of line item #43503 (Fund Balance Appropriation) to our budget; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- Mayor England explained that we need a motion from the Council concerning the Brunch Bill; choices are: (1) Approve (2) Disapprove (3) Vote to move on with a public hearing. She stated that our charter does not specify what we are required to do, to which Attorney Bryson added (and Mayor England agreed) that it is proper to have a public vote. Mr. Baughn made a motion to proceed with the public hearing;

Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved. Mayor England confirmed that we will proceed with the public hearing, and, if the ordinance is written in time for the public hearing to be advertised in the local newspaper, it will be on the June agenda.

- Mayor England stated that the Legislative Grant deadline has been extended. A few items are still incomplete, including, the “Welcome to Hayesville” sign, telephone installations, painting the Courthouse. April England added that lighting on the Square, other community projects, and administrative costs will be submitted soon through the Smartsheet to account for expenses.
- Mayor England spoke recently with the engineer concerning Mill Street construction. We are still awaiting his design. The engineer, Mayor England, and, Mrs. Hedden have a monitoring visit scheduled in July.
- Information concerning the Wayfinding signs is included in Council packets. Ms. Tiger thinks these samples are clearer, but, we might not be able to get them in time for this grant. Mayor England commented that we will wait to see what our extension date is.

NEW BUSINESS

- We need approval from Council members for Town of Hayesville to complete a resolution to join with CCCRA in a small business application. Town of Hayesville will do the paperwork, assisted by Southwest Commission. Construction will be done by the Department of Transportation and will involve the sidewalk in front of Nocturnal, sidewalk from Molly and Me past the wall going down the hill to Mayor’s Park. Mayor England will sign when the form is ready for signature. Mr. Slaton made a motion to grant approval; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.
- Mr. Baughn purposed budget discussion regarding salaries. Mayor England explained changes in regrouping line items listed in budget.

MAYOR’S REPORT

- Mayor Benita England’s report is attached. In addition to her report, she also announced the highlight of the month was a joint effort with Hayesville Schools’ students in planting at the Mayor’s Park. She also mentioned that the total awards granted at the Visit Smokies Conference was eight (8), of which three (3) were awarded to recipients from Town of Hayesville.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mrs. April England's report is attached.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ms. Zimmerman provided an updated report on her recent happenings. She also introduced Mike Thornburg, the new HHI Treasurer.
- Anthony McDonald (Fat Dog Bar and Grill) questioned the progress of discussion concerning the four (4) ft. deck he was to add at his restaurant. Mayor England answered that Council members have not jointly discussed the plan. Mr. Baughn added that if he is planning to add a patio on town property, we should review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Tommy Davis expressed appreciation for being selected for the remodeling endeavor. Members expressed appreciation to him for his work.
- Mr. Baughn asked if volunteers working at the barn quilt studio are covered by liability insurance. Attorney Crystal confirmed that they are covered.

CLOSED SESSION

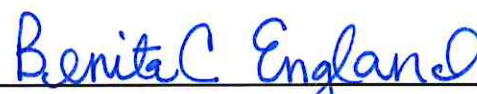
- At 7:30 pm, Council members entered closed session to discuss personnel and legal matters.
- At 8:06 pm, Council members returned to open session. Mr. Baughn made a motion to accept the draft budget as presented; Mr. Slaton seconded the motion; motion approved.
- There was no action taken on the legal matter; it will be discussed with our lawyer.

Mayor England announced the next Council meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, June 8th.

Mr. Slaton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 pm; Ms. Tiger seconded the motion; motion approved.

ATTEST:


Suzanne G. Hedden, Town Clerk


Benita C. England, Mayor