Benita C. England, Mayor
Harry Baughn, Joe Slaton, Lauren Tiger, Council
Suzanne Hedden, Clerk

October 2026

Attendees: Mayor Benita England; Council Members: Harry Baughn, Joe Slaton, Lauren Tiger; Planning & Zoning Administrator: April England; Town Clerk/Finance Officer: Suzanne Hedden
Others: Marcia Barnes (Clay County Progress), Sandy Zimmerman (HHI), Jeff Batten (News Talk 95.1 WJRB)

Mayor England led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and paused for a moment of silence. She then called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor England explained that a change should be made on the agenda; Item #6C needs to be changed from 'Small business infrastructure update' to 'Small business infrastructure update resolution'. Mr. Baughn made a motion to approve the agenda contingent on the correction; there was no discussion; motion approved.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the minutes of the 14 September meeting; motion approved.

Mrs. Hedden explained the payroll section of the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual report is incorrect due to an error in payroll processing for September. She stated that she has been in daily contact with Paychex, striving to get corrections made and posted. Mr. Baughn expressed concern about the Grounds Upkeep line item; Mayor England explained that the increase is a result of payment for trees being removed in Mayor's Park. There was also concern about our income being low for this month. A substantial difference was noticed in monies received from Clay County for Town of Hayesville properties. Due to tax notices being mailed later than normal, it is reasonable to think our amount will increase next month after residents received their notices.

Mr. Slaton made a motion to approve the Profit & Loss report and the Balance Sheet; no discussion; motion approved.

Ms. Tiger gave a report and presented drafts of Wayfinding Signs that are possibilities for the signs we will install. Moss Memorial Library and Hayesville Post Office already have signs, so we will start out by purchasing three (3). Mayor England added that we will tailor the signs as much as the DOT will allow us.

Mayor England commended volunteers who have taken down the lighting on the businesses around the Square. She is now talking to painters, electricians, etc. concerning getting new lights. A possibility of using timers has been considered; or, with the new LED bulbs, the lights may be left on continuously, the method to increase the life of the bulbs will be chosen.

Blue Ridge Mountain EMC will hang Christmas lights on the poles before Thanksgiving.

In a few days, Billy Toups (The Flag Guy), who is installing the halyard on the flagpole, will attempt to unlock the lock at the bottom of the pole.

Mayor England reported that the Department of Commerce will not fund the drainage project at Mill Street. Shawn Smallwood has re-written the grant to only include engineering for all other stormwater concerns and believes the grant will then be approved by the end of October.

Ms. Tiger made a motion to approve the small business infrastructure update resolution; the purpose of the resolution is to reflect the change in the grant areas of concern to remove Mill Street from the grant; no discussion; motion approved.

Mayor England stated we must have a resolution to use electronic payments and we must have three policies (per April's conversation with Sharon at NCLM. Mr. Baughn made a motion to adopt the resolution; no discussion; motion approved.

The $50,000.00 grant received from Rep. Gillespie's office is all being managed by the County; we are not sure if the money will be held by County authorities or Town of Hayesville management. Mr. Baughn made a motion to add required information (Debit and Credit General Ledger line items) for the Sidewalk Structures Grant.

Mr. Slaton made a motion to approve the scope of work for the Sidewalk/Structure Grant; Ms. April England added that information will be added as necessary to the County's scope of work; no further discussion; motion approved.

Mayor England introduced current information concerning use of an ATM machine. She stated there are three (3) different kinds of placement; and, mentioned that Town of

Hayesville can provide space for a machine, but we cannot run or fund an independent one. Attachment to the public restrooms was mentioned as a possible location. Ms. Tiger posed the idea of a Hiawassee bank being interested; she also stated she will ask Nantahala Bank (Hayesville) if they would be interested.

Mayor's report (attached – distributed at meeting)
Planning & Zoning Administrator's report (attached – distributed at meeting)
Public Meeting (Sandy Zimmerman – HHI; attached – distributed at meeting)
Next Council meeting is November 9th.

Council members and Mayor England entered closed session at 7:33 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Benita C England
Benita C. England, Mayor

ATTEST: Suzanne G. Hedden
Suzanne G. Hedden, Town Clerk