

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
February 3, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

On February 3, 2015, the regular meeting of the Haysi Town Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Haysi Town Hall Municipal Building located at 322 Main Street, Haysi, Virginia.

The following members were present:

PRESENT: Mayor Larry D. Yates

Council Members:
Michael Harris
Tim Wallace
Susan Tiller
William "Billy" Counts

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Rocky Wood
Council Member Barry Whitt

ITEMS # I, II, & III

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry D. Yates at 7:00 p.m., and the Invocation was held by Police Chief George Wallace and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Yates said that he had one item to add under New Business; Discussion of Ridgeview High School Scoreboard. He also had one item to add under Old Business, which Cost of Streetlights and Arrangement with AEP. At this time Mayor Yates asked the Council for any additional changes to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve the agenda as amended. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM #V - PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Yates opened the floor for anyone person wishing to speak during the public comment period. No one signed up or requested to speak.

ITEM # VI - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Prior to the meeting council had received for consideration of approval a copy of the following prepared minutes:

- January 6, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Michael Harris to approve the minutes as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VII – FINANCIAL REPORT

At this time the council was presented for approval the following:

- December 30, 2014 through January 27, 2015 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- December 30, 2014 through January 27, 2015 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 12585-12632 & deposits
- December 30, 2014 through January 27, 2015 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Donation Request from Haysi Clinchco Lions Club

Mayor Yates called for a representative from the Haysi Clinchco Lions Club to present the request. Ann Branham, President of the Haysi Clinchco Lions Club said that they were gathering donations for the 2015 Community Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Branham said that the Town of Clinchco and the Kiwanis Club had donated. Mrs. Branham said that they were hearing rumors of a bigger crowd this year. 2014 has a good turn out from the community. Mrs. Branham said that they were requesting a five hundred dollar donation. She noted that each egg is filled with candy and the price of the candy had risen. 2015 will be the 4th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt and the event is growing every year. The VFW dropped their sponsorship last year, so the Town of Clinchco took their place. The Haysi Clinchco Lions Club is working with the Breaks Interstate Park and Belcher Insurance Agency to encourage participation at both events. Mayor Yates invited everyone to attend the Haysi Partners Meetings to help the community with events during the year. Mrs. Brenda Ramey invited the Town Council Members to come and help with the egg hunt as

well. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve the donation request for five hundred dollars from the Haysi Clinchco Lions Club for the 2015 Community Easter Egg Hunt. Council Members Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, and Michael Harris voted aye and Council Member Tim Wallace voted nay. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed by verbal voting.

Haysi High School Property

Mayor Yates asked that the Haysi Town Council begin thinking about whether the town would accept the Haysi High School Property once it was abandoned. Mayor Yates said that he would be very interested in researching the option of getting the property and its possibilities. Mayor Yates explained that Clintwood's Mayor Baker went to the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors and the Dickenson County School Board meetings to encourage support for the town to get the property. Mayor Yates said that the supervisors he has spoken with are in favor, however, it may be a year before a decision is made. Mayor Yates asked that the council consider creative uses and liabilities. Council Member Tim Wallace said it was understanding that the school would have to be demolished. Mayor Yates said there is no guarantee that the Army Corp of Engineers has funds to demo the high school. Mayor Yates noted that the high school building is different than the flood plain buildings and noted that the cost for demolition and disposal is over one million dollars for those buildings. The main purpose was to have the Council Member consider the possibilities and liabilities and get approval to discuss the option in public. Mayor Yates mentioned that it may be possible to have Hill Studio assess the building since the town had awarded them the other town projects. The likelihood of vandalism for a vacant building is also something the town would need to consider. Assistant Chief Bobby Edwards mentioned that Ervinton High School sustained fourteen thousand dollars in damage due to vandalism after it was abandoned.

Ridgeview High School Scoreboard

Mayor Yates said that he was approached by a member of the Dickenson County School Board and asked to partner with the Town of Clintwood for advertisement on the Ridgeview High School Football and Basketball Scoreboards. For a cost of \$7,500 for ten years, the Town of Haysi could have: the town seal or marketing logo on the scoreboards, the option to have digital public announcements scroll on the scoreboards, one half page ad on the back page of the football program every year, one half page ad in the Ridgeview Yearbook every year, the option to renew for ten years at \$2,500. The cost would be split into four payments. The new high school does not have a budget for the equipment. Council Member Susan Tiller said that Clintwood would probably move forward with this offer. Mayor Yates said that no action needed to be taken at the meeting and he will work on getting a draft contract from the Dickenson County School Board Attorney. Mr. Derrick Yates, Haysi Town Attorney said that he would like to see the contract. Mayor Yates explained that the Football Scoreboard will also be used for softball and baseball and the indoor scoreboard would be used for Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, and Volleyball.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report-Chief George Wallace (See Attachment)

Chief Wallace reported thirty-one calls for the month of January and briefly described some of the calls on the January Monthly Report. The calls slowed down this month, but the highlighted calls were a man that broke down and had breathing problems while fixing his car, domestic violence in Splashdam that is hopefully resolved now, shoplifting, tractor trailer stuck in a ditch, and a student acting as a drug dealer at the high school. Council Member Susan Tiller asked if there was any new information regarding the shot fired in town in December. Chief Wallace said that they did not have any new information, however, the suspect was involved in another incident. Mayor Yates asked if the situation with the “J brakes” was any better. Council Member Susan Tiller and Council Member Billy Counts agreed that the situation had been resolved. Mayor Yates asked Chief Wallace if Officer Grant Garrett would be continuing his work with the Haysi Police Department. Chief Wallace said that Officer Garrett is working day shift right now and his schedule with the town was not affected. Assistant Chief Edwards said that the police department would work around Officer Garrett’s schedule if it changed.

Donation Request from Haysi High School Senior Class

Mayor Yates called for a representative from the Haysi High School Senior Class to present the request. Ms. Shenna Edwards said that the Senior Trip to New York this year would cost around one thousand one hundred dollars per child. Ms. Edwards said that at this time around eight to nine thousand dollars was still owed on the balance. Ms. Edwards said that the cost of the trip included a charter bus and nightly security. Ms. Hall handed out an information sheet to the Haysi Town Council. Ms. Edwards said that they would appreciate any donation. Mayor Yates asked how much the Town of Haysi had given to the Senior Trip last year. Ms. Edwards said that the town donated five hundred dollars last year. Council Member Billy Counts asked what class took the last trip to New York. Mrs. Hall said that the Class of 2011 went to New York and the cost at that time was around nine hundred dollars per child. Mayor Yates asked how long the trip would last. Mrs. Hall said that it would run from Tuesday through Sunday. Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the town had budgeted a specific amount for the Senior Class. Mayor Yates explained that five thousand dollars was budgeted for all donations for the fiscal year. Council Member Billy Counts asked how much was left in the budget at this time. Mayor Yates replied that there was two thousand nine hundred dollars left. Council Member Billy Counts asked how much the Senior Class had requested as a donation. Ms. Edwards said that the request was for one thousand five hundred dollars. Mayor Yates asked if the five adults attending the trip were school employees. Mrs. Edwards said that they were school employees. Council Member Michael Harris asked how many total seniors were in the Class of 2015. Ms. Edwards said that there are sixty seniors, so about half of them are going on the trip. Mayor Yates asked if the Dickenson County School Board had approved the trip. Ms. Edwards said that had the approval of the school board. Motion was made by Council Member Billy

Counts to approve a one thousand dollar donation to the Haysi High School Senior Class for the trip to New York, but the motion on the floor died without being seconded. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve a five hundred dollar donation to the Haysi High School Senior Class for the trip to New York. Mayor Yates called for a roll call vote. Council Members Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, and Michael Harris voted aye and Council Member Tim Wallace voted nay. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed by verbal voting.

Cost of Streetlights and Arrangement with AEP

Mayor Yates said that the Sidewalk Project had twenty-nine thousand dollars remaining that needed to be funded. Mayor Yates proposed that the Haysi Town Council Members think about the situation over the next thirty days. The town is currently waiting for a cost estimate to fix the corner at the Haysi Town Hall. The cost of that construction plus the cost of the streetlights will be around thirty-five thousand dollars total. The construction will cost less if it is done now rather than waiting until a future time. Mayor Yates said that he didn't know what revenue to expect from the BPOL tax, but there were some large projects completed in town last year. Mayor Yates explained that all the conduit was included with the current construction taking place. The cost is twenty-nine thousand dollars for AEP to pull wire, hook the connections to the grid, buy the poles, mount the poles, and light the streetlights. Mayor Yates said that he has discussed the option of a low interest loan with Rural Development. The interest rate would be 3.75% for ten years, which would make the monthly payment three hundred dollars and eighteen cents. There is still a possibility of getting funds from the coal and gas severance fund, which could be used as early pay off, but there is no guarantee of getting the money. Mayor Yates requested that the council members think about the course of action that needed to be taken and a decision would need to be made next month.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- The sidewalk project is going good and the first progress meeting went well.
- Haysi Partners will meet Thursday, February 5, at 5:00pm.
- Mayor Yates attended the Conference on the Economy of the Coalfield Region of Virginia at the Appalachian College of Pharmacy. There was a lot of discussion, but no answers to the problem.
- Mayor Yates reported that he was still working on the purpose change for the water releases with Senator Tim Kaine's office.
- Mayor Yates attended legislative week in Richmond last month. There was a lot of excitement around the Spearhead Trails.
- There is a copy of the press release from People, Inc. regarding Jill Branham, owner of the Main Street Pizzeria & Grill as the winner of the My Southwest Virginia Opportunity Entrepreneur Challenge included in the board packets.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ITEM # XII – ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting and the meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk