

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
May 5, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

On May 5, 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

Barry Whitt

Tim Wallace

Susan Tiller

William "Billy" Counts

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Rocky Wood

### **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**

At this time Mayor Yates asked the Council for any additional changes to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Barry Whitt seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the agenda as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

### **ITEM #V - PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Yates asked Town Clerk, Amanda Perrigan to read the following Public Comment Policy out loud:

A Public Comment Period will be held during the regular Town Council monthly meetings, during Special Called meetings, and Public Hearings. The Public Comment period will be on the Agenda for the meeting. The Town Council asks that speakers only comment on the items listed on the Agenda for the Town Council meeting or Special Called meeting and only comment on the specific reason for the Public Hearing. All

comments made during the Public Comment period shall be subject to the following procedures:

- 1.) Anyone who wishes to make a statement during the Public Comment period will register on a sign-up sheet available 30 minutes before the start of the meeting.
- 2.) Persons who have signed the register to speak shall be taken in the order in which they are listed.
- 3.) Persons addressing the Town Council are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.
- 4.) Speakers will be acknowledged by Mayor Larry Yates in the order in which their names appear on the sign-up sheet. Speakers shall stand at their seat to address the Council and not approach the Mayor or Town Council members. Speakers will start their comment by stating their name and address.
- 5.) Speakers will direct comments at the Town Council as a whole and not to individuals. Public Comment is not intended to require the Town Council to provide any answer to the speaker right away. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed.
- 6.) Speakers will be courteous in their language, tone, and presentation.
- 7.) Only one speaker will be acknowledged at a time. If a large number of people are present to register concerns about the same subject, it is suggested that they might be acknowledged as a unified group and a designated speaker will cover the various points.
- 8.) In the event that there are more people who wish to speak than can be accommodated in the 30 minutes set aside for public comment, the Town Council may extend the period, delay it until the rest of the agenda has been completed, or continue it to the next regular council meeting.

The first person signed up for Public Comment was Kim Rose of 1061 Laurel Branch, Haysi.

Ms. Rose introduced herself and gave her address. Ms. Rose is the Branch Manager of the Haysi Community Library and explained that through the summer parents bring their children to attend the Summer Reading Program held there. The program last six weeks for younger children and four to five weeks for children ages twelve through seventeen. The donation request would help pay for two performers; humorist and magician, Barry Mitchell and the Bright Star Touring Theatre Company. The total cost for the performers is a discounted rate of \$650 and the requested amount is \$100. Ms. Rose said that last year was successful and participation was really consistent compared to 2013. Ms. Rose said any donation would be appreciated. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Michael Harris to approve the \$100 donation request from the Haysi Community Library. Council Members Barry Whitt, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Michael Harris, and Tim Wallace voted aye. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

There was no else registered for Public Comment.

**ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- March 3, 2015            Regular Town Council Meeting
- April 21, 2015         Special Meeting Budget Workshop

Motion was made by Council Member Barry Whitt and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 Special Meeting Budget Workshop as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015 Regular Town Council Meeting 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:

- February 27, 2015 through March 31, 2015 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- February 27, 2015 through March 31, 2015 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 12673-12734 & deposits
- February 27, 2015 through March 31, 2015 Profit & Loss Report
- April 1, 2015 through April 30, 2015 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- April 1, 2015 through April 30, 2015 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 12735-12775 & deposits
- April 1, 2015 through April 30, 2015 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

**VICE MAYOR ROCKY WOOD ENTERED THE MEETING.**

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt 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 Junior League Baseball**

Mayor Yates called for a representative from Haysi Junior League Baseball to present the request. Mr. Clint Owens introduced himself and said it was the first time in several years that they had a team. He explained that the team needed equipment and uniforms. The team will be made up of 13 and year olds that are too old for Little League Baseball, but too young for Junior Varsity "JV" Baseball. Mr. Owens said that any donation would be appreciated. Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the Little League helped fund the Junior League. Mr. Owens said that they were not funded by the Little League, but received catcher equipment from them and are covered by their insurance. Mr. Owens advised that they also got some old equipment from the high school with their permission. Mayor Yates asked if the Junior League was sanctioned. Mr. Owens said that it was not sanctioned although they do play teams like Grundy. Mr. Owens said that several baseball players are often lost in transition from Little League to JV Baseball. Mayor Yates asked if they are required to pay league fees. Mr. Owens said they do not pay league fees. Mayor Yates asked if they pay official fees. Mr. Owens said that they do pay official fees, but they need helmets, bats, and jerseys. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked about next year. Mr. Owens said that there were not enough kids last year to form a team and it varies from year to year. JV and Varsity Baseball are based on grade not age. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked what would happen to the equipment and uniforms after this year. Mr. Owens said that they would either use it again or donate it. Mayor Yates asked how many kids were on the team. Mr. Owens said that the team had 10 players. Mayor Yates asked if there were any girls on the team. Mr. Owens said none of the players were girls. Mayor Yates opened the floor for motions. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve a \$50 donation to the Haysi Junior League Baseball. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood, Council Members Barry Whitt, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, and Michael Harris voted aye while Council Member Tim Wallace voted nay. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed by verbal voting.

## **ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS**

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

Chief Wallace reported thirty-five calls for the month of April and briefly described some of the calls on the April Monthly Report. The drugs that Assistant Chief Edwards collected off a shoplifter at Dollar General tested as meth. On April 28, the Southwest Regional Jail Authority had eight people involved in getting drugs smuggled into the jail. On April 27, Office Garrett reported suspicious activity that turned out to be railroad workers, but Chief Wallace said it was good that he was alert to his surroundings. There were four business alarms that went off and that was due in part to code issues at Appalachian Auto Parts. On April 7, there was a shooting on Doe Branch. Chief Wallace said that he was glad to say that everyone walked away. On April 3, there was an ATV complaint. Assistant Chief

Edwards gave a warning and no more complaints have been reported since the warning. On April 27, there was a hit and run at the Pizza Plus. The gentleman involved didn't realize that he hit another vehicle and his family took care to resolve the situation. There have been no more "J braking" incidents reported. Council Member Susan Tiller said that there was a coal truck speeding near Sandlick Elementary and she suggested that the area be monitored for future occurrences if possible. Assistant Chief Edwards reported that he had been working with Government Deals to sell the ATV. It will be listed this Friday for sale and the sale will be open to the public; anyone can bid. Assistant Chief Edwards said that he had been working with the Virginia State Police to allow the use of local radios. One radio is being tested in a State Trooper's vehicle for approval. There are five troopers in the county and Assistant Chief Edwards is working to get a radio in each of their vehicles. He requested that the town purchase one of the radios with the money from the ATV sale. The town will retain ownership of the radio. Assistant Chief Edwards said that they desperately needed communication with the state police in the area. Assistant Chief Edwards said that the county was working on a body camera grant that had a fifty percent match if the town wanted to partner with the Dickenson County Sherriff's Department in the grant application and the lapel camera is much better equipment. Mayor Yates noted that it was part of a nationwide initiative. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the time frame. Assistant Chief Edwards said that the radio had to be tested first then the approval would take two to three weeks and during that time the ATV would be sold.

#### Draft of the 2015-2016 Budget

Mayor Yates asked for any questions or comments about the budget after the workshop. The 2015-2016 Budget will be advertised in the local newspaper along with the tax rates in preparation for adoption next month.

#### Community Development Block Grant – Streetscape Project

Mayor Yates said that the project was finished except for the street lights and the final payment to the contractor. Hill Studio is scheduled to review the project on Friday. Mayor Yates said that the \$34,000 from the Coal and Gas Severance Committee would need to be transferred from the rainy day fund to the general fund. Mayor Yates reported that the Coal and Gas Severance Committee approved to give the town \$28,000 for the street lights. Mayor Yates is in the process of working with the County Administrator on the availability of the funds so that the lights can be ordered. Mayor Yates asked if the council would have any reservations about being reimbursed if he can get the appropriation secured. No issues were discussed by the council members at this time.

#### Ridgeview High School Scoreboard

Mayor Yates advised that the Town of Clintwood did not move forward with the contract for advertising on the scoreboards. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts

seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to opt out of the scoreboard advertising. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

#### **ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates thanked everyone that helped with the Downtown Riverfront Clean-Up. Over one ton of trash was picked up that day. The grass that was sown at the river bank is growing good. The Mayor recently received recommendations on plants and landscaping tips on the river front. Mayor Yates said that the town would work toward those recommendations a little at a time.
- Mayor Yates advised that a representative of the Southwest Virginia Community College will be working with the Haysi Partners to develop a Kayak Fishing Tournament for Trail Days.
- Mayor Yates informed everyone that he is still working with Dickenson County and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries on the shooting range project.
- Mayor Yates told Vice Mayor Rocky Wood that he sent the construction drawings on the trail center roof to him for review. The roof and the Treehouse will be advertised beginning on May 13 with a pre-bid meeting on May 26. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked how many times the Treehouse had been bid. Mayor Yates said that this would be the third time. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked who bid previously. Mayor Yates said that King Construction was the only bidder.
- Mayor Yates mentioned that the Haysi Partners will hold a Fish Fry on Friday as a fundraiser. The Haysi Partners have partnered with Pig-N-Out for this event.

#### **ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked if Assistant Chief Bobby Edwards could assist the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department in trying to obtain a gas detector. Vice Mayor Wood said that the fire department needed to be able to monitor the gas levels and the situations they have encountered over the past two months have been more dangerous. Vice Mayor Wood said that the detectors he had researched so far have been expensive. Mayor Yates asked if the detector would be able to monitor natural gas and propane. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said that the models he has researched would work for both, it would be as simple as changing the sensor to fit the situation. Assistant Chief Edwards said that he would try to help. Vice Mayor Wood said that the problem with the one they currently have is that the O<sub>2</sub> sensor often goes bad and each time the gas calibrator goes bad the cost is around five hundred dollars. Vice Mayor Wood said that they want to purchase one without a gas calibrator. Mayor Yates suggested that the fire department consider partnering with JWT, the Haysi Police Department, and Range Resources to help with the cost. Vice Mayor Wood said that the average use was three calls a year until this year. Assistant Chief Edwards said that CSX would be a good contact for partnering as well.

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood also wanted to bring the town's attention the danger of the kids taking pictures inside the old Splashdam Mine. The Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy cannot seal the mines due to the endangered bats. Vice Mayor Wood asked if the liability would fall on the property owner. Mayor Yates said that he could contact Forestland Group for more information on it. Assistant Chief Edwards said that bars across the opening would resolve the issue. Chief Wallace said that a representative of DMME took some contractors down to look at it for a bid to concrete it.

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked that the town assist business owner Kay Owens with the damage to her property. Mayor Yates said that his understanding was that the bond on the work performed by DMME ended in twenty years. Mrs. Owens said that the work was completed July 12, 1996 according to a letter she had. Vice Mayor Wood said that there were signs of black damp and the area could become dangerous. Mayor Yates agreed to help by researching the property and mineral situation with Forestland Group and DMME.

**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 Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting and the meeting was adjourned.

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Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk