

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
June 6, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

On June 6, 2017, 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:

William "Billy" Counts

Barry Whitt

Susan Tiller

Michael Harris

Tim Wallace

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 Chief George Wallace and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked that the approval of the minutes of the Special Called Meeting on May 30, 2017, be added to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt 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 asked Town Clerk Amanda Perrigan to read the list of those registered for public comment. Those registered were Tammy Owens of 534 Skyline Drive, Birchleaf and David O'Quinn from Haysi Little League. Mayor Yates asked Clerk 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.

Mayor Yates acknowledged Ms. Owens to present her comments. Ms. Owens stated that she would like to be added the agenda for July's regular meeting of the Haysi Town Council. Ms. Owens had three reasons for her request. The first reason she stated was that in reviewing the minutes of previous meeting there seemed to be a lot of confusion about the Splashdam Project. Ms. Owens said that she had been working with Appalachian Voices and Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards over the past year on the project. Ms. Owens stated that since there was confusion on the book mentioned in previous meeting she made copies of the pages that pertain to the Splashdam project and had them available if anyone wanted to pick one up. She also had copies of a letter of the release from the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy about the ten million dollars in grants as well. Her second reason was to discuss the Brownfields grant. Her final reason was to discuss a new business that she wanted to start in the upcoming year. Ms. Owens said that she was interested in a transparent dialog with the Haysi Town Council. Mayor Yates thanked Ms. Owens for her comments.

Mayor Yates acknowledged David O'Quinn to present his comments. Mr. O'Quinn thanked the Haysi Town Council for their previous donation on behalf of the Haysi Little

League. Mr. O'Quinn said the portable fence was purchased in addition to t-ball shirts that said "Town of Haysi" on them with the donation from the town. Mr. O'Quinn explained that the All-Star Tournament consisting of six localities was held this past weekend. Mr. O'Quinn added that the tournament would not have been possible without the purchase of the portable fence. Mr. O'Quinn said that the fence was still standing at this time, but he was looking to remove it soon for storage in order to keep it in good condition. Mr. O'Quinn stated that attendees to the tournament noticed the Mile Long Yard Sale and commented about shopping, so he hoped that it benefited the town to have others visiting the area. Mr. O'Quinn apologized for not having photos with him, but said he would email them to Clerk Perrigan. Mr. O'Quinn stated one hundred sixty children participated in the Haysi Little League Program this year and it was improving. Again, Mr. O'Quinn thanked the Haysi Town Council for their support and donation. Council Member Susan Tiller commented that she had been told by others that they enjoyed the tournament in Haysi. Mr. O'Quinn stated that the last All-Star Tournament held in Haysi was in 1994. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. O'Quinn for the update.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- May 2, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting
- May 30, 2017 Special Called Meeting for Budget Workshop

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 2, 2017 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 meeting on May 30, 2017 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:

- May 1, 2017 through May 31, 2017 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- April 27, 2017 through May 31, 2017 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 13865-13928 & deposits
- April 27, 2017 through May 31, 2017 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Barry Whitt 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 Community Library

Mayor Yates welcomed Kim Rose, manager of the Haysi Community Library to present the donation request. Ms. Rose said that she was asking a one hundred dollar donation to benefit the summer reading program held June 13, 2017 through July 25, 2017. The Summer Reading Program will take place once a week on Tuesdays with the exception of July 4, 2017. Ms. Rose said around five hundred people including parents, kids, and teens attend. Ms. Rose stated that the most expensive part of hosting the program is the cost of performers. The library has a lot of entertainers scheduled and the total cost is around \$1,200.00. Ms. Rose added that the donation request from the town would be used to fund incidentals such as pizza, drinks, etc. Ms. Rose said the library would appreciate the funding assistance. Ms. Rose brought brochures for both the teen and summer reading programs for anyone interested. Mayor Yates asked if the library had the needed funding for the teen program. Ms. Rose said that it was covered. Mayor Yates asked about the hours of the library for the upcoming fiscal year. Ms. Rose said the library's funding had been restored and the library will reopen on Thursdays beginning in July. Mayor Yates commented about past donations to the library for the Summer Reading Program. Ms. Rose said she didn't make a request last year, but the town donated one hundred dollars the year before last. Council Member Barry Whitt asked if the town had enough money in the budget to donate one hundred and fifty dollars. Mayor Yates said there were enough funds for a larger donation if the council wished. Council Member Susan Tiller commented on how hard the employees and staff worked at the library, not only in their job duties, but fundraising as well. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to donate two hundred dollars to the Haysi Community Library Summer Reading Program. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting. Mayor Yates added with no opposition from the council that any extra money could be used however the Summer Reading Program needed it to be used.

ITEM # IX – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief George Wallace reported thirty-eight calls for the month of May. Chief Wallace said there was a wide variety of calls during the month. Chief Wallace described one call on the list that happened on May 21, 2017 where they assisted Dickenson County Sherriff's Office on a call to Owens Branch. The call was for a manhunt of a gentleman who was a resident in that area thought to be suicidal. The report said that the man ran into the woods with a gun and locals had heard shooting. Officers tracked the man as far as they could, but ran

out of tracks. It was raining, so Officers Garrett, Wallace, and Chief Wallace waited under a nearby carport while Buchanan County officers checked the Greenbrier area. When someone pulled into the man's driveway, the three officers discovered him sitting up on the hill watching. So, the officers flanked him on the hill and Officer Garrett tazed him. Chief Wallace said that the outcome overall was good and officers discovered a total of forty illegal plants as a result. Assistant Chief Edwards advised that Officer Garrett has requested to step down from a part-time officer to an auxiliary officer. Officer Jeremy Fleming will start Tuesday in Officer Garrett's place as number 983. Mayor Yates asked if there had been any more complaints in the Fork Bottom area. Chief Wallace replied that there was a call on May 29, 2017, regarding the dog. Mayor Yates asked if the complaints involved any bites. Chief Wallace said the dog is a big dog, but friendly. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the sexual assault complaint on May 24. Assistant Chief Edwards said that the matter was still under investigation, so he could not discuss it. Mayor Yates asked about the call on Rail Street on May 26. Assistant Chief Edwards explained it was the same gentleman that made the dog complaint. A general discussion was held about two accidents in Dickenson County involving horses. Mayor Yates asked if the department had heard anything further about the parking changes. Chief Wallace reported that many citizens liked the change. Chief Wallace added that in a recent conversation with Pizza Factory Owner, Gayle Barton, she reported no drop in business.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report-Chief George Wallace

Chief George Wallace said that the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department had between ten and twelve calls, which were mostly traffic hazards, mud slides, and accidents. Chief Wallace noted that there was a call last month where a sixty-five year old gentleman weighing around three hundred fifty pounds walked down into the gorge late in the evening and reported that he couldn't get back out. Chief Wallace said after a long and failed attempt to rescue the gentlemen, he walked out on his own at a slow pace. The Breaks Interstate Park is coordinating a debrief with the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department since this issue happens a lot. Chief Wallace explained that he had since been researching some equipment for those situations and found something called a Rescue Max, which shoots a 3mm rope up to four hundred feet. This would allow the volunteers to pull over a larger rope, but the Rescue Max is priced at \$2,200.00. Chief Wallace said Richard Thacker may take a request for the Rescue Max to the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors. Chief Wallace said there was also discussion about buying an ATV for rescue purposes. Mayor Yates suggested that the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department talk to the Board of Commissioners for the Breaks Interstate Park about cost share. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about public warnings for the trail. Chief Wallace said that the trail maps have warnings, there is a sign at the trail, and the staff gives verbal warnings if asked about the trail. Mayor Yates stated that people start the trail too late in the day. Council Member Tim Wallace said that in his experience people always start too late and underestimate the time it takes to complete the trail. A general discussion was held about trail rescues.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates attended an economic development tour on May 8 and 9, 2017.
- Mayor Yates reported that there will be a Power Grant meeting tomorrow at the Haysi Town Hall to discuss the environmental issues.
- Mayor Yates stated that the town had a good Trails Day and Mile Long Yard Sale event this year.

Prior the beginning of the meeting, copies of the draft budget were handed out to Haysi Town Council Members. Mayor Yates said that he and Clerk Amanda Perrigan had been working on the presented draft budget, which is now balanced. Mayor Yates said there was no purposed increase in taxes. Mayor Yates stated that the projections for Merchants Tax, Meals Tax, and Sales Tax was increased by five percent and an additional roll of cigarette stamps was added. Mayor Yates told Chief George Wallace there was no increase to the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department's budget at this time, but the town would assist with grant writing and other areas where needed. Mayor Yates also advised that the audit information provided by the fire department would be reviewed, but the timing is not suitable for a raise in taxes. A general discussion was held about scheduling a public hearing for the budget approval. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to hold a Public Hearing on the 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance on June 19, 2017 at 5:50pm and a Special Called Meeting for Budget Approval on June 19, 2017 at 6:00pm. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the electric bill for the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department was similar every month. Chief Wallace answered that he did not pay the bills for the fire department; Matthew Deel handles that task for them. Chief Wallace explained that the fire department had added propane heaters for the truck bays to help with the cost of the electric bill. Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the propane heaters were added recently. Chief Wallace said the heaters were installed last year. Council Member Barry Whitt added that the heaters were installed at the end of last summer. Chief Wallace said he could ask Matthew Deel to attend a council meeting, so he could answer questions. A general discussion was held about the heating and cooling at the fire department. Mayor Yates asked about the Emergency Reporting System. Chief Wallace explained that the fire department was paying ninety-nine dollars a month to a company to submit reports for them to Fire Programs. Chief Wallace said the fire department has since decided to take care of those reports, so that cost has been eliminated. Mayor Yates asked if Alpha Omega Services was a contract company for Haysi Volunteer Fire Department. Chief Wallace answered that Alpha Omega Services was not a contractor, but repaired the fire trucks. Mayor Yates asked if the fire department had prepared a budget for the upcoming year. Chief Wallace stated that the fire department had never done that and their revenue and expenses seemed too uncertain. Mayor Yates mentioned a sixteen thousand dollar difference on the page three of their audit report. Mayor Yates suggested that the fire department define their streams of revenue and expense to achieve balance, so they will be more successful in obtaining

funding. Mayor Yates asked about the nearly half million dollars appropriated to Fire and Rescue by the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors. Council Member Barry Whitt commented that Clintwood is given more money because they are larger. Chief Wallace said that Dickenson County is providing the Haysi Fire Department with a total of thirteen new sets turnout gear, valued at three thousand dollars each. Chief Wallace also said that he understood that amount to include Fire Programs money. Mayor Yates stated that the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department needed to be treated fairly. Council Member Susan Tiller commented that there are four fire departments that receive funding from Dickenson County; Clintwood, Clinchco, Haysi, and Sandy Ridge. Council Member Barry Whitt advised that Sandy Ridge gets funding from both Dickenson and Wise County.

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 Barry Whitt 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