

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

On November 7, 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
Vice Mayor Rocky Wood

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

ABSENT: None

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. Mayor Yates welcomed Council Member Carter Branham to the Haysi Town Council.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked for any changes to the agenda. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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 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 registered for public comment was Jeremy Stapleton of 145 Shady Lady Lane, Birchleaf, VA 24220. Mr. Stapleton said he wanted to discuss a personal issue, where two boys are being denied access to a school bus due to the stop location being deemed not safe. Mr. Stapleton said corresponding road signs were taken down a month ago. Mr. Stapleton stated that there had not been any incidents, but the school board office suggested that the boys use a bus stop at the Stone Mountain Clinic. Mr. Stapleton added that their mother believed that location was too far for them to walk. Mr. Stapleton discussed the option of transferring the children to attend school in Clintwood, but there were issues surrounding the job of the mother. Mr. Stapleton explained that road study information was denied from Virginia Department of Transportation, so a new study was ordered. Sandlick District Supervisor Ronald Peters said that while the county must look out for the safety of the children, there are other bus stops in curves in fifty-five mile speed zones. Mr. Peters added that there were more coal trucks on the road in the past versus now. Mr. Peters stated that a comment was made at the Board of Supervisor's last meeting around the 53:26 mark by Larry Deel saying that the mother wanted to collect money off her kids. Council Member Tim Wallace asked for the location of the bus stop. Mr. Stapleton answered the old store below Chief George Wallace's driveway. Council Member Wallace stated that he got on the school bus in a curve when was a kid. Mayor Yates asked for their opinion of the ideal situation. Mrs. Amy Deel, which is the mother of the two boys, answered that

next to Chief Wallace's driveway would be ideal. Mr. Stapleton stated that Willis District Supervisor Jason Compton, Sandlick District School Board Member Rocky Barton, and Burl Mooney are against it. Council Member Carter Branham commented that he was aware of stops every day in the fifty-five mile speed zone. Mr. Stapleton explained that the bus would resume picking up the boys if the speed limit at their stop was reduced. Chief Wallace commented that his children rode the school bus and his driveway is about twenty yards down the road, but the bus would turn the lights on in the straight patch coming from Clinchco before coming around the curve. Mayor Yates brought up the topic of the VDOT speed study. Chief Wallace stated that the town was turned down on the speed study by VDOT. Mayor Yates added that was before the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors adopted the ATV Ordinance. Mr. Peters said that he thought the property owner was looking to expand the apartments located there. Mr. Stapleton said that the situation would hold up their progress if the bus won't stop there for the children. Mayor Yates stated that Dickenson County needed to get a Land Use Permit and offered to assist with it. A general discussion was held about speeds and areas in and around town. Mr. Stapleton asked for advice on how to move forward. A general discussion was held about the situation with the father of the children. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood suggested they hire an attorney. Mr. Stapleton said that he could file any necessary paperwork. Mayor Yates suggested that a meeting be arranged between himself, Chief Wallace, Mr. Peters, Sandlick District School Board Member Rocky Barton, and Burl Mooney. Council Member Tim Wallace stated that he was aware of bus stops in worse locations. Mr. Stapleton said that he had evidence of that as well. Mayor Yates said that he would keep in contact with Mr. Stapleton about the meeting. Chief Wallace pointed out that VDOT controls the speed limit. Mr. Peters pointed out that the school determines the bus stops. Mayor Yates said that the reduced speed limit may need to be extended to the curve past the bus stop.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- October 3, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the minutes of the meeting on October 3, 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:

- September 28, 2017 through October 31, 2017 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- September 28, 2017 through October 31, 2017 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 14084-14148 & deposits

- September 28, 2017 through October 31, 2017 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Mayor Yates pointed out that one of the checks in the current payables was for forty-five dollars to reimburse him for training that he, Clerk Amanda Perrigan, and Special Projects Coordinator Kirsten Deel attended last month. The other one he pointed out was for one thousand dollars to Friends of Southwest Virginia for their annual appropriation. Mayor Yates asked for any questions regarding the financial report. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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

Russell Fork Splashdam Property – Dean Hill

Mr. Dean Hill said that he was in attendance to ask to purchase the remaining Splashdam property owned by the town. Mr. Hill explained that he didn't have enough money to purchase all of the property at one time. Mr. Hill said all the property was flooded in the spring and noted that the property he is requesting to purchase isn't worth the amount that he paid last time. The town originally owned over twenty-six acres and has around twelve acres remaining. Mr. Hill added that he didn't want someone else to purchase the property beside his from the town. Mr. Hill stated that he had a well drilled, but hopes to get the water line extended to his property in the future. Mr. Hill explained that he needed to be able to host more campers because twelve wasn't enough. Mr. Hill plans to turn the entire property into campground, which includes removing the race track and putting in more "hook ups." Mr. Hill mentioned that he had the gob pile dug into and five feet down was pure sand. Mr. Hill stated that in order for him to make money he has to invest more money, so he also plans to install a pool. Mr. Hill stressed that it would take time to get all the work done and he hopes that the grant for the water line will go through. Mayor Yates said he needed to check the status of the grant. Mr. Hill explained that he hasn't made any money on the race track. Thunder River Campground obtained a fourteen day permit during Haysi's Russell Fork Autumn Fest that allowed them to host campers each weekend in October, but is closed now. Mr. Hill said there is a lot of paperwork involved and pointed out that building wasn't allowed in the flood zone, but he needed more property. Mr. Hill said he would buy the property for \$2,000 per acre. Mr. Hill stated there are a lot of regulations, including developing a flood plan, but in three to four years he plans to have thirty-two spots on top and fifteen spots on the bottom. Mayor Yates clarified that the campground would have between forty and fifty sites. Mr. Hill said that was correct, but depended on the situation with the water and described what happened when the well was drilled. Mayor Yates pointed out that the remaining town property included the area through the gate. Mr. Hill verified that was correct. Mayor Yates asked if the town wanted to retain that portion if it would be a "deal breaker." Mr. Hill replied that it wouldn't be if he owned just below there in the bottom. Mayor Yates stated that Mr. Hill already owned everything on the right and the town owned about one and a half acres on the left. Mayor Yates advised that the road was historical, but he expressed no preference on the sale of

the property. A general discussion was held about the history of the Splashdam area. Mayor Yates asked if the Haysi Town Council Members could meet at the Splashdam property for review. Attorney Stephen Mullins replied they could and a public hearing would be the next step. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if the coal pile was hazardous. Mr. Hill explained that the five or six feet on the top was slate and gravel and underneath was red dirt and sand. One pile has already been moved and the other has been sampled. Mr. Hill stated that it was pretty much dirt and rock. Mayor Yates noted that Forestland Group gave up their rights on the property. Mr. Hill advised he had “spent a fortune” on gravel and removing trash that included trailer frames. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Hill.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of the Russell Fork Trail Center

Mayor Yates said he had a couple of opportunities on the Russell Fork Trail Center to discuss. First, Mayor Yates has been working with Virginia Community Capital on details of a \$150,000 loan for the town. Mayor Yates explained that although he originally thought there would be no collateral, the building would be used as collateral for the loan. The term would be for ten years and refinanced after the first five years with an amortization of twenty-five years for a cheaper payment. Mayor Yates stated that VCC was interested in providing the loan to the town. Mayor Yates also said that the town could submit an application to the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission. The next cycle for the grant program is July 2018, the grants for 2017 were awarded this past September. However, there is a remote possibility that they may accept applications in January for awards in March. Mayor Yates said he needed to do more research on the program. Mayor Yates mentioned that it would be good to bid the project now since contractors will be looking for inside work. Mayor Yates asked the Haysi Town Council to think about bidding the project and it will be discussed again in December. Mayor Yates stressed that the town didn’t want to lose the grant money already in place, which is around \$340,000 because of deadlines.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief George Wallace reported 22 calls for the month of October. Chief Wallace said there was a big variety of calls and summarized some of them from the report, which included vandalism to a vehicle in the parking lot at the Stone Mountain Clinic, a shoplifter at Jones and Counts Pharmacy found on J&M Belcher Drive, and a natural gas leak where the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department’s gas meter was used. Assistant Chief Bobby Edwards announced that the Haysi Police Department was awarded a grant through Dickenson County, which the county will also administer to purchase an ATV and emergency equipment. Assistant Chief Edwards explained that the police department has partnered with Dickenson County, but the ATV and equipment will stay in Haysi. Assistant Chief Edwards showed photos to the Council Members of the ATV and equipment to be purchased. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the new truck for the police

department. Assistant Chief Edwards replied that the truck is supposed to be available on Monday. Mayor Yates advised that the town closed on the paperwork last Monday. Assistant Chief Edwards stated the ATV grant award was \$35, 886. Mayor Yates added that the grant didn't require a match. Assistant Chief Edwards said that their grant had one of the highest scores. Mayor Yates mentioned that the town needed press coverage on the grants. A general discussion was held about the delivery of the ATV and equipment.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report-Chief Rocky Wood

Chief Rocky Wood reported eleven calls, which included motor vehicle accidents, a house fire, and a gas leak. Chief Wood said the department had gotten their new truck and are more than satisfied with it. Chief Wood advised that the new fire truck came with \$12,000 of more equipment than they had thought it would. The new fire truck is scheduled to be in service by the end of the week. Chief Wood announced that the fire department would be receiving twelve used air packs and noted that they were still in good condition. Mayor Yates asked about the compatibility. Chief Wood answered that they were and the air packs would allow the department more time because they will extend the years before new ones need to be purchased. Sandlick District Supervisor Ronald Peters asked if Richard Thacker was tracking the equipment. Chief Wood replied that he was not. Mr. Peters said he needed to work on that. Chief Wood explained that the department expected to receive five thousand dollars for the old heavy rescue truck, but worked out a deal for nine thousand eight hundred dollars in work in exchange for the title of the truck. Mayor Yates recommended that Chief Wood document that information for in-kind match on grants if the opportunity arose. Mayor Yates asked if the new truck was in operation. Chief Wood answered that it was and the department had gotten the small truck back as well, although he wasn't satisfied with the repair work. Mayor Yates requested a copy of the fire department's policies and procedures or at least a draft by December 1, 2017. Mayor Yates mentioned that he would like to see them put into effect in 2018, preferably sooner than later. Chief Wood said that he would try to accommodate the request.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates advised that the Town's Christmas Dinner will be December 15, 2017 at six o'clock in the evening at the Dickenson Center for Education and Research in Clintwood.
- Mayor Yates invited the council members to attend the Dickenson County Chamber of Commerce's Silent Auction on November 17, 2017. The event is a fundraiser and costs twenty dollars per person which includes a meal, live music, and silent auction.
- Mayor Yates announced the town has a new employee from the University of Virginia's College at Wise working with the Department of Housing and Community Development as a Community Builder for the town of Haysi and St. Paul. Ashley Huffman will be working in Haysi approximately fourteen and a half hours per week and helping with the town's second Rally program. The Rally

Program will give the Haysi Partners a five thousand dollar grant during this round. Mayor Yates explained that the college was paying the town one thousand dollars for Ashley's employment, so the position doesn't cost the town anything. Ms. Huffman will be working on economic development and tourism projects for Haysi.

- Mayor Yates explained that the Haysi to Breaks Trail is waiting on the environmental portion of the project to be approved, which will be an estimated sixty to ninety days. Once the town receives all of the easements the project can be bid.
- Mayor Yates announced the Annual Haysi Christmas Parade is December 1, 2017. Letters were mailed to the merchants asking for forty dollars, which is an increase of five dollars from last year.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ITEM # XIII – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A1 for the discussion of personnel. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote to certify the statement:

Wm. "Billy" Brice	Counts	Yes	Michael Harris	Yes
Tim Wallace		Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Rocky Wood		Yes	Carter Branham	Yes

Upon motion made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood the Council was now convened in Open Session. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to give a three percent cost of living raise to full time employees effective January 1, 2018 and to give the same amounts for Christmas Bonuses as 2016. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting. Motion was made by Council member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to give a twenty-five cent an hour raise to James Gilbert. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # XIV – ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller 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