

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
July 2, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

On July 2, 2019, 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:
Michael Harris
Tim Wallace
William "Billy" Counts

ABSENT: Carter Branham
Susan Tiller

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 Peggy Hurley and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked for changes to the agenda as presented. Mayor Yates requested that 2019-2020 Re-Organization be added under Approval of the Agenda as item 4a.

2019-2020 Re-Organization

Mayor Yates stated that the purpose of the annual re-organization was to choose the Vice Mayor, set the meeting date and time, and alternate meeting date and time. Mayor Yates opened the floor for nominations for Vice Mayor. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to continue Council Member Rocky Wood's appointment as Vice Mayor and to hold the Town Council Meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at seven o'clock in the evening with the alternate meeting on the second Tuesday of the month at seven o'clock in the evening. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts 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 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 Donald Owens of 948 Victorian Drive, Clinchco. Mr. Owens stated that Spearhead Trails was bringing money in the town, but not enough. Mr. Owens explained that he owned thirty acres of land on Lazarus Branch and had plans to build cabins and a bed and breakfast establishment. Mr. Owens added that he managed a campground in Tennessee for two years, but he wasn't familiar with the laws here and requested input. Mr. Owens said that Haysi has the number one trail, but there is no place for people to stay. Mr. Owens added that he would like to have customers staying at his location by next year. Council Member Billy Counts asked about RVs. Mr. Owens answered only trucks and trailers, the location would not serve as a campground for RV

hookups, but he would speak with Mrs. Colley to rent her property for parking. Council Member Counts advised that Melinda Wallen would be the proper contact for the property. Mayor Yates said that he could provide her contact information and help find funding if needed. Mr. Owens said that he had fifty thousand dollars to work with and planned to build twenty cabins at first. Mayor Yates concluded by stating that town would work with Mr. Owens and help where possible.

The second person signed up for Public Comment was Peggy Hurley with the 2020 Census. Ms. Hurley said that she serves the area for the Census and lives in Abingdon, but her department is located in Pennsylvania. Ms. Hurley said that the 2020 Census was quickly approaching and a lot had changed since the last Census in 2010. Ms. Hurley stated that she is working to form Complete Count Committees, which would educate citizens about the citizens. Ms. Hurley advised that the Census numbers are used to distribute funds, with money based on population, so it's important everyone gets counted. The Census can be completed via paper form, phone, and online. Ms. Hurley said that the Census is interested in hiring local people that are known to others in the area. The hardest numbers to count are those aged zero to five, over the age of sixty-five, homeless, or multiple family homes. Mayor Yates suggested that Ms. Hurley work with Rita Surratt who was appointed to the Census Board for our area. Ms. Hurley said she wanted each town and Board of Supervisors to have a Complete Count Committee. She added that an estimated nineteen percent did not return a response, that information with a decline in population for our area would hurt funding for projects such as roads, schools, WIC, TANF, and food stamps. Each person is valued at twenty thousand dollars over the ten year period. Ms. Hurley offered to set up at local festivals or attend local club meetings to increase awareness. Mayor Yates asked when the questionnaire would be available online. Ms. Hurley answered March 1, 2020. Mayor Yates suggested that Ms. Hurley set up at Haysi's Russell Fork Autumn Fest. Ms. Hurley replied that she would and added that the Census is looking to hire. Mayor Yates asked where individuals needed to apply. Ms. Hurley answered the Census' website. Mayor Yates thanked Ms. Hurley for coming.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- June 4, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the minutes of the meeting on June 4, 2019 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:

- June 1, 2019 through June 28, 2019 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- May 31, 2019 through June 26, 2019 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 14944-14966 & deposits
- May 31, 2019 through June 26, 2019 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

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

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Haysi Kiwanis Fair Committee

Mayor Yates welcomed Charles Hay to speak before the Haysi Town Council. Mr. Hay thanked the town for their past support and wanted to clear up some confusion beginning with the name, which is the Dickenson County Fair Committee. Mr. Hay explained that the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors had supported the fair in the past, but had recently decided to appoint five people to form a new fair committee. Mr. Hay continued that they were not able to form a new fair committee because of an existing 501c3 and other legal issues that prevented another organization from forming with the same name. Mr. Hay advised that there would be a fair this year on August 29, 30, and 31. Mr. Hay stated that it's important to continue the fair and it's important to Haysi. Mr. Hay said the five appointees from the Board of Supervisors were made new fair committee members and wanted to help, not take over, so the planning meetings have been positive. Mr. Hay said after this year's fair ends the committee will begin planning the next one. Mr. Hay stated that the town had given the fair one thousand dollars in the past and he was asking the town for help funding the fair this year. Mr. Hay said that Haysi Supply Company had their best week of the entire year during the fair. Mayor Yates said that leading up to the budget he wasn't sure what to do, but felt the County Administrator spent a large amount on the fair without accountability. Mr. Hay replied that the twenty-five thousand dollars was for rides and the fair had received help with power, sound, etc. However, there will not be any rides this year. Mayor Yates advised that the town had not put any funds in the budget for the fair this year. Mayor Yates stated that the fair was good for the town and the committee seemed to be in a rebuilding phase. Mr. Hay said that the town had given one thousand dollars in the past, but the fair would be willing to take five hundred dollars. Council Member Billy Counts commented that he didn't want to see the fair leave. Mr. Hay replied that it was a struggle to keep it in Haysi and some wanted it moved to Red Onion. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if the fair collected money from the rides. Mr. Hay answered that proceeds got so low and it cost so much for the ride companies to come that they set up other places where they made more money. A general discussion was held about the rides and ride companies. Mayor Yates commented that the fair committee seemed to be headed in the right direction now with more visibility and accountability. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked if the new appointees decided where the money was spent.

Mr. Hay answered that the appointees were members just like any other member. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood questioned accountability for the money. Mr. Hay answered that the fair committee has a Treasurer, he is the Chairman, Kay Owens takes up the money at the back gate, and Doris Rife takes up money at the front gate. Vice Mayor Wood asked if the committee votes on bills and sees the accounting. Mr. Hay answered yes. Mayor Yates asked how many fair committee members were previous members. Mr. Hay answered ten and advised that the fair had received a loan for one hundred and forty-nine thousand dollars for the covered grandstand. Mr. Hay said that his building in town was used for collateral and he had records of every bill. Mayor Yates commented that other in-kind work had been done as well, such as the work of Dean Hill. Mayor Yates said he would hate to lose the fair in our community and would do all he could to help. Motion was made by Council Member Michael Harris seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to donate one thousand dollars to the Dickenson County Fair Committee for the 2019 Dickenson County Fair. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Wm. “Billy” Brice Counts | Yes | Michael Harris | Yes |
| Tim Wallace | No | Rocky Wood | No |

Due to the tie vote of the Haysi Town Council Members, Mayor Yates voted aye to break the tie. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed. Mayor Yates said that the town would negotiate for 2020 and for the fair committee to use this year for building. Clerk Amanda Perrigan brought up for discussion that no funds had been allocated to the Dickenson County Fair in the 2019-2020 budget, so she requested that the one thousand dollars come from the donation line item. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to pay the one thousand dollar donation to the Dickenson County Fair from the donation line item in the 2019-2020 budget. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Yates brought up the vacancy in the maintenance department for discussion. After advertising the town had received five applications for the position and the Mayor read the names of those that had applied. Mayor Yates asked for direction on proceeding and suggested that Interim Chief Bobby Edwards assist with interviews since he would be the direct supervisor. Council Member Tim Wallace suggested that Mayor Yates, Clerk Amanda Perrigan, and Interim Chief Edwards conduct the interviews. Council Member Billy Counts said that he agreed. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood stated that he knew a few of the applicants and didn’t want to be part of the interview and selection process, so he agreed. Mayor Yates stressed the urgency of filling the position. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to authorize Mayor Yates, Clerk Perrigan, and Interim Chief Edwards to interview all five applicants and Mayor Yates negotiate the hire. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report-Interim Chief Bobby Edwards (See Attachment)

Interim Chief Bobby Edwards reported sixty-one calls for the month of June and read off the hours worked on the report. Interim Chief Edwards advised that Officer Synthia Viers attended School Resource Officer School last week and that the Dodge Charge broke down again. Interim Chief Bobby Edwards answered a few questions regarding trespassing at Haysi Rescue Squad, threats, uncontrollable student, vandalism, and lockout. Interim Chief Edwards advised that the town had hauled off five thousand pounds of garbage from the garage. Mayor Yates stated that Interim Chief Edwards, Officer Viers, and Clerk Amanda Perrigan had worked very hard to clean up the garage, jail cells, and town hall. Interim Chief Edwards also answered questions about the drug search, speeding, breaking and entering, and drug transport calls on the monthly report.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Chief Rocky Wood reported that he didn't have an accurate number of calls for the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department this month. Chief Wood advised that the department assisted with Kids Day in Sandlick and that the siding has been received for the building, which should be done tomorrow. Chief Wood also advised that he had received an email on the grant for the air packs and bottles, so they were "still in the running." Chief Wood wanted to address the confusion with the traffic flow on the accident near Fearls Branch because the fire department was doing what they were instructed to do by the state police.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that after fifteen years of serving Haysi High School and Sandlick Elementary School with no complaints from the school administration or parents, the town lost the School Resource Officer funding. The partnership between the county and town will dissolve as of January 1, 2020. Mayor Yates advised that the town is working on funding the full time officer position and will still send Officer Synthia Viers to the police academy. Mayor Yates added that this change will end up costing the county more money, but he has always wanted two full time patrol officers for the town for better public safety. Interim Chief Edwards commented that it was better for businesses. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood stated that the town had no choice, but to find a way to fund the position. Mayor Yates said that hiring a good maintenance person to work twenty hours a week would save money and he would do all he could to keep Officer Viers. Interim Chief Edwards reported that the town was looking into using the Virginia Municipal League Risk Management Grant to update town ordinances, which would be enforced by civil fines to generate more revenue. Vice Mayor Wood asked about past due taxes. Mayor Yates answered that he wanted to Attorney Stephen Mullins to attend the meeting to ask him.

- Mayor Yates also reported that he met with Jeremy Repass of People, Inc. and the town should begin receiving quarterly reports. Mayor Yates estimated that there is around nine thousand dollars available to loan. Council Member Michael Harris asked what individuals were being told when they asked to borrow the funds. Mayor Yates answered that he kept a good estimate on the amount available to loan.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Billy Counts asked about the sink hole on Bridge Street. Interim Chief Bobby Edwards said it had been reported to the public service authority. Council Member Michael Harris asked about the new game room. Mayor Yates answered that the owner had a town business license. Council Member Harris asked about their hours of operation. Interim Chief Edwards answered that he had not received any complaints. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked about the old Club 83 building. Mayor Yates answered that he had planned to meet with Jane Moore, but hadn't yet. Mayor Yates advised that Charles Hay may have a clinic locate in his building. Mayor Yates reported that five hundred thousand dollars in grant funding had been approved by the Appalachian Regional Commission for the Russell Fork Trail Center, the Russell Fork Trail would hold its Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting on July 27, he had a meeting to discuss the Breaks Ultra Marathon, the Haysi Russell Fork Autumn Fest had received a five thousand dollar grant from Virginia Tourism Corporation and the Southern Gap Visitor Center will hold its Grand Opening on July 11.

ITEM # XIII – ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts 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.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk