

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
April 2, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

On April 2, 2024, 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 Michael Harris

Council Members:

Tim Wallace  
Carter Branham  
Susan Tiller  
Debbie Wood

ABSENT: William “Billy” Counts

**ITEMS # I, II, & III**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry D. Yates at 7:10 p.m. The Invocation was held by Attorney Josh Evans and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

At this time Mayor Yates asked for any changes, additions, or corrections to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the agenda as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

**ITEM #V – PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- March 12, 2024 Monthly Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Tim Wallace and seconded by Vice Mayor Michael Harris to approve the minutes of the Monthly Council Meeting on March 12, 2024 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:

- March 1, 2024 through March 29, 2024 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- March 1, 2024 through March 26, 2024 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 17138-17157 & deposits
- March 1, 2024 through March 26, 2024 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Debbie 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**

### Donation Request from Ridgeview High School Band Boosters

Mayor Yates welcomed Mr. Jeff Hillyer to present the donation request. Mr. Hillyer introduced himself as the Vice President of the Ridgeview High School Band Boosters. Mr. Hillyer explained that the band boosters were fundraising to cover expenses for marching band, including feeding the band members, ETSU Band Camp, travel, All District Band, and football games. Mr. Hillyer stated that the band had been participating in the Haysi parades. Seventh through twelfth grade students are eligible to march. Mr. Hillyer said this is the first year that band members have tried out for all state band. He explained that the band booster currently has a few corporate sponsors, such as Quesenberry's Construction Company and a music company from Johnson City. Mr. Hillyer advised that this year they plan to set up at Haysi's Russell Fork Autumn Fest, help with Kids Fishing Day, and perform at the Dickenson County Fair on the Main Stage. Mr. Hillyer informed everyone that the county doesn't pay for transportation, a driver, or fuel. Their current fundraiser is a golf tournament that will be held at Raven Rock, for which they request donations from businesses. Mr. Hillyer added that last year no one came to Haysi to request donations and he didn't know the reason. Mayor Yates advised that he and Clerk Amanda Perrigan had a meeting with Mr. Hillyer and Mr. Harry Childress last week to discuss more involvement in the town of Haysi. Mr. Hillyer requested a donation of one-hundred dollars from the town to be a hole sponsor for the golf tournament. Council Member Carter Branham commented that they were the future leaders of our county and he supported them one hundred percent. Mr. Hillyer added that the hole sponsor would include a yard sign posted with the town's logo. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Debbie Wood to approve the one-hundred dollar hole sponsorship request from the Ridgeview High School Band Boosters. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Resolution for Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority Funds

Mayor Yates stated that when the bid for Haysi's Russell Fork Trail Center was opened the budget was seven-hundred-thousand dollars short. Since that time, value engineers have decreased the shortfall to two-hundred-ninety-seven-thousand-eight-hundred-twenty-eight dollars. Mayor Yates said that he would like to try to fill the gap with grant funding from Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA) funds. The grant application requests a Resolution from the town to be included. He explained that he and Clerk Amanda Perrigan would work on the application, then submit it to the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority (IDA), afterwards it would be submitted to VCEDA for approval. Mayor Yates advised that he has already spoken with Director Jonathan Belcher, who is expecting the application. Mayor Yates also advised that County Administrator Larry Barton and IDA Director Dana Cronkite agree that this is the best opportunity to fund the shortfall. Mayor Yates said that the construction contract deadline is sixty days from the bid opening, which is around April 15. Mayor Yates informed everyone that the decision on the VCEDA grant application wouldn't be announced until June, although he feels certain of the award. Mayor Yates said that he intends to lobby VCEDA for permission to apply for three-hundred-thousand dollars instead of their current limit. Mayor Yates explained if VCEDA doesn't give authorization for a higher amount than the town will be short on the bid amount needed. Mayor Yates stated that he is working on another grant application through T-Mobile, but the award announcement wouldn't be made until the middle of August. However, the funds from T-Mobile would be available in September, which would coincide with the estimated time of the first drawdown. Mayor Yates asked for any suggestions that the council may have for the funding gap. Mayor Yates advised that the town had been working on the grant funding with Appalachian Regional Commission for ten years. He also advised that the town was in a good position to get a loan. Council Member Carter Branham suggested that since Mayor Yates knew that the amount would be fifty-thousand dollars short, that the town secure a loan in case it is needed. Mayor Yates mentioned that lots of time had been invested in the project and design costs. Mayor Yates said the construction on the back of the building looked great. Council Member Tim Wallace asked about the purpose of the building. Mayor Yates answered that it would be a community center, citing that there is not a large place to meet now in the community. Mayor Yates continued that the Flood Plain Ordinance had driven the cost of the renovation due to flood proofing requirements. Mayor Yates gave many ways the building would be utilized including outdoor concerts, parking, community events, visitor center, corporate retreats, and more. Mayor Yates also mentioned that the town had a business plan saying that the project would cash flow. Mayor Yates also detailed the possibility of change orders for construction projects. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Vice Mayor Michael Harris to approve the Resolution for the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority grant application.

Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote on the motion:

Michael Harris	Yes	Debbie Wood	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes

Carter Branham                      Yes

Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Debbie Wood to pursue some sort of credit funding in furtherance of the Haysi’s Russell Fork Trail Center project.

Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote on the motion:

Michael Harris	Yes	Debbie Wood	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Carter Branham	Yes		

Clerk Amanda Perrigan suggested that the Haysi Town Council approve the execution of the contract with Quesenberry’s for Haysi’s Russell Fork Trail Center since the construction contract deadline would occur before the next meeting. Mayor Yates requested authorization for him to execute the contract documents with Quesenberry’s, the lowest bidder for one-million-seven-hundred-seventy-nine-thousand dollars. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to authorize Mayor Larry D. Yates to execute the contract documents with Quesenberry’s, the lowest bidder for Haysi’s Russell Fork Trail Center in the amount of one-million-seven-hundred-seventy-nine-thousand dollars. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

**ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS**

Funding for Haysi’s Russell Fork Trail Center

Mayor Yates covered this item with the Resolution for Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority funds.

**ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Police Department Monthly Report (See Attachment)

Chief Bobby Edwards reported thirty-two calls for the month of March and read the hours worked off the report. Chief Edwards said that a lot of the calls were investigation style; more serious and involved search warrants. Chief Edwards advised that he had a stolen vehicle call, where the license plate reading camera was a big asset and resulted in the theft being solved within ten minutes. Chief Edwards said he had permission from Haysi Funeral Home and Electric Hardwoods to place cameras on their property in town. Those cameras would be grant funded, connected to Wi-Fi and solar operated. Chief Edwards also reported his continued progress on river access with the Department of Wildlife Resources. He stated that the town had installed the discarded playground equipment from the Corp of Engineers at the Splashdam property. Adam Barton, Town Maintenance, showed photos of the playground area to the Haysi Town Council Members from his phone.

Fire Department Monthly Report

Police Chief Bobby Edwards reported that the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department worked ten brush fires, one utility pole, two motor vehicle accidents, one fall, and one medical assistance for the month of March. Police Chief Edwards said while working one brush fire on Road Branch, another brush fire was set.

Haysi Rescue Squad Monthly Report

None.

**ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following meetings last month:

- The Riverwalk Project is coming along well; on time and under budget. The logistics has been completed on the electric vehicle charger and the swings have been approved. Council Member Debbie Wood asked about the completion date. Clerk Amanda Perrigan answered that substantial completion was the end of May and final completion was the end of June.
- He, Clerk Amanda Perrigan and Police Chief Bobby Edwards worked on the Virginia Tourism Corporation grant application for Haysi's Russell Fork Autumn Fest.
- Mayor Yates reported that he met with Friends of Southwest Virginia in Abingdon.
- Mayor Yates also reported meeting with Hill Studio and Quesenberry's Construction Company.
- The site visit for final compliance with the Department of Housing and Community Development on the Riverfront Trail Project was completed.

**ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM # XIII – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace 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