

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

On February 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
Barry Whitt
Tim Wallace
Michael Harris

ABSENT: 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 Chief George Wallace and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

ITEM #V - PUBLIC COMMENT

The first person signed up for Public Comment was James Potter. Mr. Potter said that he was in attendance to speak about the Splashdam Project. Mr. Potter said that he contacted the Mayor by phone on May 13, 2015, about the project at which time the Mayor told him that the town was not interested. Mr. Potter said that he met with Mayor Yates on May 14, 2015, and the Mayor confirmed to him that the town was not interested in the project because the town had already invested over \$15,000.00 with no results. Mr. Potter said that he did phone work for two months after that. On July 9, 2015, Mr. Potter said he met with an engineer at the site to get refuge samples in order to determine feasibility. Mr. Potter said that he did phone work for another two months, averaging three to four days a week, when he got a lead with Appalachian Voices. Mr. Potter said that there were several meetings and samples collected after that which lead him to bring a contract to the Haysi Town Council. Mr. Potter said that the contract was reviewed, but the town could not sign

it. Mr. Potter said that Mayor Yates met with an engineer from Appalachian Voices after he said that the town wasn't moving forward. Mr. Potter brought a book that he received in the mail and showed it to the Mayor and Haysi Town Council Members stating that the book showed the plan that he had been working on for sixteen months under the work of Appalachian Voices. Mayor Yates asked Mr. Potter "where he was going with the discussion." Mr. Potter said that he didn't get a contract for his work and wanted to be paid for the time he spent on the project. Mayor Yates stated that he thought Mr. Potter was working with Appalachian Voices and Mr. Potter was the one that brought Willie Dotson to meet him. Mr. Potter said that he wanted to keep the town informed, so the Haysi Town Council appointed a committee. Mr. Potter made excuses about why he wasn't able to meet with the committee. Mr. Potter noted that the town had to agree to the project in order to be approved because the PowerPlus Grant funds would be turned over to the town. Mayor Yates advised that Mr. Potter could still bid on the work through public procurement if the grant was awarded. Mr. Potter said that there was no guarantee that he would be awarded the work, but the contract that he presented to the town would. Mayor Yates said that he told Mr. Potter at the project's inception that he was very busy with other projects and had no more time to devote to the Splashdam Project, especially since hundreds of hours had already been spent on it. Mayor Yates said that a lot of money had been spent as well, so that was the reason for forming the committee. Mayor Yates told Mr. Potter if he wanted to take the issue to another level that he would introduce Mr. Potter to the Town's Attorney, Mr. Stephen Mullins. Mr. Potter said there was a concept of monetary gain for him. Mayor Yates advised that the town never entered into a contract with Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter said that even without a contract money is to be paid. Mr. Potter said that the project was his idea and his contacts were used. Attorney Stephen Mullins asked Mr. Potter if the town asked him to do the work. Mr. Potter said that "the town agree I do this." Attorney Stephen Mullins asked Mr. Potter if he was an employee of the town or contractor. Mr. Potter said that he was not. Mr. Potter stated, "I just wasted sixteen months of my time, is what you're telling me." Mr. Potter asked if the town felt that was ethical or fair to him. Mayor Yates stated that he did not ask Mr. Potter to get involved in this project. Mayor Yates advised that Mr. Potter had exceeded the time allotted him for public comment and thanked him for his time.

Council Member Tim Wallace asked if someone was proceeding with the project in the book. Mayor Yates stated that he hadn't seen the book before, but he had seen a photo in it. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if anyone had contacted the town about moving forward with anything. Mayor Yates answered Appalachian Voices, and explained that Mr. Potter had caught him by surprise because he thought Mr. Potter was working with Appalachian Voices and moving forward with the project. Mr. Potter said that he would like to move forward with the project. Mayor Yates said that he didn't think that coming to the meeting and threatening us with a lawsuit was not a good way to start a business partnership. Mr. Potter said that he didn't think it was good business practice for the town to meet with the engineer without calling him. Mayor Yates advised that Mr. Potter had exceeded the time allotted him for public comment, but he would pass around the book if any of the council members wanted to look at it.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- January 3, 2017 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the minutes 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:

- December 31, 2016 through January 31, 2017 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- December 29, 2016 through January 31, 2017 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 13694-13755 & deposits
- December 29, 2016 through January 31, 2017 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

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-Clinchco Lions Club

Mayor Yates asked Brenda Ramey, President of the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club to present the request. Mrs. Ramey said that she was requesting a five hundred dollar donation for the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Ramey stated that over six hundred children participated in the event last year. Mrs. Ramey said that the crowd had gotten overwhelming and the club was working to solicit assistance from other organizations. Mrs. Ramey advised that they were working on donations at this time and hoped that the town would be a major partner again this year. Mayor Yates asked who the other major partners were for 2017. Mrs. Ramey answered the Town of Clinchco, Belcher Insurance Agency, and Ritter Circle. Mayor Yates asked if the Breaks Interstate Park was still partnering with the club on this event. Mrs. Ramey said that they were partnering with the Breaks Interstate Park again this year. The Breaks will “work” the barn area and they will be awarding water park passes. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to donate five hundred dollars to the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club for the 2017 Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

Wm. “Billy” Brice Counts Yes Michael Harris Yes

Tim Wallace	No	Barry Whitt	Yes
Rocky Wood	Yes		

Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed by verbal voting.

Donation Request from Haysi Little League Baseball

Mayor Yates advised that David O’Quinn had called asked for the council to table his request until the March meeting since he would not be able to attend due to the illness of one of his children.

ITEM # IX – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief Wallace reported twenty-three calls for the month of January. Chief Wallace described the calls on the January Monthly Report. Some of the calls included alarms at various businesses in town and assisting the rescue squad lifting a lady for emergency care on January 12. Chief Wallace reported that he used the new AED on January 23 that the department purchased with grant funding from EMS. There were some money issues at Main Street Pizzeria & Grill on January 24, but the money was returned the next day. On January 30, there was a domestic dispute in the parking lot of BB&T Bank. Chief Wallace advised that folks should leave their boyfriend/girlfriend at home when splitting up a bank account with their spouse. Assistant Chief Edwards is working on a grant for body cameras that would benefit the Haysi Police Department and the Dickenson County Sherriff’s Office. If approved the Sherriff’s Office would receive twenty cameras and the Haysi Police Department would receive five. Chief Wallace also noted that the bullet proof vests should be delivered any day.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report-Chief George Wallace

Chief Wallace apologized for not having a report last month, but reported fourteen calls for the month of January. Chief Wallace summarized all of the calls. Chief Wallace also reported that the work on the roof is completed and looks good. There are no leaks now and the work was done quickly. Chief Wallace has purchased the lights for the fire station and hopes to have them installed by next month. One bay of the fire station has been enlarged to accommodate the new truck. Chief Wallace said that the new truck has been on two calls and is doing well. 911 Director Matt Slep will install a radio for the new truck at no charge.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates asked the Haysi Town Council to take few minutes to honor the life of former Mayor Norman Mullins who passed away on January 18, 2017. Mayor Yates added that Mr. Mullins did a lot of great things for the Town of Haysi.

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates mentioned that BPOL tax notices were sent out at the beginning of the year and the revenue was starting to be collected.
- Mayor Yates said that there is a delay on the construction of the Trail Center due to timing of the bid and signing the contract, but the town is still in negotiations with the low bidder. The town is working with Hill Studio to resolve the issue. The deadline for use of the VCEDA Grant is February 2019 and the deadline for the ARC Grant is 2018. Mayor Yates stated that the town has a good design, but they needed to get the cost down or rebidding would be necessary.
- Mayor Yates announced that the tentative date for opening Haysi's Ridgeview ATV Trail is April 8, 2017. That date is not set in stone, but will be the same weekend as The Breakdown since the Southwest Regional Recreational Authority liked the cross promotion opportunity.
- Mayor Yates stated that Legislative Week in Richmond was productive. An Opioid treatment center has been proposed and might be opening in Dickenson County. Mayor Yates said that he was able to meet with representatives of the government as well as the Tobacco Commission, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Department of Housing and Community Development. Mayor Yates also mentioned that Delegate Todd Pillion had 3-4 bills passed.
- Mayor Yates has a meeting scheduled with the United States Department of Agriculture tomorrow to sign the paperwork for the grant on the new police cruiser.
- Mayor Yates encouraged those in attendance again to attend the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors Meetings and Dickenson County School Board Meetings to show support for the Haysi Elementary School.
- Mayor Yates advised that the Virginia Coalfields Economic Development Authority Grant was closed on January 20, 2017.

Council Member Tim Wallace asked if the decision on the school's location was close to being made. Mayor Yates replied that it is a "moving target" since the school board is not under a time constraint. The Haysi Elementary School was supposed to be built the same time as Ridgeview High and Ridgeview Middle Schools, but was delayed by the Dickenson County Judicial Center project. Mayor Yates said that the Dickenson County School Board has twenty-one million dollars to build a school for around five hundred students. A general discussion was held about the wetlands mitigation. Mayor Yates stated that there was no time frame, but Sandlick's representative on the school board was pushing for the project to start. The school board is currently conducting a study. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked about an increase in state funding per student. Mayor Yates explained that the legislation had been introduced for coal counties. Mayor Yates advised that the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors and Dickenson County Chamber of Commerce had passed resolutions in support of constructing the new elementary school in Haysi. The Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority votes on a resolution tomorrow. Mayor Yates said that he will also be looking at alternate sites for a backup plan. A general discussion was held about flood proofing projects.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood advised that effective February 15, 2017, open fires would be unlawful until after 4:00pm until May 1, 2017. Vice Mayor Wood urged caution with all fires due to the dry conditions.

ITEM # XII – 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 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