

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
February 4, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

On February 4, 2014, 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
Barry Whitt
Tim Wallace
William "Billy" Counts
Susan Tiller

ABSENT: None

ITEMS # I, II, & III

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Yates at 7:00 p.m., and the Invocation was held by Chief of Police, George Wallace and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked Council for any additions or changes to the agenda.

With no changes to the agenda the motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the agenda. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # V - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- January 7, 2014 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the minutes as presented in writing. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VI – FINANCIAL REPORT

At this time the council was presented for approval the following:

- January 1, 2014 through January 31, 2014 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- January 1, 2014 through January 31, 2014 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 12040-12090 & deposits
- January 1, 2014 through January 31, 2014 Profit & Loss Report

Mayor Yates stated that the bills had already been paid to date. With no further discussion the motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM #VII – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Spearhead Trails Executive Director Chuck Reidhammer and Chris Sturgill, Spearhead Trails Field Operations

Mayor Yates welcomed Chris Sturgill, Spearhead Trails Field Operations Manager and Andrea Hicks, Spearhead Trails Marketing and Administrative Director to introduce themselves. Mr. Sturgill explained that mapping had begun on the trail for the area from Haysi to the Breaks to Poplar Gap. The area in Dickenson County is larger and the weather has an effect on the mapping process. The main land owner for the trail system is Forestland Group. The trail system is does not want to take hunt leases, so there are lots of hunt leases to work around. The trail system will look to Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority for construction funds. VCEDA has seen the result of increased economic development and private investment in the Town of St. Paul so securing the funds should not be a problem.

Mr. Sturgill encouraged the Town Council to move forward with an ATV Ordinance. He explained that the ordinance would be a good thing overall, however growing pains are to be expected. Mr. Sturgill said that Spearhead Trails would help in any way that they could.

Ms. Hicks passed out brochures containing maps of the Spearhead Trails to the Town Council. Ms. Hicks began by stating that St. Paul had seen over \$700,000 privately invested in the town business community. She said that the business doesn't cease in the winter months and they are booked right now for spring and summer in the town of St. Paul. Apartments and lodging are good economic opportunities available associated with

the trail system. Ms. Hicks stressed the importance of being ATV friendly and not ATV tolerant. It is important to create a welcoming feeling for visitors. She said that the potential for Haysi is amazing. Right now there is a shortage of overnight lodging access across the trail systems. Ms. Hicks advised that the traffic from the ATVs was not bad or noisy, that families were not uncommon tourists, and ATV visitors had money to spend. She gave an example of a store in St. Paul that sold permits and strategically located items that appeal or necessities for ATV visitors near the cashier. Statistics showed that the average ATV visitor spent an additional \$100-\$200 on purchases in addition to the permit. Ms. Hicks said that she has run out of permits for the trail right now because people are coming from all over the United States, no matter what the weather or temperature. The cost for a 2014 permit on the Spearhead Trail System is \$50. As of February 4, 2014 they have sold 700 permits since the beginning of the year. 1,000 permits were sold between June and December of 2013 and those numbers do not include day pass sales. A day pass costs \$15, which doesn't give credit toward the purchase of an annual permit. St. Paul struggles with businesses to sell permits on Sunday. \$5 of the permit or the day pass goes to the business that sells it.

Mr. Sturgill said that tourists will stop locally versus traveling up to the Hatfield and McCoy Trails. Mr. Sturgill explained that the ATV visitors prefer natural trail systems. He said that most are not single riders unless they are local citizens. Most ATV visitors travel in groups and have eight plus people in their group.

Mr. Sturgill reported that St. Paul has not had any issues in the town with drugs or alcohol relating to the ATV Trails. The trails are only open daylight to dark. The Spearhead Trails maintains a great relationship with patrollers and emergency response workers. The worst offense that they've seen is doubling on an ATV that is made for a single rider. Mr. Sturgill said that they consider the Spearhead Trails a Family System, meaning that families can ride and feel safe. The Spearhead Trails are monitored heavily by law enforcement. He said that they are passionate about how the new trail will help Haysi. Ms. Hicks and Mr. Sturgill gave an invitation for everyone to visit St. Paul.

Mayor expressed his concern about the Land Use Permit with Virginia Department of Transportation. Mr. Sturgill said that Spearhead Management went to Bristol and everything worked out well and quickly too. Mr. Sturgill went on to say that he didn't foresee any issues.

The Mayor asked what Haysi could be doing at this time to aid the process. Mr. Sturgill said that Haysi could begin selling \$10 permits to get things jump started. Mr. Sturgill explained that a trail permit is in addition to the town permit, but the trail permit works in town. There is specific safety equipment required and the permit allows for travel between the trail head and commerce centers. An ATV Ordinance will aid in resolutions with local citizens before the trail becomes popular.

Vice Mayor Wood asked about the layout of the trail. Mr. Sturgill said that it was still in the mapping phase at this time. Mr. Sturgill did state that the name of the trail would be

Coal Canyon Trail. He said that they are currently looking for a logo design and encouraged involvement from the community to create the logo.

Vice Mayor Wood asked how long it will take until the trail is ready. Mr. Sturgill said that it depends on the density of existing trails, how long the leases take, and VCEDA. His estimate was this summer or autumn at the latest. Mayor Yates said that Forestland Group should be willing to work with the Town of Haysi.

Council Member Barry Whitt asked if the trails are ranked the same way as West Va.. Mr. Sturgill replied that the trails are ranked the same way. Fifty percent of the trails will be green or easy, thirty percent will be blue or medium, and twenty percent will be black or more difficult. Mr. Sturgill said that they are not planning any trails for motorcycle use during the initial phase, but they try to add new components to the trail system each year.

Council Member Barry Whitt asked how many accidents had been reported. Mr. Sturgill said that they only had one accident. In that particular accident a woman broke her collarbone. There was one other incident where an ATV “got away” from a tourist, but no injury occurred and the young lady was able to continue her ride. Mr. Sturgill said that he would take care of the emergency response system plan and coordination. Mayor Yates asked if Haysi should make our local health care providers aware that the trail is in development. Mr. Sturgill indicated that it would be a good time to look at grants relating to that.

Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Sturgill and Ms. Hicks for their time and involvement in assisting Haysi with the development process.

Discussion for an ATV Ordinance

Ms. Hicks said that Liability Insurance is not required by Spearhead Trails, but strongly recommended. Spearhead Trails requires that a waiver be signed.

Vice Mayor Wood asked what would happen if an ATV hit a vehicle. Ms. Hicks said that she was not sure, but she will ask the Town of St. Paul and the attorney for the Spearhead Trails.

Vice Mayor Wood also asked what would happen if the speed limit is higher than twenty-five miles an hour at the trail. Mayor Yates said that Haysi would work with VDOT to reduce the speed to twenty-five miles an hour.

A motion was made by Vice Mayor Woods seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to hold a public hearing at 6:30pm on March 4, 2014 regarding an ATV Ordinance. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Mayor Yates invited Mr. Sturgill and Ms. Hicks to attend the public hearing and Town Council Meeting on March 4, 2014.

Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club Donation Request for the Easter Egg Hunt

Mayor Yates welcomed President of the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club, Ann Branham to discuss the donation request. Mrs. Branham reported that the Lions Club had attended a recent Haysi Kiwanis Club Meeting to request a donation. Haysi Kiwanis Club donated \$500.00 to the Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Branham said that they would like to have three or four top sponsors. A top sponsor donation would be \$500.00. The Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club has donated \$500.00 as well. Walmart in Lebanon has offered to work out a deal on items for the Easter Egg Hunt if the Lions Club could get there by February 15, 2014.

Mayor Yates asked how many attended the Easter Egg Hunt last year. Lions Club Member, Ms. Diane Harrison said that she didn't remember how many people total attended.

The Mayor asked if everything was free for participants at the Easter Egg Hunt. Ms. Harrison replied that everything was free except for the concessions operated by the Haysi Kiwanis Club.

Mrs. Branham said that 2014 is the 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt. In 2013 there were five egg hunts and around 200 children. The donations totaled between three and four thousand last year. Lions Club Member, Mr. Donnie Harrison said that there are 8 bicycles given away and they try to have at least one nice quality toy per child to give away. The Easter Egg Hunt is the same day as the Breaks Park Egg Hunt. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 19, 2014. Mr. Harrison commented that a lot of people attend both hunts.

Mrs. Branham said that all sponsors are advertised on signs that will be posted at the Easter Egg Hunt and in Haysi. She said that the Lions Club wanted four core sponsors and would like for one of those to be the Town of Haysi. Mr. Harrison extended a request for the Mayor to attend and intends to invite the two local supervisors as well.

Council Member Barry Whitt asked how much the town donated last year. Mrs. Harrison said that the town donated \$500.00.

A motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Billy Counts to donate \$500.00 to the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club for the 2014 Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote to pass the motion for donation. Votes are as follows:

Billy Counts	Yes	Mike Harris	Yes
Tim Wallace	No	Susan Tiller	Yes
Barry Whitt	Yes	Rock Wood	Yes

Let the record show the Ordinance was passed by verbal voting.

Mayor Yates stated that the town would try to get the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club a check sent later in the week and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Discussion, Bids for Trimming Trees Behind Town Hall

Mayor Yates explained to the Town Council that there is a lot of overhanging brush behind the municipal building that needs to be cleared before it causes damage. The brush is responsible for causing the gutters to clog as well. He said that he did not put the work out to bid, that the cost is under the amount required, but he has received two quotes for getting the work completed. The Mayor said that he wants a contract drawn up that includes the scope of work and clearly states that the work must be completed before payment is made. The Mayor said that he had gotten one bid for \$2,000.00 and another bid for \$3,400.00. The gentleman that gave the \$3,400.00 quote came back later with an amount that was about half of the original citing that he needed the work.

Council Member Barry Whitt asked if the brush would be cut down and removed. The Mayor said that it included cutting and removal. Vice Mayor Wood said the brush should be cut all the way back.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to allow the Mayor to move forward with his negotiations and contract the work to get the hillside cleared. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

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

Chief Wallace reported a total of 50 calls for January. Chief Wallace said that there had been several break-ins reported around town, but thankfully none were located in town. He said that traffic was slow in January. Chief Wallace gave a summary of the annual report that he had developed for the Town Council. (See Attachment) The Haysi Police Department received 585 calls, which averaged 48 calls per month and wrote 304 tickets for 2013. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the Drug Seizure reported on January 31, at Sandlick Elementary. Patrolman Edwards said that a student turned in to Law Enforcement Bath Salts that her mother had been using.

The Mayor asked how the build out on the jail was going and Patrolman Bobby Edwards said that it still lacked quite a bit of work. The Mayor asked Chief Wallace and Patrolman Edwards to work with the Town Attorney, Derrick Yates on a letter to LabCorp regarding their license and taxes.

Patrolman Edwards handed out a copy of the Land Use Agreement with VDOT which would be required along with on ATV, Recreational Vehicle Ordinance. He said that his concern was the cap at 1,000 vehicles per day and that Haysi had around 4,800 vehicles per day near the main intersection.

Patrolman Edwards handed out three reports relating to vehicle accidents and summarized each for the Town Council. He said that reportable meant that there was over \$1,500 in damage or an injury occurred. Vice Mayor Wood asked how far along Breaks Park Road was covered in the reports. Patrolman Edwards said that Breaks Park Road was covered to the town limits.

Mayor Yates thanked both gentlemen for their reports and time in putting them together for the Town Council.

Business Incentives Package, Amendment to Town of Haysi Business Professional Occupational Licenses Ordinance

Mayor Yates told the Town Council that reading material and information on the Business Incentives Package was included in their board packets. Other communities offer Business Incentives Packages for various reasons, but not for the same reason that Haysi was interested. Mayor Yates said that he had been studying Tourism Zones. Currently, Haysi has an Enterprise Zone. He has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with Kitty Barker with Virginia Tourism Corporation to get more information on Tourism Zones. The Mayor recommended that no action be taken, but that everyone continues to gather more information and do additional research on the topic.

The Mayor stated that incentives are good for two years. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said that he would like to look further into the topic as well.

The Mayor said that he knew of three businesses opening soon in Haysi; Pizza Factory, the business where the car wash used to be, and a new one in the Old Hardware Store. Mayor Yates said that even though the Town would like to help out local small business owners, any decision to change the BPOL Ordinance would affect all new businesses and would need to be carefully considered. He will continue to research and gather more information regarding the issue.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- The construction on the new tower in Clintwood has been delayed. Verizon has said that once the tower comes online it will allow them to restore cell phone service to the way it was previously.
- The Mayor will be attending a meeting with Appalachian Spring to develop outdoor tourism, which includes items such as trails, zip lines, kayaking, etc. He will give an update on the meeting to the Town Council next month.
- Mayor Yates told the Town Council that there was a copy of the letter from Bill Shelton, Director of the Va. Department of Housing and Community Development in their board packets congratulating Haysi on the ARC Grant Award for the Russell Fork Trail Center.
- Mayor Yates advised that a Pre-Construction Meeting was held last week with Hill Studio, Hamilton Construction, and the town on the Façade Program. He told

the Town Council that Hunter Greene with Hill Studio said that they can design the roof for the old theater building. The Mayor will talk to Hill Studio and Thompson and Litton regarding the roof when the time comes. He is in discussion with David Adams with the Department of Housing and Community Development to start work on the old theater building as soon as possible.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Rocky Woods asked if the town had heard back from the Southeast RCAP Alternative Spring Break. Mayor Yates said that the town had not heard back. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said he would like to know the dates that the students will be in Haysi because there is work, including painting that can be done at the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department.

ITEM # XV – 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