

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
March 2, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

On March 2, 2016, 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  
William "Billy" Counts  
Tim Wallace

ABSENT: Susan Tiller  
Barry Whitt

### **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**

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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, 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 James Potter. Mr. Potter stated that he had requested to be added to the agenda for tonight's meeting, but his request was made too late. Mr. Potter said that he was still working on the Splashdam project and it was moving forward slowly. Mr. Potter advised that his attorney told him in order to "hold the town harmless", the town would have to lease the property. Mr. Potter said that a bug count had been done and the results were good. A grab sample is at the lab being processed. Mr. Potter stated that in order to continue his work on the project that a contract needed to be developed between him and the town. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Potter for his comments and asked if he had met with the committee appointed to the project. Mr. Potter said that he had not yet met with the committee because the "timing is difficult." Mayor Yates asked if Mr. Potter had met with environmentalists. Mr. Potter said that he had and Mr. Wells was interested in developing a pond and camping site with rafting after the cleanup had taken place. An engineer is drawing up a plan to submit. Mr. Potter also advised that he is meeting with Joey O'Quinn of Virginia Division of Mined Land Reclamation tomorrow. Mr. Potter stated that the project was disqualified as an AML project, however, his contact at Appalachian Voices thinks it can be overcome through the PowerPlus Plan. Mayor Yates stated that he preferred Mr. Potter to work with the appointed committee on the project. Mr. Potter said that he would be interested in leasing the property with a standard five year lease. Mayor Yates asked if he was requesting to lease the entire tract. Mr. Potter said that

the area would be listed in a specific deed. Mayor Yates advised that all the property is listed in one deed/one tract and would need consideration from the Haysi Town Council. Attorney Derrick Yates asked which attorney was representing Mr. Potter. Mr. Potter didn't give the name of his attorney, so Attorney Yates said that he would give Mr. Potter his business card to pass along. Mr. Potter noted that he was "spending money every day" on the project. Mayor Yates said that the Splashdam Project could be added to the April Agenda. Mr. Potter said that he would bring a contract to Attorney Yates for review. Mayor Yates stated that the Town of Haysi was not committing to anything at this time.

#### **ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- February 2, 2016                      Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts 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:

- January 28, 2015 through February 24, 2016 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- January 28, 2015 through February 24, 2016 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 13175-13211 & deposits
- January 28, 2015 through February 24, 2016 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

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**

Audit Report from Tamara Greear, Thrower, Blanton, & Associates, P.C.

Mayor Yates welcomed Tamara Greear to present the Audit Report. Town Clerk, Amanda Perrigan gave copies of the Audit Report to the Haysi Town Council before the meeting began. Mrs. Greear stated that the audit grew by eleven pages this year for a total of over forty pages. Mrs. Greear said that the town was making progress by getting quicker. Mrs.

Greear read the paragraph under the heading “Opinions” on page four. She said that the town received a clean opinion on the report and that was “as good as you can have.” Mrs. Greear moved to page six, “Internal Control Over Financial Reporting.” She informed the Town Council that the only way to change that portion of the report is to hire more people where separation of duties can be implemented. Mrs. Greear said that there was a deficiency due to lack of staff and the budget needed to be amended during the year. Mrs. Greear gave a summary of page nine “Statement of Net Position” and pointed out that the town had \$1,035,672 in assets. The “Deferred Outflows of Resources” of \$23,704 in this report is new. Liabilities reflect \$264,754 debt to Virginia Retirement System and the number cannot be changed since it comes from the actuarial study. The town’s overall net position is \$736,184. Mrs. Greear noted that the town needed to ask how versed in new pension liability an agency is when approaching a grant, loan, etc. that looks at the town’s audit. She also gave a summary of page ten and said that it was the best budget comparison tool as it detailed the amounts of expenses, grant money, and the tax base needed for the budget. She advised that page eleven contained the same numbers in a cash basis format. She explained that page twelve showed the difference in expense versus capital. Mrs. Greear explained that page twenty-three through forty-one was the VRS portion of the Audit Report. Mrs. Greear stated that page forty-four showed a positive net position of \$525,179 for the town. Mrs. Greear explained that on page forty-five it was important to amend the budget during the year. Mrs. Greear advised that there was a separate engagement letter and separation of duties communication for the town’s review. Mrs. Greear commended the town on the grant tracking improvement. Mayor Yates thanked Mrs. Greear for the report and requested that she submit a bid for the next three years since a contract needed to be in place by the end of the fiscal year.

#### Donation Request from Haysi Little League

Mayor Yates asked for a representative from the Haysi Little League. David O’Quinn introduced himself as the new President of the Haysi Little League. Mr. O’Quinn said that he took over as President in January because he “didn’t want to lose the program.” Mr. O’Quinn stated that the program had lost donations from business that are no longer operating. He also said that the enrollment for little league was down; after signups around one hundred children planned to participate. Mr. O’Quinn stated that they want to keep from asking parents for money because it effected participation. Mr. O’Quinn stated that dues to Little League International were three thousand dollars. Those dues cover insurance and allow the children to play all-star games. Mr. O’Quinn advised that the program has done fundraisers, but needed funds to operate concessions as well. He said that he had looked to save money where possible. Mr. O’Quinn stated that he was requesting a donation

of one thousand dollars, but would appreciate any amount. Mayor Yates confirmed the money would benefit one hundred children. Mr. O'Quinn said it would and maybe even a little more. The program asks parents to pay thirty dollars for the first child and five dollars for each additional child. Mayor Yates asked if the program turns kids away if the parents cannot pay the fee. Mr. O'Quinn said they did not and they have "maybe twenty that can't pay." Little League International prohibits them from denying children participation due to their ability to pay. Mr. O'Quinn explained that the difference in district costs and how they hoped to change districts. Haysi Little League uses the fields owned by the Corp of Engineers. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked who handled the programs financials. Mr. O'Quinn stated that Ryan Wallace was the Treasurer, but three people are listed on the bank account. Mr. O'Quinn added that all the officers are volunteers and a board makes decisions. Mr. O'Quinn said that they have received three hundred fifty dollars as a result from sending donation letters. Vice Mayor Wood asked how the donation request to the town would be used. Mr. O'Quinn said that it would be used for dues and new safety equipment. Vice Mayor Wood said that the town council expects to know where the donation would be spent because it was misused in the past. Mr. O'Quinn said that he can use the money towards items the town instructed. Vice Mayor Wood stated that it was good for the program to have a board. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. O'Quinn for attending and for the information. Mr. O'Quinn said that he would be happy to have more volunteers if anyone was interested. Mayor Yates opened the floor for further discussion. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve a donation for one thousand dollars to the Haysi Little League. Council Members Billy Counts, Michael Harris, and Vice Mayor Rocky Wood voted aye and Council Member Tim Wallace voted nay. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed by verbal voting. Vice Mayor Wood asked Mr. O'Quinn to come back and give an update in autumn and advised him to keep the board in place.

#### Office Cleaning

Mayor Yates advised that the upstairs of the Municipal Building was in need of spring cleaning including carpets, walls, etc. Mayor Yates explained that the Town Clerk is busy, he is not housekeeper and Maintenance doesn't handle that type of work. Mayor Yates asked the council if they want to pursue a contract with someone, put the request to bid, or advertise. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said that he did not see a need to advertise in the newspaper. Mayor Yates asked if the council would be comfortable obtaining the work under small procurement. Vice Mayor Wood said that he would. Mayor Yates said that he would look to find something reasonable and take recommendations. Mayor Yates open the floor for further discussion. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to give Mayor Yates and Town Clerk Amanda Perrigan authorization to secure housekeeping services for the building. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

## 2016-2017 Budget Workshop

Mayor Yates explained that the town had already started working on the budget for next fiscal year. The town employees plan to meet in the next week or two on the subject. Mayor Yates advised that he would like to add HVAC work inside the Municipal Building to the upcoming budget. Mayor Yates said the plan is to present a draft budget to the council in May, so a date needed to be set for a workshop around mid-April. After a general discussion, the budget workshop is scheduled for April 19, 2016 at quarter past six o'clock in the evening. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood requested that Town Clerk, Amanda Perrigan send out a reminder.

## **ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS**

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

Chief Wallace reported twenty-seven calls for the month of February and briefly described the calls on the February Monthly Report. Chief Wallace said that there was a wide variety of calls during the month. In February there were ice chunks causing road hazards on the first and eighteenth. There was a man who tried to buy a gun from The Pawn Shop, but didn't know if he was a felon on February fifth. Also on the fifth, was a property issue at Splashdam that resulted in more calls during the month. After a general discussion about the trash at the property, Chief Wallace continued summarizing the other calls. A call about shoplifting on the eighteenth of February resulted in two warrants. Chief Wallace advised that the town may not get a guard rail above the Haysi Church of Christ. Mayor Yates said that he would continue to work on that topic with VDOT and the Police Department. Chief Wallace also advised that the Crown Victoria had been repaired.

## **ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- The ATV Project is moving along fast. The plans have been mostly cleared by Alpha Natural Resources, Forestland Group, and Enervest. The remaining portion can be mitigated. The Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority has approved funding for the trails and construction should begin when the weather clears. Spearhead Trails is working with the Haysi Kiwanis and the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors and everyone is supportive. The Southwest Regional Recreation Authority recently worked on a five year plan as well. The Dickenson County Tourism Committee is also supporting Spearhead Trails.

- Mayor Yates met with Appalachian Voices to discuss projects with the Appalachian Regional Commission through the PowerPlus Plan.
- Mayor Yates is working with Hill Studio, Virginia Department of Health, and the Dickenson County Building Inspector on the plans for Haysi's Russell Fork Trail Center.
- Mayor Yates attended the unveiling of the new branding for Southwest Virginia.
- The 2016 Alternative Spring Break Students will be in Haysi on Sunday to help with the traffic island at the intersection of Bridge Street and Main Street.
- Kids Central visited the Haysi Town Hall in February.
- Mayor Yates said there had been a new development in the Streetscape Project. When plans were submitted to VDOT for approve of the power lines to the new streetlights; VDOT advised that permits were not needed. However, when Jeff Sams recently visited Haysi he noticed the trenches used and asked about them. The contractor was responsible for handling any necessary permits or other requirements. Mr. Sams said that the requirements for the trenches should have been the same as the one for the fire line. Mayor Yates will be working with VDOT this week on the issue.
- Mayor Yates advised the Four County Transit Quarterly Report was included in the board packs.
- Haysi has been awarded a three thousand dollar grant thru the Haysi Partners from Rally Southwest Virginia for a community project. The Haysi Partners are looking at new welcome signs for town. This grant program focuses on a quick turn around and is the result of new ATV Trails coming soon. The next meeting to discuss the community project for the grant is March 3, 2016.

**ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM # XII – ADJOURNMENT**

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