

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
March 3, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

On March 3, 2015, 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

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

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked the Council for any additional changes to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts 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

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 Matt Owens of P.O. Box 743, Haysi.

SUSAN TILLER ENTERED THE MEETING.

Mr. Owens introduced himself and gave his address. Mr. Owens apologized for the “mess” in town created by the collapse of his building. Mr. Owens stated that he was working on the insurance claim and his future plan was to create a parking lot. Mr. Owens stated that the Haysi Partners were working with the Breaks Interstate Park on the Breakdown event in April. Mr. Owens requested permission to use the Riverview Park Shelter for the event and the use of the Council Chambers for a corresponding food bank donation drive. Mayor Yates asked Mr. Owens if he had discussed the food bank drive with Bernard. Mr. Owens stated that Bernard was aware of the event. Mr. Owens explained that racers in the Breakdown event would drop off food bank donations and eat in town during the course. Mayor Yates asked Mr. Owens if he had asked the community to help with the food drive. Mr. Owens stated that he had and in addition it would be advertised on WDIC and the local newspaper. This year’s date for the Breakdown is April 11, 2015. Mr. Owens also

mentioned that the Cloud Splitter event will be held on October 4, 2015 and he is currently working to bring them into town instead of compete with the town during the Russell Fork Autumn Fest. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to approve the use of the Riverview Park Shelter and the Haysi Town Council Chambers for the Breakdown event and food bank drive in April. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

There was no else registered for Public Comment.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- February 3, 2015 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 26, 2015 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- January 28, 2015 through February 26, 2015 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 12633-12672 & deposits
- January 28, 2015 through February 26, 2015 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Mayor Yates noted that the invoice from S.E.P.T.I.C., Inc. was split with Appalachian Auto Parts on the tank remediation due to the sidewalk construction. 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

Donation Request from Dickenson County Kids Fishing Day

Mayor Yates called for a representative from the Dickenson County Kids Fishing Day to present the request. Mr. Wesley Thomas introduced himself and asked for donation for gifts and supplies for Kids Fishing Day. Kids Fishing Day serves between four hundred and eight hundred children. Every child gets a gift and children come from all over including other states. Mayor Yates asked if Dickenson County Kids Fishing Day had a tax identification number. Mr. Thomas said they have one. Council Member Tim Wallace commented that Kids Fishing Day used to teach kids how to fish, but now it was more about the gifts. Mr. Thomas explained that the older children are allowed in fish in the river, but due to safety concerns the smaller children were taught to fish out of ponds/tanks. Council Member Tim Wallace questioned the need to give gifts during the event. Mr. Thomas said that it was an avenue to bring the community together. He explained that the gifts are equipment to encourage outdoor recreation. Mayor Yates asked if the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries was involved with the event. Mr. Thomas said that they were involved and stocked the rivers. Mr. Thomas also stated that they used to provide archery as an activity during the event, but they stopped and he wasn't given an explanation. Mayor Yates said that he had a contact, Leon Boyd, with the department and would see if he could assist. Mayor Yates asked if the Department of Conservation and Recreation was involved. Mr. Thomas said that he was unsure about their involvement. Council Member Barry Whitt asked how many motorcycle rides they had organized as fundraisers. Mr. Thomas said they have an annual ride about a week prior to Kids Fishing Day. Mayor Yates asked if it was similar to a poker run. Mr. Thomas said it was similar and that businesses donated to the motorcycle ride that benefits the event. Motion was made by Council Member Barry Whitt and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the five hundred dollar donation to Dickenson County Kids Fishing Day. Council Members Barry Whitt, Susan Tiller, 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.

Cumberland Plateau Health District providing WIC services at the Town Hall

Mayor Yates said that staff of the Cumberland Plateau Health District visited the Town Hall and explained the WIC program. The health district is interested in finding a location to provide WIC services in Haysi. A draft agreement was included in the council member's packets for review. Town Attorney, Derrick Yates does not have any issues with the draft as presented. Mayor Yates asked if anyone from the health district was present to explain the request in more detail. Tempa Rasnick introduced herself as a representative from the Cumberland Plateau Health District. She explained that WIC stands for Women, Infants, and Children. The health district has four health department offices and six satellite clinics in an effort to get closer to individuals that participate in the program. The WIC services in Haysi started at Stone Mountain Clinic about two years ago. During the two years, the program has gained a lot of participation and outgrown the space available at Stone Mountain Clinic. WIC services started out as one day a month then progressed to two day a month. Now, the program is three days a month. The income based program provides milk, food, car seats, and health department services such as immunizations and flu shots. Mrs. Rasnick stated that the Haysi Council Chambers would be the best location, since the

upstairs would be difficult for mothers to carry their children and car seats, etc. up and down the stairs. Mayor Yates suggested that WIC services be moved from the Haysi Council Chambers to the old theater building once the renovations were completed if approved. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the use of the Haysi Council Chambers by the Cumberland Plateau Health District to provide WIC services until the old theater building is available, at which time the WIC services would be moved to that location. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit Resolution

Mayor Yates stated he had received a request from the Dickenson County Chamber of Commerce to present the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit Resolution for approval. He said that other counties and chambers have signed similar resolutions. Mayor Yates read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF THE COALFIELD EMPLOYMENT ENHANCEMENT TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS, coal is the most valuable single mineral resource produced in the Commonwealth of Virginia and accounts for five percent of Southwest Virginia's workforce and nearly twelve percent of the regions' total wages; and

WHEREAS, coal mining companies operating in Virginia in FY 2013 contributed tax revenues to Southwest Virginia counties totaling almost \$51.5 million including severance, coal and gas road improvement and machinery and tools taxes; and

WHEREAS, coal mining generated about \$2.6 billion in economic activity in Southwest Virginia in 2013, supporting 9,753 direct and indirect jobs in the region and \$3 billion in spending in the state, supporting 11,966 jobs; and

WHEREAS, tax revenues paid to Southwest Virginia localities were used to help improve road and water/sewer systems and provided the funds needed to upgrade local infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit applies to coal produced from mines located within the state's borders and is intended as a means of maintaining coal-related employment in the coalfield counties and other parts of the state; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Proposed Amendments to the Biennial Budget and introduced legislation in the 2015 Virginia General Assembly seek to reduce, restrict or eliminate the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit for coal producers within the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit has stemmed the decline in coal production, the closure of mines, the loss of direct and indirect jobs in the region and has led to needed tax revenues for essential infrastructure projects; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Haysi on this 3rd day of March hereby OPPOSES the Governor's Proposed Amendments to the Biennial Budget and introduced legislation in the 2015 Virginia General Assembly that would reduce, restrict or eliminate the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit for Coal producers within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Mayor Yates noted that the House and Senate came to a deal on a twenty-five cent reduction. Mayor Yates asked if Attorney, Derrick Yates had any issues with the resolution. Mr. Yates said that he did not have any problems with it. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the Resolution opposing the reduction or elimination of the Coalfield Employment Enhancement Tax Credit. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

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

Chief Wallace reported thirty-eight calls for the month of February and briefly described some of the calls on the February Monthly Report. There were five motor vehicle accidents that were non-reportable and mostly snow related. On February 6, while Brent was driving a rock hit the Crown Victoria. The damage resulted in a new windshield, new spotlight, and four hundred dollars in body work. Mayor Yates said that the accident was not reported to the insurance as a claim. Other calls noted were a dead on arrival call on the night of the deepest snow, a call for a gentleman that suffered a seizure at the bank, and domestic violence calls. Assistant Chief Edwards noted that both the Explorer and camo truck had problems with the heating. He also told about his flashlight catching fire in the Explorer. Chief Wallace said that the call on February 28 was regarding an unhappy customer over the building collapse. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said that the building collapse was a bad situation and the road closure couldn't be helped since Mr. Boyd's building was deemed unsafe. Vice Mayor Wood thanked Assistant Chief Edwards for the Police Department's help with the situation. Council Member Tim Wallace asked what course of action Mr. Boyd was going to follow. Mayor Yates said that Mr. Boyd was sent a letter and a copy of it was provided to the council. Council Member Susan Tiller asked if Mr. Owens' building was keeping the road closed for cleanup. Vice Mayor Wood said that there was no debris in the road as a result of the collapse of Mr. Owens' building. He explained that someone would have to sign off on the safety of Mr. Boyd's building before the road can be opened. Mayor Yates said that if it is determined that Mr. Boyd's building needs to be demolished

then the next step would involve testing for lead paint, lead pipes, and asbestos. Mayor Yates advised that the sidewalk on the north side of the street is open to the public for foot traffic. On Thursday, Chief Wallace and Assistant Chief Edwards are scheduled to review a new software to send reports to the state police. The new software has a higher cost up front, but will save the police department money over time. Council Member Susan Tiller asked if temporary lights would be installed in Fork Bottom. Mayor Yates explained that the Virginia Department of Transportation has done all the work that they are going to do in that area due to the road closure, which included signs, grate the road, and spread loads of stone. Mayor Yates stated that everyone they could think of was contacted about the new traffic pattern that would possibly be affected, which included the sewer treatment plant, White Ridge Carry Out, Southwest Regional Jail Authority, Dickenson County Public Schools, and the John Flanagan Water Authority.

Community Development Block Grant – Streetscape Project

Mayor Yates said that the project had been slowed by the weather and heavy snowfall, however, work picked back up yesterday and today on the sidewalks. Mayor Yates stated that there was an extra two thousand eight hundred dollar cost due to the extension of the hand rail in the curve. Mayor Yates said that the project was right on budget with only four hundred dollars left in contingency. April 15, 2015 is the new completion date, since that will allow time for the use of asphalt in the plan as desired. The Treehouse project should be ready to bid in the next two weeks. There will also be a bid for a membrane roof for the old theater building. The Appalachian Regional Commission Grant contact negotiations have been postponed due to the weather. Council Member Tim Wallace suggested selling the metal currently on the old theater building to help pay for the cost of the street lights. Mayor Yates asked for his assistance with the bid package so that could be included as part of the process. Council Member Tim Wallace said the metal would have to be removed carefully. Mayor Yates requested that Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Member Tim Wallace review the roof with Hunter Greene, so the necessary procedures could be included in the bid package.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that he sent copies of the Town Seal and marketing logos to Attorney Scott Mullins' office. They will be included in a mock-up of the Ridgeview High School Scoreboard for review by the council, along with a contact.
- Mayor Yates attended the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority meeting last night and advised that construction was getting ready to start on Southern Gap. Chris Sturgill is working with Range Resources on the trail between Haysi Kiwanis and Belcher Gap.
- Mayor Yates informed everyone that Delegate Todd Pillion has been instrumental in getting resolutions passed honoring Mr. Clynard Belcher and Mr. Paul Arrington. Delegate Pillion is interested in presenting those to their families once approved.

- Mayor Yates asked the council to review the street light and conduit map, agreement, and draft purchase order from American Electric Power. There has not been any progress on funding for the street lights and installation, but no decision is required at this time.
- Mayor Yates asked the council to think about dates for a picnic similar to last year to be discussed at the April meeting.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood stated that the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department needed to start looking at getting a new engine, but needed funds for purchase. Mayor Yates said that Dwight Pierson with United States Department of Agriculture was good to help the town and he would contact him for more information on available resources. Mayor Yates advised that the town has started working on the 2015-2016 budget. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about vacant buildings that citizens had complained about reporting as blight, such as the old ABC Store and old Tiger Mart. Mayor Yates said that the word blight has a vague description in the Code of Virginia and advised that those properties had private owners. Mayor Yates also stated that both property owners had the opportunity to participate in the Downtown Revitalization Grant. The Dickenson County Building Inspector, Carl Turner would have authority over any concerns for public safety.

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 Billy Counts 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