

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
October 3, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

On October 3, 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  
Susan Tiller  
Michael Harris  
Tim Wallace

ABSENT: Carter Branham

### **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 Matthew Owens and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

At this time Mayor Yates asked for any changes to the agenda. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller 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 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 registered for public comment was Haliagh Woods of Clintwood, VA 24228. Miss Woods is a member of the Ridgeview High School Cheerleaders and advised that the cheerleaders would be taking an educational trip to Orlando, Florida, where they would be performing at the Citrus Bowl. Miss Woods stated that the cheerleaders needed funds for their trip. Miss Woods said that four cheerleaders were going because they were the only ones selected from the area, and pointed out that this was something positive. Council Member Billy Counts asked about the location. Miss Woods replied Orlando. Mayor Yates asked to clarify that the Citrus Bowl would take place on New Year's Day. Miss Woods confirmed that he was correct and advised that the cheerleaders had received four hundred dollars total from Clintwood, which separated out to one hundred dollars per cheerleader. Mayor Yates asked about the selection process. Miss Woods explained that tryouts were held at camp, with all the Ridgeview High School Cheerleaders participating, but only four were selected. Miss Woods mentioned that the recognition would be added to their college applications and gave the Haysi Town Council a brochure to review. Mayor Yates asked if there were cheerleaders from other areas nearby attending. Miss Woods replied that there were some cheerleaders selected from Buchanan County, who also completed tryouts at camp. Mayor Yates asked if the trip had been sanctioned by the Dickenson County School Board. Miss Woods answered that she was pretty sure it had been. Mayor Yates asked about school resources. Miss Woods replied that the event was independent, but the Cheer Coach planned to travel along. Miss Woods said \$1,500.00 included everything they needed such as food, hotel stay, and uniform. Mayor Yates asked if the school would be represented. Miss Woods said that the county will be acknowledged

on live television. Council Member Billy Counts asked about their fundraising efforts. Miss Woods said they had been conducting fundraisers between two and three months now. Mayor Yates asked what types of fundraisers that had done. Miss Woods said they had bake sales, a gun raffle, concessions, a RADA order, and bingo. Mayor Yates thanked Miss Woods and advised that the Haysi Town Council would hear three other requests later in the agenda prior to making any decisions.

The second person registered for public comment was Matt Owens of Haysi, VA 24256. Mr. Owens introduced himself as President of the Haysi Partners and thanked the Haysi Town Council for their support of the 2017 Haysi's Russell Fork Autumn Fest. Mr. Owens also thanked the police and fire departments for their work in keeping people safe and the maintenance department. Mr. Owens said the future goals were to increase the size and visibility of the autumn fest and eventually graduate to a national level event. Mr. Owens said he hopes to encourage kids with the DJ night and wants to expand to doing that more frequently. Mr. Owens asked for help with a multiuse policy and establishing boundaries as things moved forward and requested that it be added to a future agenda. Mayor Yates said the Haysi Town Council could establish a memorandum of understanding with the Haysi Partners that would be updated annually. Mr. Owens went on to say that he is working with the Trailblazers organization to develop an endurance race around Memorial Day weekend which would consist of one hundred miles per day over three days. It would be an on and off road event and they would look to combine deals for lodging and meals. Mr. Owens said he wanted to keep the council informed and ask their blessing. Mr. Owens said he was also looking into a cycle race from the Breaks Interstate Park to the John Flanagan Dam to Clintwood to the New Road and back to the Breaks Interstate Park. The race would be good for economic development and he is getting assistance from the United States Cycle Association for development. Mayor Yates asked if the cycle race would be organized by the Trailblazers as well. Mr. Owens answered "yes". Mayor Yates asked Mr. Owens about reactions to the autumn fest. Mr. Owens said he didn't receive any negative comments, everything went well and the restaurants were overflowing. Mr. Owens mentioned that more power was needed at Bridge Street. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Owens.

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

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

- September 5, 2017                      Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 5, 2017 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:

- September 1, 2017 through September 29, 2017 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- September 1, 2017 through September 27, 2017 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 14058-14083 & deposits
- September 1, 2017 through September 27, 2017 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Mayor Yates asked for any questions regarding the financial report. Mayor Yates pointed out that the Haysi Town Council had been given a copy of the first quarter budget update ended September 30, 2017. Mayor Yates summarized the handout noting that he felt “pretty good” about the revenues and they were in line with what was budgeted. Mayor Yates also noted that Expenditures were over budget in office equipment due to the VML grant purchase of conference equipment and software, over budget on the Ford Explorer, which will soon be moved to part time service, and over budget in capital outlay for the fire department due to the truck purchase. Mayor Yates mentioned that the town need to keep in consideration its long term liabilities that are \$9,800 in absences for full time employees and \$270,000 for VRS, which is thirty-six percent funded right now. Mayor Yates stated that most small town are in the same shape on VRS coverage. 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**

#### Donation Request from Sandlick Elementary

Dennis Deel introduced himself as Principal and Jesse Neece as Assistant Principal of Sandlick Elementary School. Mr. Deel said that he wanted to present a donation request for the school store and angel fund. Mr. Deel explained that the angel fund helps purchase ice cream for kids who can’t afford it or don’t have money on their cafeteria account. Mr. Deel said that there is between ten and twenty thousand dollars in debt on cafeteria accounts and the ice creams sales help with revenue. Mr. Deel said the school raised around three hundred dollars on the day of the Grandparents lunch for the program, but the programs usually “runs about sixty dollars a week.” The angel fund’s only purpose is to pay for the ice cream. Mr. Deel explained that the school store was developed as an incentive for kids to attend school. The children get one school buck for coming to school that day and one school buck for not getting into trouble. Mr. Deel stated that the kids want to earn the school bucks. The school store is free for parents and also helps the kids learn math skills. Mr. Deel said that the school currently has a donut sale fundraiser going on for the school store. Mr. Deel explained that he gets three thousand dollars to spend from August to June, which doesn’t go far when he factors in some other needed expenses such as a copier, so the school will do other fundraisers during the year. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the number of students. Mr. Deel replied that Sandlick Elementary School currently has four hundred and thirty nine students. Mr. Neece added that the school has seen a three to four percent increase in attendance and described the program as an overall “win-win”

situation. Mr. Deel stated that they wanted to help students through positive encouragement versus punishment. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Deel and advised that the Haysi Town Council would discuss all the donation requests later in the meeting.

#### Donation Request from Haysi Little League Basketball

Ryan Wallace introduced himself as a lifelong resident with family at Sandlick Elementary School and head of the Little League Basketball program. Mr. Wallace said that this was his fourth year leading the program, which consists of 50-75 kids. Mr. Wallace also noted that he helped with the Little League Baseball program, but the programs were very different. Mr. Wallace explained that the basketball program reports to the varsity program at Ridgeview High School, which is overseen by Mr. McCowan. Mr. Wallace requested money for uniforms since the teams were transferring to wolfpack colors. Mr. Wallace said that in the past kids could pay to keep their jersey, but his request was for enough money to purchase uniforms for the whole league. Mr. Wallace advised that there was no a lot to maintain for the basketball program and didn't like the concept that kids must pay to be able to play. Mr. Wallace stated that he had kept registration fees low and had gotten compliments on that aspect. Mr. Wallace also explained that the program did fundraisers and put the money raised directly toward the child that raised the money. Mr. Wallace said that if the cost of the uniforms was covered then the uniforms could be taken back at the end of the year. Uniforms for the Haysi Little League Basketball program include jersey and shorts. Mr. Wallace stated that sponsorship banners would be posted for those who donated. Mayor Yates asked if the games were held at Sandlick Elementary School. Mr. Wallace replied "yes." Mayor Yates asked if the program included both boys and girls. Mr. Wallace answered that the program mostly consisted of boys because the girls participation was low. However, Mr. Wallace hopes to get girls teams, but doesn't know if there will be enough at this point. The programs includes kids in grade Pre-Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. Mr. Wallace said that there were 60-75 kids in the program last year. Mr. Wallace said that "in-house" games will be November through December. Mayor Yates asked about participation from Ervinton. Mr. Wallace answered that kids from Ervinton could join Haysi or Clintwood, but there wasn't enough participation there for the program. Council Member Susan Tiller commented that there were some kids from the Council area. Mr. Wallace replied "yes." Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Wallace and again advised that the Haysi Town Council would discuss all the donation requests later in the meeting

#### Donation Request from Ridgeview High School Band Boosters

Tammy Cochran introduced herself as the Secretary of the Ridgeview High School Band Boosters. Mrs. Cochran said that her request was for money to take the band students to a Broadway show called Stomp. Mrs. Cochran explained that it would be a one day trip on a bus and the cost of the tickets were fifty dollars per student. Mrs. Cochran stated that the band students had worked hard and had to repair several instruments this year. Mrs. Cochran said that the Broadway participants used ordinary things for their performance and she thought it would be a good cultural opportunity. Mrs. Cochran said that there would be between thirty-four and thirty-six in their group, with parents paying their own way. Mrs. Cochran advised that they had done several fundraisers including concessions, a

facebook auction, and sold items at the truck pull and Dickenson County Fair, but the money went to the instrument repairs and uniforms. Mayor Yates commented that he had seen Stomp on television. Mrs. Cochran stated that the drummers of the band were excited. Mayor Yates asked about the amount. Mrs. Cochran explained that the venue let her reserve the tickets without any money up front and the total bill was \$1,700 including adults, but they needed \$1,300 for the students. Mayor Yates thanked Mrs. Cochran and again advised that the Haysi Town Council would discuss all the donation requests later in the meeting

### **ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Discussion of the Russell Fork Trail Center**

Mayor Yates said that he wanted to give an update on the Russell Fork Trail Center. Mayor Yates explained that the project was bid out twice and both times the low bid came in high. The town has roughly \$395,000 in construction funds to spend on the project. Mayor Yates said that he had an offer from Virginia Community Capital for a low interest loan with no collateral and would like to open the floor for discussion. Mayor Yates said the town had an option to try for a grant through the Virginia Tobacco Revitalization Commission and thinks they will accept the application, but don't typically fund this type of project. Mayor Yates advised that the town had already invested \$200,000 in the trail center. The project is estimated to take sixteen months to complete. Mayor Yates stressed that a decision would need to be made soon or the town risked losing the \$395,000 grant money. Mayor Yates stated the town was running out of options and needed \$150,000. The last low bid was around \$539,000. Mayor Yates noted that he thinks the town can get \$25,000 for furnishings later. Mayor Yates also advised that the plans had been value engineered to try to get the cost down. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked for clarification on the \$150,000. Mayor Yates answered that it was the amount short of the bid after applying the \$395,000 grant money from Appalachian Regional Commission and Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority. Mayor Yates said that Virginia Community Capital was in Haysi three weeks ago and discussed that they were willing to help with the project. Mayor Yates mentioned that the Business Plan for the trail center would service some debt on the building. Mayor Yates said that VCC wanted a moral obligation from the town on a loan. Mayor Yates also advised that the town owned the building and selling it wasn't an option because of the public funds invested. Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the town needed to make a decision right away. Mayor Yates clarified that he would get more information from VCC on the loan if the council wanted. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood commented that it was a "lot of money to throw away." Mayor Yates summarized the money spent and work already completed and mentioned uses for the building. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked the Mayor to get more information and facts for review.

### **ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Chief George Wallace reported 19 calls for the month of September. Chief Wallace said that none of the calls were considered serious calls. Chief Wallace advised that Assistant

Chief Bobby Edwards had attended training at the Southwest Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy and he had attended training at the Breaks Interstate Park during the month. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the suicide threat call on September 13. Assistant Chief Edwards said that he couldn't give much information about that call, but a student did threaten to commit suicide. Mayor Yates thanked Assistant Chief Edwards for their work and the work of the department during the autumn fest too.

#### Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report-Chief Rocky Wood

Chief Rocky Wood reported sixteen calls, which was a busy month for the fire department. Chief Wood said the department had gotten their new truck and are more than satisfied with it. Chief Wood advised that the new fire truck came with \$12,000 of more equipment than they had thought it would. The new fire truck is scheduled to be in service by the end of the week.

#### **ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates said he only had one comment to mention. Mayor Yates explained that back during the budget process the town had a plan in place to finish the sidewalk renovations in front of the Pizza Factory and Ratliff's Jewelry to the edge of the town's parking lot. Mayor Yates pointed out that the town was short \$20,000.00 on expected Coal Severance revenue funds, even though he had been told that the extra money was appropriated by the Coal Severance Committee to finish the sidewalks. The letter of request for the funds was sent, but so far it had not been honored. Mayor Yates noted that the amount could have been taken out of their budget without notification to the town, but he would try to find out the status. Mayor Yates stated that he was told that Mr. Donnie Harrison fell and injured himself in that area over the weekend. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said Mr. Harrison did fall, broke his glasses, and it "scraped him up a little bit". Vice Mayor Wood said he didn't think it was the sidewalk's fault, but exertion. Mayor Yates wanted to clarify that it didn't have to do with the terrain. Vice Mayor Wood replied that he didn't think so. Mayor Yates said it was pointed out to him where he fell and presented to him that the fall was due to the condition of the sidewalk. Vice Mayor Wood explained that he wasn't saying that the sidewalk didn't have anything to do with it. Mayor Yates advised that it was a project that the town needed to keep in mind. Vice Mayor Wood asked how long it would take to get an answer back from the Coal Severance Committee. Mayor Yates replied that he hoped to get an answer back by the end of the week. Council Member Susan Tiller asked how long the town has been waiting for the funds. Mayor Yates answered since July 1, 2017. Mayor Yates advised that the Coal Severance Committee had given around \$40,000 in the past for funding the new sidewalks and street lights. The \$20,000 may not fix all of the sidewalk in that area, but it would make a large improvement. Mayor Yates also pointed out with the recent change to the small procurement policy that

the town would not have to bid the project. Vice Mayor Wood pointed out that the town could bid the project if desired, to make sure the town gets the best price.

**ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A9 for the discussion of a donation for educational purposes. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote to certify the statement:

Wm. "Billy" Brice	Counts	Yes	Michael Harris	Yes
Tim Wallace		Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Rocky Wood		Yes		

Upon motion made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood the Council was now convened in Open Session. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to donate \$500 dollars to the Sandlick Elementary School Angel Fund and School Store, \$375 to Haysi Little League Basketball, \$200 to Ridgeview Cheerleaders, and \$200 to Ridgeview High School Band Boosters for their requests. Mayor Yates called for a roll call vote with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood, Council Members Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, and Michael Harris voting aye and Council Member Tim Wallace voting nay. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

**ITEM # XIII – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk