

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
April 14, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

On April 14, 2020, 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
Tim Wallace
Carter Branham
William "Billy" Counts

ABSENT: Susan Tiller

ITEMS # I, II, & III

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry D. Yates at 7:00 p.m. During the introduction the Mayor covered the following information:

- The COVID 19 Emergency was noted and the authority to proceed pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2 was referenced. He announced that the documents relating to the meeting were subject to the Freedom of Information Act as usual.
- Mayor Yates announced that these new procedures would be in effect for the April, May, and June meetings.
- Mayor Yates announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.
- Mayor Yates read the notice that was given to the public regarding access and meeting proceedings:

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 then return to their vehicle in the town hall parking lot.

Persons who have signed the register to speak shall be taken in the order in which they are listed and the individual will be requested to come inside the town hall and stand in a designated spot to give their comments.

Persons addressing the Town Council are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.

Speakers will be acknowledged by Mayor Larry Yates and shall stand in the designated area and not approach the Mayor or Town Council members.

Speakers will start their comments by stating their name and address.

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.

Speakers will be courteous in their language, tone, and presentation.

Speakers should only comment on the items listed on the Agenda for the Town Council Meeting.

- Mayor Yates announced that all votes will be by roll call and recorded in the minutes.
- Mayor Yates announced that Elected Officials who leave the meeting or arrive must verbally note attendance.
- Mayor Yates asked the Elected Officials if they had any questions regarding the new procedure. No questions were asked.
- Mayor Yates announced that essential business of the town is still being conducted.

Clerk Amanda Perrigan took attendance and announced that a quorum existed for the meeting to proceed.

The Invocation was held by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked for changes to the agenda as presented. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the agenda as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

ITEM #V – PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- March 3, 2020 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 Regular Town Council Meeting on March 3, 2020 as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

ITEM # VII – FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- February 27, 2020 through March 31, 2020 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 15293-15350 & deposits
- February 27, 2020 through March 31, 2020 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 passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Rescind Donation Request from Haysi Little League

Rescind Donation Request from Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club

Mayor Yates advised that last meeting donations were approved for the Haysi Little League Program and the 2020 Community Easter Egg Hunt, both of which have been cancelled due to COVID 19. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to rescind the \$500 donations made at the last meeting to the Haysi Little League and Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

BPOL Ordinance

Mayor Yates explained that the tax was for town merchants and Police Chief Bobby Edwards had wanted the ordinance revised. Attorney Taylor Hay had reviewed the current ordinance in place and identified areas to improve, such as merchants who conduct business in town as wholesalers. Mayor Yates said that there were lots of businesses that needed to pay taxes that are not right now, so he proposed to offer an updated draft at the May meeting, a public hearing in late May, and possible approval in June. Mayor Yates pointed out that he was not proposing to raise any tax rates. A general discussion was held about the BPOL Ordinance and merchant categories. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to have Mayor Yates begin his proposed process to amend the BPOL Ordinance. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

Hazard Mitigation Resolution

Mayor Yates read the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, as amended, requires that local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) project grants and certain other forms of non-emergency disaster assistance; and

WHEREAS, a Mitigation Advisory Committee (“MAC”) comprised of representatives from all jurisdictions within the Cumberland Plateau Planning District was convened in order to study the Town of Haysi’s risks from and vulnerabilities to natural hazards, and to make recommendations on mitigating the effects of such hazards on the Town of Haysi; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of the MAC members in consultation with members of the public, private and non-profit sectors, have resulted in the development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for the Cumberland Plateau Planning District communities including the Town of Haysi.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Haysi that the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission Hazard Mitigation Plan dated September, 2018, is hereby approved and adopted for the Town of Haysi. A copy of the plan is attached to this resolution by reference.

Mayor Yates advised that a copy of the three hundred and eighty plus page plan could be made available to anyone that wants it. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the Hazard Mitigation Resolution as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report-Chief Bobby Edwards (See Attachment)

Chief Bobby Edwards reported forty-four calls for the month of March and read off the hours worked on the report. Chief Edwards stated that the part time officers had an extra ten hours beyond the grant. Mayor Yates asked when the grant expires. Chief Edwards answered June 2021. Mayor Yates asked when he would know the result of the COPS grant application. Chief Edwards answered that it would be September or November before he

would know due to the delays. Chief Edwards advised that the playground equipment was removed after being moved by the wind they noticed the slide was also broke with a sharp edge, the wood was rotten and couldn't be saved, so the only things remaining are the swings and chains. The playground equipment is being replaced by equipment from the old Kids Central location. Mayor Yates commented that he would like to have a nice playground after the Haysi Town Hall is relocated. Mayor Yates asked about the part time maintenance employees. Chief Edwards replied that there wasn't enough work for them to do when it's raining, so those hours had been cut since the town is not responsible for community service workers until June. Mayor Yates added that the maintenance employees would be needed to do weed eating, trash routes, etc.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Chief Rocky Wood reported that the previous month had two motor vehicle accidents, two brush fires, one rescue at the Breaks Interstate Park, one structure fire, calls relating to flooding, and two days of storm damage calls. Mayor Yates made a general comment about the high winds. Chief Wood advised that there were homes at Tarpon where the roof was "ripped off." Chief Wood stated that the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department was not conducting meetings at this time since it was not possible for them to social distance. Chief Wood also reported that the department had been given masks by a local lady. Mayor Yates asked if the project at the fire hall helped. Chief Wood answered that it had helped and he was still reviewing what to do on another project.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that the Russell Fork Trail had been fixed, however Spearhead Trails had to adhere to the governor's orders on the trails. He said that he would like to get them opened back up as soon as possible.
- Mayor Yates reported that Clerk Amanda Perrigan had been working on the budget. There will be some decrease, but hopefully there will also be some help for local governments. First, the small businesses and unemployed need assistance. Mayor Yates advised that Rita Surratt has resources available to help business and that the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority was working on a new program to help businesses in the county.
- Mayor Yates advised that staffing issues and hiring freezes at the Department of Conservation and Recreation were causing delays with the riverfront trail project.
- Mayor Yates asked about holding a budget workshop and advised that the budget numbers for the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department were needed.
- Mayor Yates noted that the next meeting date would be on the alternate date due to the town election and social distancing. He also noted that the governor had requested the election be moved to November. Mayor Yates advised that it would save the town money and suggested that everyone consider requesting a

change/amendment to the town charter to hold the election in November from now on.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked about a public statement issued from the Mayor regarding the COVID 19 Emergency. Mayor Yates said that he had started working on one and will try to do it next week, but so far he had not been requested to issue one. Vice Mayor Wood commented that it would look good and be good for public relations.

The 2020-2021 Budget Workshop will be held on May 12, 2020 at 6 o'clock in the evening.

ITEM # XIII – 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 Tim Wallace to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye and the meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk