

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
October 1, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

On October 1, 2019, 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

Council Members:

Michael Harris

Tim Wallace

William "Billy" Counts

Carter Branham

Susan Tiller

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Rocky Wood

### **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 John Turner and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

At this time Mayor Yates asked to add the Agreement for Lifesaving Duties in EMS, Resolution, and Response Agreement under New Business. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the agenda as amended. 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 John Turner of Clinchco. Mr. Turner stated that he lived at Tarpon and thanked the town council for allowing him to speak. Mr. Turner presented the council a petition in opposition of the distillery in Haysi. Mr. Turner added that fifty petitions were in circulation. Mr. Turner said that he understood the council members' position to improve the town, but thought there was a better way, especially since the location is across from a day care facility. Mr. Turner mentioned the existing drug and alcohol problem in the county and advised that he would try his very best to stop the distillery. Mr. Turner pointed out that he had no ill feelings and appreciated the service and dedication of the town council, but thought there were other ways to bring revenue. Mr. Turner said it would be hard to come to town if the distillery was here. Mr. Turner advised that he would bring the petitions back signed to try to stop the distillery. Mr. Turner stated that he didn't know how each council member voted, but wanted to ask a final question. Mr. Turner asked what if someone bought moonshine, got drunk, and injured one of their family members.

The second person signed up for Public Comment was Roger Fuller of 213 Golden Pond Road, Haysi. Mr. Fuller said that he also appreciated the time to speak to oppose the distillery. Mr. Fuller mentioned that every year two or three people are "fished" out of the river dead due to alcohol. Mr. Fuller asked if anything good came out of alcohol. Mr. Fuller said that it tears up families and causes car wrecks. Mr. Fuller also said that he commended the work of the town council members, but thought there was a better way. Mr. Fuller stated that it would be a black eye to Haysi and he's not sure it helps the economy that

much. Mr. Fuller continued by saying that if you ask law enforcement about problems the answer is alcohol and drugs. Mr. Fuller said he wanted to ask the town council a question, did “anything good come out of it.”

Mayor Yates said the citizens deserved a statement from the town. Mayor Yates advised that the town voted last meeting to write a letter of support. Mayor Yates read the following letter of support:

*Dear Mrs. Hamilton,*

*At the Town of Haysi’s regular meeting on August 6, 2019, the Haysi Town Council passed a motion to offer this letter of support to your company, Down Home Spirits, LLC located at 210 Main Street, Haysi, Virginia.*

*Haysi welcomes you and your business and by the motion understand and acknowledge your company will be distilling alcoholic beverages in the town. The town also recognizes you will be selling alcoholic beverages for off premises use.*

Mayor Yates said that copies of the letter were available upon request, but it was a similar letter to any new business.

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

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

- September 3, 2019                      Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 3, 2019 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:

- August 31, 2019 through September 30, 2019 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- August 29, 2019 through September 25, 2019 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 15040-15084 & deposits
- August 29, 2019 through September 25, 2019 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller 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**

Agreement for Lifesaving Duties in EMS, Resolution, and Response Agreement

Mayor Yates said that there were a couple of changes he would like to see made. Interim Police Chief Bobby Edwards advised that the documents were approved by Attorney Stephen Mullins and the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors. Mayor Yates questioned what would happen if the town didn't provide services. Interim Chief Edwards answered that the town could terminate the agreement or the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors could terminate it. Mayor Yates expressed concerns about future resources and liability. Interim Chief Edwards replied that he didn't foresee any issues, but would be covered by the county's insurance and presented a copy of the insurance certificate to the Mayor. Mayor Yates said he would prefer for Virginia Risk Sharing Association review the information before adoption. Interim Chief Edwards advised that this work was necessary to obtain the license. Mayor Yates read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Town of Haysi existed prior to 1984;

WHEREAS, the Town of Haysi existed prior to the enactment of Virginia Code Section 15.1-26.01 as amended to 15.2-955;

WHEREAS, it is essential for the health and safety of persons and property that Town of Haysi continue its public service and lifesaving duties for Dickenson County;

WHEREAS, the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Town of Haysi to provide emergency medical life saving services to the citizens located within Dickenson County.

Mayor Yates recommended tabling the agreements until the next meeting. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the resolution as presented. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if a potential employee didn't have the necessary knowledge, could they still be hired. Interim Chief Edwards answered it wouldn't be an issue. Interim Chief Edwards and Officer Brent Wallace are covered for protection. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

**ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Interim Chief Bobby Edwards reported forty-five calls for the month of September and read off the hours worked on the report. Interim Chief Edwards offered to answer any questions regarding the report.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Interim Police Chief Bobby Edwards said the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department answered around twenty calls for the month of September which included motor vehicle accidents, brush fires, and structure fires. Mayor Yates advised everyone in attendance of the burn ban.

**ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that the Haysi Russell Fork Autumn Fest would take place this weekend, with four good days of fun and entertainment for kids and adults.
- Mayor Yates invited the Haysi Town Council to the Splashdam Water Line Extension Grant Ceremony at one o'clock tomorrow.
- Mayor Yates stated that he is still trying to convince the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors to demolish the old Haysi High School building. He advised that the building had been opened to the public to remove items.

**ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM # XIII – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Carter Branham 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