

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
May 12, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

On May 12, 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
Susan Tiller
William "Billy" Counts

ABSENT: Carter Branham

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 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 Susan Tiller, 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:

- April 14, 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 April 14, 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 Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

ITEM # VII – FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- April 1, 2020 through April 30, 2020 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 15351-15384 & deposits
- April 1, 2020 through April 30, 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 Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

2018-2019 Audit Report from Rodefer, Moss, & Co. PLLC

Mayor Yates welcomed Tamara Greear with Rodefer, Moss, & Co to present the town's audit report. Mrs. Greear addressed that the company name had changed because the companies had merged, but they were still a local firm. Copies of the Audit Report were given to the Haysi Town Council before the meeting began. Mrs. Greear started explaining the audit report beginning with the "Independent Auditor's Report", the town received an unmodified, clean opinion. Mrs. Greear commented on what an accomplishment that an unmodified, clean opinion is for the town. Mrs. Greear gave a summary of page four "Statement of Net Position" and pointed out that the town's assets and liabilities, which reflect the Virginia Retirement System. Mayor Yates commented on the large liabilities that the town had at the time of their first audit. Mrs. Greear agreed that the town had come a long way. Mrs. Greear reviewed page five "Statement of Activities," which she advised was a good tool for budgeting although the grant amounts vary. She noted a positive change for the town. Mrs. Greear reviewed page six "Balance Sheet" and page eight "Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances," noting that the town was within budget. Mrs. Greear advised that on page fifteen, note fifteen was new and applied to all the audits for COVID 19. Mrs. Greear explained the findings on the internal control report. First, separation of duties, which the town has listed every year, but due to the town's small size that finding can't go away. 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 explained that she had lessened the severity of the finding to significant. The town has a letter that will be placed on file with Clerk Amanda Perrigan at the Haysi Town Hall stating that there were no conflicts in the audit agreement. Mrs. Greear mentioned a separate letter with housekeeping items and improvements for the town to make. Mrs. Greear explained that the fire department still needs to submit a budget, bank statements, and QuickBooks reports monthly or quarterly to Clerk Perrigan. Mayor Yates

asked if anyone had any questions regarding the audit. Council Member Tim Wallace asked about the net pension liability and if the amount was owed over “long term.” Mrs. Greear said that the simple answer was yes, but the amount is set by a rate that changes every three years. She added that the rate may be affected by COVID 19, but the town doesn’t have any control over it and although it is considered debt, it’s not “due tomorrow.” There are fifteen pages that cover the topic in the back of the audit. Mrs. Greear also added that it’s something that lenders consider and “once in VRS, always in VRS.” Council Member Tim Wallace asked about buying time back. Mrs. Greear answered that it was different for each situation. Mayor Yates thanked Mrs. Greear for her time and work.

Donation Request from Ridgeview High School Prom

Mayor Yates asked who was presenting the request. Clerk Perrigan answered that she was giving the request and presenting it because her daughter was a Senior. Mrs. Perrigan explained that she was working with the school appointed coordinator, Melissa Sykes and the Sandlick District School Board Member Jamie Hackney. Mrs. Perrigan advised that the Dickenson County School Board is committed to providing both a graduation and prom for the Seniors. Mrs. Perrigan explained that the prom had five thousand dollars available for use, but needed a minimum of two thousand five hundred dollars more that would have been raised if it had not been for the closure. Mrs. Perrigan mentioned that the town had two donations rescinded due to events being cancelled and this donation request would not be recurring, they just didn’t have a way to make up the short fall this year. Mrs. Perrigan added that families in the community had already invested money in the prom for girls’ dresses as an example. Mrs. Perrigan stated that if the school was not able to make the prom happen for some reason that the parents were committed to making it happen and she had organized a private group of over one hundred members. Mrs. Perrigan pointed out that it wasn’t the kids fault, but they couldn’t ask businesses to donate and some families are experiencing job loss. Council Member Billy Counts asked about support from the Towns of Clinchco and Clintwood. Mrs. Perrigan answered that the Town of Clintwood’s meeting was tonight as well, so she would present the request to them at their next meeting, which shouldn’t conflict with the Town of Haysi’s meeting. Council Member Billy Counts drew attention to the upcoming end of the fiscal year. Mrs. Perrigan advised that of the three thousand dollars in the donation line item less than one hundred dollars had been spent. Mayor Yates pointed out that the rescinded donations were not pending check return. Mrs. Perrigan stated that the checks were voided. Mayor Yates stated that he sympathized with the kids and recommended the donation and support for the Ridgeview High School Class of 2020. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to approve the one thousand dollar donation request for the Ridgeview High School Prom. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, and Michael Harris voting aye and Council Member Tim Wallace voting nay.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief Bobby Edwards reported a busy month with a lot of call types, but noted that things weren't as they seemed on the report. Chief Edwards gave an example by pointing out five breaking and entering calls, but not all of the calls were legit and only one actually occurred out of those listed. Chief Edwards stated that the one call, which took place in Splashdam resulted in seven years of back taxes being paid to the town. Chief Edwards said he took several people to jail and there were several thefts. Chief Edwards commented that the part time officers were on schedule with their hours for the grant, but he had a little extra time during this period. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked about the homeless person. Chief Edwards answered that the person broke down and their vehicle was towed by the county, so he took them to the Sleep Inn in Clintwood. Mayor Yates commented that a lot of the calls were on Bartley Street. Mayor Yates asked if Chief Edwards had gotten any response from the grant application. Chief Edwards replied no, but mentioned that the state has issued new guidelines to document and submit every stop. Chief Edwards advised that he didn't have the software necessary and it may need to be purchased. Mayor Yates clarified that the state was mandating information on each traffic stop.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Chief Rocky Wood reported that the previous month had two motor vehicle accidents, two structure fires, one call relating to flooding at Rakes Ridge, and one utility pole fire. Mayor Yates asked if the utility pole fire was the mess on Clinchco Road. Chief Wood answered yes.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that he was working on the right-of-way and was implementing a plan.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Yates welcomed Sandlick District Dickenson County School Board Member Jamie Hackney. Mr. Hackney said he was keeping a watch on the Section 202 program and advocating for the site, but he was the only one. Mr. Hackney added that there would be a special called meeting tomorrow evening, which will primarily focus on budget, but he expects some discussion on the site. Mr. Hackney explained that the last meeting was difficult as he was the lone vote to dismiss the lawsuit, but since then some members had reached out to discuss it with him. Mr. Hackney said that Mrs. Amanda Perrigan had worked hard on helping the Senior Class and made him aware of a proposed drive through graduation, which was slowed and will be reconsidered on June 10. Mr. Hackney stated that he was hopeful for a traditional graduation and prom in the summer. Mr.

Hackney said that he appreciated the town's donation and planned to make a personal donation too. Mayor Yates encouraged Mr. Hackney to ask for a match and to use the town's example. Mayor Yates commented that they might arrange some meetings together to discuss the site location. Mr. Hackney encouraged to make it known that it was good for the town. Mayor Yates stated that it was important for the county and consolidation would be devastatingly wrong. Mr. Hackney commented that Richard Thacker with Dickenson County Emergency Management was an advocate for the school in Haysi.

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 on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye and the meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk