

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
June 6, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

On June 6, 2023, 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 Michael Harris

Council Members:
Tim Wallace
Carter Branham
William "Billy" Counts

ABSENT: Susan Tiller
Debbie 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 Council Member Tim Wallace Stanley and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked to add Discussion of a New Town Attorney to be added under New Business to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Tim Wallace seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the agenda as amended. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM #VI – 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 Joseph Boyd of 227 Main Street, Haysi Virginia. Mr. Boyd introduced himself and read some of the following email sent earlier in the day:

To ensure clarity and the best current available information to the Town Council, I have included all in this email.

I made a request at the May 2nd Town Council for the Council to authorize you to ask the Corp of Engineers to acquire this property due to precedence set in this county as of May 2nd that was reported in The Dickenson Star May 3rd issue. You answered my question on behalf of the Council at the meeting you invited me to, to discuss changes to an easement request, wherein I was equivocally treated as a hostile witness in a trial. Our meeting was at your office, May 24th at 11:00 AM with Amanda present.

We have indeed had our challenges in the past, but this meeting was attended in full faith of your authorization by the Council to acquire property per the minutes and agenda. This meeting was a blatant bait and switch tactic that will not ever be repeated, it was a hostile meeting and an insult.

I have all emails back to 2015 of all the attempts to gain dominant rights over my property. There will NOT EVER be an EASEMENT of ANY TYPE. You can acquire my land, or you will stay off. You have been served a No Trespassing NOTICE, as have your Contractors.

Do not persist with a Temporary Construction Easement, MainBoard LLC owns "to the river" per deed search. You are seeking to build ACROSS my land. You have had work performed ON my land. You have had contractors on my land, taking my property without compensation, a violation of the Constitution of the United States of America.

COUNCIL MEMBER SUSAN TILLER ENTERED THE MEETING.

The land is for sale at comparative market sales that have recently taken place in THIS immediate market. The offer made to the Town Council in 2019 is no longer available with the recent purchase of land that YOU negotiated.

I made an offer that was in commercial reason that was declined, see below in this email chain. I am following the guidelines.

Mayor Yates stated that Mr. Boyd initiated contact with the town saying that there was an adjustment to be made, so he was invited to meet at the Haysi Town Hall.

ITEM # VII – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- May 2, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting
- May 30, 2023 Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance
- May 30, 2023 Public Hearing for the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment Ordinance

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the minutes of the meeting on May 2, 2023 and both public hearings on May 30, 2023 as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VIII – FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- May 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.

- April 27, 2023 through May 31, 2023 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 16747-16790 & deposits
- April 27, 2023 through May 31, 2023 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IV - NEW BUSINESS

2023-2024 Budget Ordinance

Mayor Yates read the following ordinance:

TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED TOWN OF HAYSI 2023-2024 BUDGET NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Haysi, Virginia, that the Town of Haysi’s

Projected Revenue: \$3,412,287.76

Expenditures: Administration: \$220,027.52
 Economic Development: \$2,939,841.01
 Maintenance: \$34,305.60
 Haysi Police Department: \$142,113.63
 Haysi Fire Department: \$76,000.00

THIS ORDINANCE shall be effective July 1, 2023.

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the 2023-2024 Budget Ordinance. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

Michael Harris	Yes	Carter Branham	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Billy Counts	Yes		

Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

2022-2023 Budget Amendment Ordinance

Mayor Yates read the following ordinance:

TO AMEND THE TOWN OF HAYSI 2022-2023 BUDGET NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Haysi, Virginia, that the Town of Haysi’s

Projected Revenue: \$3,296,252.18 has changed to \$923,481.23
 Expenditures: Administration: \$173,642.81 has changed to \$191,049.02
 Economic Development: \$2,914,034.51 has changed to \$466,040.32
 Maintenance: \$33,967.89 has changed to \$61,217.89
 Haysi Police Department: \$111,606.97 has changed to \$121,974.00
 Haysi Fire Department: \$63,000.00 has changed to \$83,200.00

THIS ORDINANCE shall be effective July 1, 2022.

Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the 2022-2023 Budget Amendment Ordinance. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

Michael Harris	Yes	Carter Branham	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Billy Counts	Yes		

Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Discussion of a New Town Attorney

Mayor Yates advised that Susan Wood had given her resignation on May 23, as the town’s attorney citing that it was more work than she had time to handle. Mayor Yates stated that the town wished her well in the future. Mayor Yates explained that he had contacted Josh Evans and Mr. Evans was willing to represent the town. Mayor Yates said he would like to sign and return the letter of engagement with Mr. Evans tomorrow with the council’s approval. A general discussion was held about the retainer fee and associated costs. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Michael Harris seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to retain Josh Evans as the town’s attorney of record. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

Michael Harris	Yes	Carter Branham	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Billy Counts	Yes		

Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report (See Attachment)

Chief Bobby Edwards reported twenty-seven calls for the month of May. Chief Edwards read his report including hours worked and number of miles driven, although he didn't provide a copy of the report for everyone because of some computer issues that he is in the process of resolving. Mayor Yates asked about the status of the bucket truck. Chief Edwards answered that the part arrived yesterday and he would follow up on the connection, but believed it would work. Mayor Yates replied that he would be available tomorrow to assist. Mayor Yates asked about the public safety truck. Chief Edwards answered that it was more than likely going to be sent to a Ford dealership for repair.

Fire Department Monthly Report

Clerk Amanda Perrigan advised that Jennifer Cook had sent her the Fire Department report information via for the meeting. Clerk Perrigan read the following: twenty-two calls including nine motor vehicle accidents, six trees down, two public assists, one traumatic injury, one landing zone, and three utility pole fires. The day of the bad storm there were several calls and the public assistance calls were to rescue a dog at Centennial Heights and the other was to rescue a kitten stuck in a drain.

ITEM # XI – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A3 for Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

Michael Harris	Yes	Carter Branham	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Billy Counts	Yes		

Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Upon motion made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham the Council was now convened in Open Session. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

Michael Harris	Yes	Carter Branham	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Billy Counts	Yes		

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:

Michael Harris	Yes	Carter Branham	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Billy Counts	Yes		

ITEM # XII - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority has hired a firm to develop a master plan for the former Haysi High School property and a press release on it should be forthcoming. This is the next step toward developing the site for occupants as the plan will consider utilities, lots, street layout and more.

Chief Bobby Edwards mentioned that the town had hired Mike Blackstone to assist with the town’s social media presence, website, and app development. Chief Edwards said that the cost would be absorbed by the Economic Development Department Budget.

Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the former Haysi High School property would be a place to relocate existing businesses only. Mayor Yates replied that it would not be for existing businesses only and new businesses would be welcome. A general discussion was held about the property, process, and its potential future.

Mayor Yates stated that the town had a good turnout for Trails Day and the Cruise-In event was growing.

Clerk Amanda Perrigan advised that the town was awarded an eight-thousand-dollar grant from the Virginia Tourism Corporation for Haysi’s Russell Fork Autumn Fest this year. Clerk Perrigan also advised that the thirteen-thousand-five-hundred-dollar Nature Conservancy Grant was completed last month.

Mayor Yates mentioned his continued work on the old theater building. He recently met with Hill Studios and Dickenson County Building Inspector Chris Rakes on the ceiling height. Mayor Yates reported that he was pleased with the assistance received from Inspector Rakes on the project.

ITEM # XIII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Susan Tiller brought up the memorial project for former Vice Mayor Rocky Wood. Police Chief Bobby Edwards mentioned dedicating the fire station or new town hall to him. The status of the Fire Station under the Section 202 Project with the Corp of Engineers is still unknown at this time. Clerk Amanda Perrigan informed everyone that the fire department had this discussion and was in favor of naming the building after him.

Chief Edwards said that he didn't want to have the building named after him and then it be tore down. Clerk Perrigan replied that the name would follow the station relocation if needed. Chief Edwards said that he was told the Haysi Rescue Squad was relocating to the former Haysi High School site. Mayor Yates urged caution as that information may not be reliable. It was decided to invite the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department members to attend the July meeting for a continued discussion on this project. Clerk Perrigan stated that Council Member Debbie Wood maybe able to attend the meeting in July for inclusion in the discussion as well. Mayor Yates asked that the possibility of electronic meeting attendance begin to be explored. Chief Edwards said that the magistrate equipment in the police department may assist the town in achieving that goal if needed.

ITEM # XIV – ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to recess the meeting to June 20, 2023 at seven o'clock in the evening. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting and the meeting was recessed.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk