

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
November 14, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

On November 14, 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
Debbie Wood
Susan Tiller

ABSENT: None

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 Attorney Josh Evans and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV – APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates requested that Discussion of the Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance be added as the last item 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 Terry Bartley of 569 Wagon Trail, Haysi. Mr. Bartley introduced himself as Captain of Haysi Rescue Squad. Mr. Bartley said he had served on Haysi Rescue Squad for thirty-one years and been captain for most of those years. Mr. Bartley presented a request for aid with utility bills and stated a need to keep a certain temperature in one building for medicinal and technical purposes. The vehicles are kept in a separate building. They currently have four paid employees. Mr. Bartley explained that the Haysi Rescue Squad has received assistance from the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors to change billing companies, which should allow them to see a substantial increase in revenue. Mr. Bartley stated that he didn't need an answer to the request immediately. Mayor Yates asked if they did any fundraising. Mr. Bartley answered that they were short on members and are usually wore out after work. Mayor Yates asked about fundraising at events. Mr. Bartley answered that they were usually working the event as emergency personnel. Mr. Bartley said that the Dickenson County Fair Committee purchased a battery for them for their work at the fair and the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors has been good to work with them as well. Mr. Bartley apologized for his recent comments at the September Board of Supervisors' Meeting. Council Member Carter

Branham said that he was bothered and hurt by Mr. Bartley's comments at that meeting. Council Member Branham stated that Haysi Volunteer Fire Department, Haysi Rescue Squad, and Haysi Police Department are needed. Council Member Branham asked Mr. Bartley to go back to the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors and clear up the statements that disheartened and disgraced the town. Mr. Bartley stated that he never asked the town for money. Council Member Branham said that the town would do whatever it could because the service was a vital necessity, but those statements were bad for public relations. Council Member Tim Wallace said the rescue squad should be supported, although he didn't have an amount. Council Member Susan Tiller also said that they should be supported, but she didn't remember anyone ever coming to ask for money. Mr. Bartley said that the employee who spoke out at the October Board of Supervisors' Meeting didn't know that the Mayor had not attended a meeting between himself and Haysi Director of Operations Bobby Edwards. Council Member Tiller said that the impression was given that the town wasn't helping and that needs to be corrected with those who watch the county Board of Supervisors' Meetings. Attorney Josh Evans suggested that Mr. Bartley designate a spokesperson for Haysi Rescue Squad; preferably himself. Council Member Debbie Wood echoed that comment by saying it wasn't an accurate reflection of Mr. Bartley. Council Member Wood said that she appreciated him. Mayor Yates said that he wanted to keep an open line of communication between administration and the Haysi Town Council. Mayor Yates thanked Mr. Bartley for his thirty-one years of service. Council Member Branham again stated that he would help in any way. Mr. Bartley said that every time he asked for a donation out in the business community, he got one. Mayor Yates asked how critical their need was for their utility bills. Mr. Bartley answered that they were okay until January. A general discussion was held about the Haysi Rescue Squad's bills. Mayor Yates advised that the town doesn't have a line item in the budget for this expense and there is two thousand two hundred fifty dollars remaining in the donation line item. Council Member Branham suggested that their bills be considered on a month-by-month basis. Mayor Yates requested that Mr. Bartley provide the Haysi Rescue Squad's past audits. Clerk Amanda Perrigan suggested adding the Haysi Rescue Squad to the monthly agenda under Unfinished Business. Mayor Yates asked about regular meetings of the Haysi Rescue Squad. Mr. Bartley answered that they are held on Sundays. Mayor Yates requested copies of the meeting minutes. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Debbie Wood to pay the Haysi Rescue Squad's electric bill in the amount of four hundred seventy-six dollars and seventy-seven cents. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- October 3, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve the minutes of regular town council meeting on October 3, 2023 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:

- October 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- September 29, 2023 through October 31, 2023 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 16910-16983 & deposits
- September 29 2023 through October 31, 2023 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

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

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment

Mayor Yates explained that the passing of Chairman Rocky Wood on the Board of Zoning Appeals left a vacancy that needed to be filled by a Haysi Town Council Member. Clerk Amanda Perrigan explained how the process flowed from the time a variance request is received by the Town Clerk from the Dickenson County Building Inspector. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Debbie Wood to appoint Council Member Carter Branham to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Public Hearing for BPOL Ordinance Revision

Attorney Josh Evans said that after working with Clerk Amanda Perrigan on the situation, his understanding was that some businesses needed to file taxes with dual purposes. Attorney Evans explained that he had since reached out to the Virginia Municipal League and other attorneys for additional information, but he advised the council that the ordinance could be kept as is and enforced as the council wanted. Attorney Evans suggested that it gave the town more flexibility to work with the businesses in its current format, but he would pass along future details that he received.

Discussion of the Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance

Mayor Yates advised that it had been brought to his attention that the town's current ordinance has an error detailing a transient as over ninety days, but Virginia Code states thirty days, which will need to be corrected. A public hearing will be scheduled for fifteen minutes prior to the regular December meeting.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief Bobby Edwards reported thirty-eight calls for the month of October and advised that the department had received a grant for a license plate reading camera. The camera will catch wanted and stolen cars by the state police, but will be a tool for many uses beyond just crime, such as tourism and economic development.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Secretary/Treasurer Jennifer Cook reported twelve calls for October including three public assists, one structure fire, two road hazards, two motor vehicles accidents, one utility fire, and one brush fire. Mrs. Cook said that the department has already answered eleven calls for November, so it's been a busy month. The department has Engine 12 back in service. Engine 10 is estimated at eight hundred dollars to repair with Alpha and Omega.

ITEM # XI – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A1. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Upon motion made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Carter Branham the Council was now convened in Open Session. 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
Carter Branham	Yes	Debbie Wood	Yes

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the closed session compensations. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # XII - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- The construction project on the parking lot across from the Haysi Town Hall experienced a delay, but is moving forward now. The gentlemen that manage the Veteran's Memorial are satisfied with the project.
- The Russell Fork Trail Center construction estimate came in at two hundred thousand dollars over budget and will be bid in mid-January.
- Mayor Yates said that the Russell Fork Rendezvous was a success.

Mayor Yates commented that October was busy, but November was busy too.

ITEM # XIII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Debbie Wood stated her appreciation for the thin red line flag at the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department. Council Member Carter Branham stated his appreciation to everyone.

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 Debbie Wood to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting and the meeting was adjourned.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk