

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
February 6, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

On February 6, 2024, 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.

COUNCIL MEMBER SUSAN TILLER ENTERED THE MEETING.

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 asked for any changes, additions, or corrections to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham 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.

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:

- December 5, 2023 Public Hearing
- January 2, 2023 Monthly Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the minutes the Public Hearing on December 5, 2023 and the meeting on January 2, 2024 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:

- January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- December 29, 2023 through January 31, 2024 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 17056-17102 & deposits
- December 29, 2023 through January 31, 2024 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Mayor Yates pointed out that the Council had received the quarterly 4County Transit Report this month and how the town has never been asked for an increase in the amount paid monthly. Mayor Yates bragged on the value of the service and benefit to the community. Council Member Bill Counts asked about the bill to Michael O’Quinn. Mayor Yates answered that it was for the cost to haul the storage trailer, since the town didn’t have the equipment needed to perform the transfer from Pennsylvania to Haysi. 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 # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Donation Request from Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club

Mayor Yates welcomed Brenda Ramey, President of the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club to present the donation request. Mrs. Ramey said the event would be held at Thunder River Campground this year. Mayor Yates asked how many years the event has taken place. Mrs. Ramey answered this would be the twelfth year. Mayor Yates asked how many years the event had been independent from The Breaks Interstate Park. Mrs. Ramey answered five, but they still coordinate on the time schedule. This year the egg hunt will take place on March 30. Mrs. Ramey said their request is for an amount between five-hundred and one-thousand dollars. The Lions Club feeds all the kids, fills five-thousand eggs and purchases prizes. Mrs. Ramey stated that they have asked all area businesses for help to serve four-hundred kids, although they have had up to eight-hundred in the past. Mrs. Ramey mentioned how the cost of everything has increased and that Easter is an important holiday.

Mayor Yates offered to assist with social media marketing. Mrs. Ramey replied that she had already spoken with Clerk Amanda Perrigan about getting some assistance. Mrs. Ramey thanked the Haysi Town Council for their help and five-hundred-dollar donation every year. Mayor Yates advised that the remaining balance in the donation line item was one-thousand two-hundred seventy-three dollars and twenty-three cents. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to donate six-hundred fifty dollars to the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club for the 2024 Community Easter Egg Hunt. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed by verbal voting with Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, and Michael Harris voting aye and Tim Wallace voting nay.

Meals Tax Inquiry – Grant Belcher

Mayor Yates welcomed Grant Belcher to present his request to the council. Mr. Grant Belcher apologized for paying his meals tax late and said that he would like the opportunity to pay his tax online and after speaking with Police Chief Bobby Edwards earlier realized that the town was in the process of trying to make that happen. Mr. Belcher said that the state allows him to pay his taxes quarterly now and he would like the town to consider meals taxes under a certain threshold be paid quarterly as well. Mayor Yates advised that the town’s current ordinance would have to be amended to allow for his request if Virginia Code permitted it. Mayor Yates asked Attorney Josh Evans to research the matter and advise the council. Mayor Yates also advised that the town was reviewing vendor options for credit card payments.

USDA Resolution

Mayor Yates advised that the town was thinking about purchasing a new vehicle and has currently been test driving an electric truck from Virginia Clean Cities. Mayor Yates stated that the Haysi Town Council would need to approve the United States Department of Agriculture Resolution as a start for the funding process and read the following:

RESOLUTION OF GOVERNING BODY OF

The Town of Haysi

The Governing Body of the Town of Haysi, consisting of six members, in a duly called meeting held on the 6th day of February, 2024, at which a quorum was present RESOLVED as follows:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that in order to facilitate obtaining financial assistance from the United States of America, United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (the Government) in the development of a modern fleet of vehicles to serve the community, the Governing Body does hereby adopt and abide by all covenants contained in the agreements, documents, and forms required by the Government to be executed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the Town of Haysi be authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of Haysi the above-referenced agreements, documents, and forms and to execute such other documents including, but not limited to, debt instruments, security instruments, and/or grant agreements as may be required in obtaining the said financial assistance.

This Resolution is hereby entered into the permanent minutes of the meetings of this Board.

Mayor Yates said that he hoped no debt would be incurred. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the USDA Resolution as presented. 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 (See Attachment)

Chief Bobby Edwards read the hours, number of calls, and miles off the report. Chief Edwards advised that there are now warrants pending for a lot of the break-ins back to a year prior. Chief Edwards said the last three pages of the report this time are statistics for the state. He reported that the flock camera is scheduled to be installed tomorrow. Council Member Carter Branham asked where it was being installed. Chief Edwards answered at the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department and it should “go live” tomorrow as well. The pole was already installed there. The town has submitted a grant to Virginia Outdoors Foundation for twenty-five thousand dollars for handicap access to the river and a recreational area on the Splashdam property. The town received a grant for an electric vehicle charger and two-thousand dollars for installation which will be done by Inland Construction as they are working on the current construction project.

Mayor Yates welcomed Dickenson County Sheriff’s Officer Scottie Owens to speak. Officer Owens said he appreciated the Haysi Police Department and Maintenance Department assistance and everything they do to help the Dickenson County Sheriff’s Office. Officer Owens said the Sheriff’s Office tries to take care of things in town at night and has a great working relationship with the town.

Fire Department Monthly Report

Police Chief Bobby Edwards said that the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department had one fall, five sick person calls, three motor vehicle accidents, one road hazard, one brush fire, and one fire alarm for the month of January. Police Chief Edwards said the department was having trouble with their jaws of life and priced out a new set for thirty-six thousand

dollars, which they were getting a demonstration of soon. The department was afraid working an alternative method of operation would void the warranty.

Haysi Rescue Squad Monthly Report

Captain Terry Bartley thanked the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department and the Haysi Police Department for their help during the snow storm and the Haysi Town Council for their help with the utility bills last month. Captain Bartley reported that he took the advice last month and purchased space heaters for each ambulance and had also worked to try to seal the building in an effort to lower heating costs. Captain Bartley stated that the Rescue Squad has made one payroll with the revenue from the new billing company. Captain Bartley reported forty-nine calls in January. The squad is still working to get the new truck ready. He reported that the cot was fixed at no charge. Captain Bartley presented two electric bills to the Haysi Town Council, which he said had already paid. He informed the council that he had asked for help from the county carpenters because he didn't expect the Corp of Engineers to assist them, but the squad ended up starting to fix things themselves. Captain Bartley stated that the last payroll ran between \$3,200-\$3,300 and they had received \$3,500 from the billing company, which gave them a "little left over." Captain Bartley also reported they had another EMT, Sophie Michaels, and had completed five transfers since the first of the year. Mayor Yates advised that the balance remaining in the donation line item after the earlier motion was now six-hundred twenty-three dollars and twenty-three cents. Council Member Billy Counts asked what the beginning balance was in the donation line item. Clerk Amanda Perrigan answered two-thousand five-hundred dollars. Motion was made by Council Member Tim Wallace to donate six hundred dollars toward the utility bills of the Haysi Rescue Squad. The motion on the floor died without being seconded.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following meetings last month:

- The Riverwalk Project is developing on time and scheduled to finish in June. The wall and shelter are complete, work is currently being done on the sidewalk and slab that goes on top of the wall.
- Monthly meetings continue for both the Riverwalk Project and the Russell Fork Trail Center.
- A contractor is working at the Russell Fork Trail Center. The Pre-Bid Conference was held two weeks ago, with seven or eight contractors attending. The Bid Opening was moved from February 13th to the 16th.
- Clerk Amanda Perrigan completed grant compliance on the Riverfront Project and did a good job.
- Clerk Amanda Perrigan also completed Virginia Tourism Corporation Training.
- Mayor Yates reported that he went to Richmond last week and met with Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, Appalachian Regional Commission, Virginia Tourism Corporation, United States Department of

Agriculture, Senator Todd Pillion, Delegate Will Moorefield, Delegate Terry Kilgore, and Delegate Israel O'Quinn.

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 Billy Counts 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.

Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

Clerk