

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
April 7, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

On April 7, 2026, the regular meeting of the Haysi Town Council was held in the Council Chambers of the Haysi Town Hall Municipal Building located at 162 Backbone Ridge, Haysi, Virginia.

The following members were present:

PRESENT: Mayor Larry D. Yates  
Vice Mayor Michael Harris

Council Members:  
Carter Branham  
Debbie Wood  
Tim Wallace  
William “Billy” Counts  
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 Reverend Darrell Thacker and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

At this time Mayor Yates called for any additions, changes, or corrections to the agenda. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Michael Harris to approve the agenda as presented. 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 Lilly Thacker of 142 Take Me Home Road. Mrs. Thacker stated she recently opened Haysi Consignment and Thrift Store in town. Mrs. Thacker said she named her business after the town because she loves her town. Mrs. Thacker explained her idea to have a week in July celebrated by the town as "Christmas In July." Mrs. Thacker advised that half of the donations received would be given to the Dickenson County Fair. She asked for the town's support, which would include some decorating such as the Town Gazebo. Mrs. Thacker will be responsible for engaging the other businesses' participation. Mayor Yates asked for the dates she wanted to hold the event. Mrs. Thacker answered that it would be the middle of July, but she had to check with other schedules prior to confirming dates. She said that businesses would offer specials and discounts for the public and the donations would benefit Kids Day at the Dickenson County Fair. Mayor Yates commented that it was a good way to promote the town. Mrs. Thacker replied that she was willing to do the work, she just wanted the town to be involved. Council Member Debbie Wood commented that it sounded fun. Clerk Amanda Perrigan said that the town could share Mrs. Thacker's social media posts. Council had no objections to offering the town's support to Mrs. Thacker for her event.

The second person signed up for Public Comment was Logan Deel of 244 Crooked Branch. Mr. Deel introduced himself to give a report for Haysi Rescue Squad. Mr. Deel said the

rescue squad has answered fifty-two calls since the last meeting. Mr. said they have a new personnel policy that allows for transfer to Pikeville and they transferred two last month. Mr. Deel informed everyone that their Medical Doctor will be onsite Thursday to allow for the use of new medicines. Mayor Yates asked who was their doctor. Mr. Deel answered Thomas Pennington from Norton. Mr. Deel said that Dr. Pennington had been the best doctor so far as assistance and training. Mr. Deel advised that they have submitted a grant application to CSX for new computers. Mr. Deel thanked the town for the donation of the cabinetry, refrigerator, and two stoves from the former Town Hall. Mr. Deel also advised that they recently demoed a stretcher for the new ambulance, but have not made a final decision on the purchase. Mr. Deel explained that the county had donated a Trailblazer to them about four years ago, which helped them greatly and they used it a lot, but it has since been out of service. Mr. Deel asked that the Council consider donating the SUV from town surplus to the Rescue Squad. Mr. Deel added that they contacted Dickenson County, but no surplus vehicles were available from them at this time. Mr. Deel stated they had switched their internet and phone service to Point Broadband for cost saving reasons. Mr. Deel again thanked the Haysi Town Council for the assistance and invited them to stop by the Haysi Rescue Squad anytime.

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

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

- March 10, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Vice Mayor Michael Harris to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

#### **ITEM # VII - NEW BUSINESS**

##### Donation Request from Haysi Community Library

Mayor Yates asked for a representative to present the request. Alexandria Perrigan introduced herself as the Children’s Programmer for both Haysi Community Library and the Clintwood Library. Ms. Perrigan explained that the Haysi Community Library was requesting a donation for the 2026 Summer Reading Program. Ms. Perrigan said the program runs for six weeks during the months of June and July. She said the program provides small prizes for everyone as well as a few large prizes for those that read the most. Ms. Perrigan thanked the Haysi Town Council for their gracious donations in the past. She said the program served around two hundred people last year; both children and parents are included in that number. Ms. Perrigan added that they try to increase numbers of participation each year. She said the theme for this year is “Unearth A Story” and the program is free of charge. Mayor Yates thanked Ms. Perrigan and said he is very familiar with the program. Council Member Billy Counts asked for the ages included. Ms. Perrigan answered birth through age seventeen, so any child is able to participate. Council Member Carter Branham commented on the popularity of the program in the community. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham and seconded by Council Member Billy

Counts to donate four-hundred-fifty-dollars to the Haysi Community Library. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed by verbal voting with Council Member Susan Tiller abstaining from the vote. Ms. Perrigan thanked the Haysi Town Council for their donation.

#### Disposal of Surplus Property

Mayor Yates said the 2010 Ford Explorer wasn't anticipated to be placed back into active service for the town. Mayor Yates said the vehicle runs, but has a lot of rust issues. Mayor Yates estimated the mileage around 140,000, but definitely less than 200,000 with no known mechanical issues. Mayor Yates continued that the town has a large diesel generator that was received from the military, which the town tried to use to power vendors during events. Mayor Yates explained that the generator was not well suited for that purpose and he didn't see the need for it. Attorney Josh Evans advised the Council would need to vote to declare surplus property and then donate or take sealed bids. Attorney Evans said it was not expedient to take sealed bids. Mayor Yates suggested donating the vehicle to Haysi Rescue Squad, since the town has donated vehicles in the past to The Breaks Interstate Park and Haysi Kiwanis. Council Member Billy Counts asked Mr. Logan Deel if the Haysi Rescue Squad had room in their bay. Mr. Deel answered yes. Council Member Debbie Wood asked Mr. Deel if they were interested in the generator as well. Mr. Deel answered they did not have a need for it. Council Member Wood asked Mr. Deel if the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department would be interested in the generator. Mr. Deel answered they did not have a need for it either. Council Member Carter Branham asked if the generator was on its own trailer. Police Chief James Stanley answered yes. Council Member Branham suggested using it on a vacant lot in town and advised he would be willing to maintain it. Council Member Branham recommended the Council take time to consider the generator as knew places the town could store it. Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to declare the 2010 Ford Explorer as surplus property. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to donate the 2010 Ford Explorer, declared as surplus property to Haysi Rescue Squad. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

#### Amanda Perrigan's Job Duties

Mayor Yates said that with the very eminent completion of Haysi's Russell Fork Trail Center, Clerk Amanda Perrigan is very interested in the role of managing the facility. Mayor Yates advised that she has already been talking to various organizations and individuals about programing. Mayor Yates stated she has a great outlook on how to use the building to promote the redevelopment of the downtown area and facilitate economic growth. Mayor Yates also advised that she is not looking for an increase in compensation. Clerk Amanda Perrigan stated that she would still perform her job duties as Clerk, this would be in addition to that position. Clerk Perrigan explained that the title of Clerk is more relevant to work at the Town Hall and she was looking for a title that would be relevant to the work at the Trail Center. Mayor Yates asked Clerk Perrigan for an example of title she

would prefer. Clerk Perrigan mentioned possibly Facility Coordinator, since one of the goals of the Appalachian Regional Commission Grant is to create three jobs and those positions would need oversight. Clerk Perrigan explained that in addition to her excitement about the project, she had professional and education experience for the role. Council Member Carter Branham said he thought it was “awesome.” Council Member Debbie Wood said it was excellent and pointed out that Clerk Perrigan worked to secure twenty-five-thousand-dollars in grant funds for furniture and fixtures, which shows her initiative. Council Member Wood expressed the need for a title with leadership and suggested proceeding with that. Mayor Yates stated that Clerk Perrigan’s support for Haysi’s Russell Fork Trail Center has been unwavering over the years and saw the benefits of it from the beginning. Clerk Perrigan advised that she had also applied for one-hundred-thousand-dollar grant from Congressional Directed Spending. Mayor Yates informed that everyone that the Congressional Directed Spending was the former United States Department of Agriculture’s Community Facilities Grant. Council Member Wood added that Clerk Perrigan knew the process of what the project had undergone and has a vision for its future, so they needed to advocate for her to continue. A general discussion was held about title options. Mayor Yates asked about developing the job description for a Facilities Coordinator position. Attorney Josh Evans said it would be a good idea that a job description be brought before the Council. Council Member Wood asked when it would need to be done. Clerk Perrigan answered ideally prior to the opening of the Trail Center, which doesn’t have a date at present. Council Member Branham asked when the building would be completed. Clerk Perrigan answered that they had been told the construction would be done at the end of the month, but there was more to be done for the building to be operational. Council Member Wood clarified that the title needed to be resolved by the end of the month. Clerk Perrigan replied that next month’s meeting would be sufficient. Clerk Perrigan asked Attorney Evans if the title needed to wait until the job description was prepared. Attorney Evans answered it was up to the Council. Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to construct a job description for Amanda Perrigan to be the Facilities Coordinator for Haysi’s Russell Fork Trail Center in addition to keeping her Town Clerk Position. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

#### **ITEM # VIII – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### Police Department Monthly Report (see attachment)

Chief James R. Stanley advised that the Soma reporting system has been “down” for the county, so he did not have the report. Chief Stanley said that he still has several items left at the former Town Hall such as the surveillance system, which would be moved to the Trail Center and the camera that would be installed around Superior Fabrication. Chief Stanley said that some of his calls involved a few traffic stops, a break-in that turned out to be the child in the home, and speeders at Splashdam. Chief Stanley informed everyone that the police department had assisted Haysi Rescue Squad with some work and he thanked them for allowing the community service workers to help with that as well.

Clerk Amanda Perrigan asked about adding Haysi Rescue Squad's report to the monthly agenda. Mr. Logan Deel said they would give a report each month unless they were unable to attend due to a call.

## **ITEM # VII – TOWN ACCOUNTING**

### Approval of the Financial Report

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

- March 1, 2026 through March 31, 2026 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- February 27, 2026 through March 31, 2026 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 17967-18003 & deposits
- February 27, 2026 through March 31, 2026 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review
- Paid Invoice File for the month of March 2026

### Town Attorney Fees

Council Member Susan Tiller questioned about charges on Attorney Josh Evans invoice relating to whether information for an individual should be available for everyone's knowledge. Attorney Evans answered that since the Council is elected individually, he doesn't answer collectively. Attorney Evans added that he had never billed over the monthly amount paid for retainer. Council Member Tiller expressed her concern for costing the town extra money for redundant answers. Council Member Debbie Wood suggested that the Council Member share the information for the rest of the Council. Caution was expressed over creating a meeting unintentionally. Attorney Evans advised that elected officials could be as active or inactive as they wanted to be. A general discussion was held about how legal information for the town is handled. Attorney Evans and Mayor Yates volunteered to research cost effective solutions.

### Mayor Mileage Reimbursement

Council Member Debbie Wood asked about odometer readings on the fuel bill. Clerk Amanda Perrigan said actual readings were not used. Mayor Yates stated the reason as different vehicles were used on the same card and odometer breakdowns, but the amount of the purchase could be referenced against the days the vehicle was used. Mayor Yates also stated the cold weather could be a factor. Council Member Wood said she believes that the correct odometer reading should be entered. Council Member Susan Tiller said she didn't know why the odometer reading would be incorrect, especially cop cars. Mayor Yates replied that cop cars are the "worst" for instrument cluster problems, citing that several have been repaired. Council Member Wood asked if it was something that needed repair. Mayor Yates answered that the town "tried to keep a handle on it," but none need repair at this time. Council Member Wood asked Chief James Stanley if he had any issues regarding the odometers. Chief Stanley answered that he had not. Council Member Wood said that moving forward the correct odometer reading should be entered the time of

purchase, as it is a good record keeping practice for a reason. Council Member Tim Wallace asked Council Member Wood if she was looking at the fuel purchased on March 21. Council Member Wood answered yes. Council Member Wallace asked if the town vehicle was parked, then it must have been a vehicle that isn't owned by the town. Council Member Wood asked how that could be determined. Council Member Wallace stated the person whose fuel card was used was not allowed to use the town vehicles, so it would have to be a personal vehicle. Mayor Yates asked if he was expected to neglect emergency calls that he receives. Council Member Wallace asked for the nature of the emergency. Mayor Yates answered it could be a variety of issues and gave several examples of calls he received in the past. Council Member Wallace replied that he expected emergency calls to be directed to 911. Mayor Yates named off times he used his personal vehicle from a list he offered for examination and stated he would not use it for free. Council Member Wallace said he was just making everyone aware. Mayor Yates stated again he was not using his personal vehicle for free and he continues to get calls from citizens for various reasons and gave some more examples. Council Member Wood said she didn't think anyone expected you to use your personal vehicle for free; without mileage reimbursement. Mayor Yates asked how they expected him to get to his house after last month's meeting. Council Member Wood suggested implementing a mileage reimbursement sheet that could be used every month or semimonthly. A heated discussion was held about vehicle use, mileage reimbursement, and job compensation. Mayor Yates said actions taken last month have delayed vital projects in town by weeks and months. Council Member Tiller asked for more clarification on that statement. Mayor Yates answered that change orders need approval and he couldn't approve it due to non-essential spending motion last month. Council Member Tiller asked if he knew about the change order last month. Mayor Yates answered that he couldn't remember the exact date he was told about the change order without referencing his records. Mayor Yates said he may have known, but wasn't asked if anything was pending. Mayor Yates stated that the Council "unilaterally shut the town business down." Council Member Wood said she respectfully disagreed with that statement. Council Member Wood stated that the matter could have been brought to their attention through phone or email, but they weren't contacted. Mayor Yates asked if they would have attended a special meeting. Council Member Tiller and Wood both said they would have. Council Member Tiller said she thought it was understood if something came up, they would be contacted to reconvene because the previous meeting was extending late in the night. Mayor Yates called for the discussion to get back on topic. Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to enter accurate odometer readings at the time of fuel purchases. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting. Council Member Wood suggested a mileage reimbursement for Mayor, Council Members, or employees. Clerk Amanda Perrigan stated that the employees have an existing mileage reimbursement form. A general discussion was held about the mileage reimbursement form and approval. Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace for any mileage reimbursement to be reimbursed at the federal rate, submitted on a mileage reimbursement form and approved by the Vice Mayor. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Michael Harris and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the financial report as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed by verbal voting with Vice

Mayor Michael Harris and Council Members Billy Counts, Susan Tiller, Carter Branham, and Debbie Wood voting aye and Council Member Tim Wallace voting nay.

#### Approval of the Purchase Requests

Mayor Yates invited Clerk Amanda Perrigan to present the purchase requests. Prior to the meeting council had received for consideration of approval a copy of the April Purchase Requests. Clerk Perrigan explained the list contained items that were non-essential that needed approval for purchase. Clerk Perrigan stated that Laser Labs had quoted one-hundred-seventy-five dollars for the address sign listed. Clerk Perrigan drew attention to the item listed under “Grants” for Haysi’s Russell Fork Trail Center. Clerk Perrigan advised that the twenty-five-thousand dollars had to be spent according to grant specifications and requirements and was concerned about the price increasing on items already sourced during the application process. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the purchase of the entire April Purchase Requests list as presented. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the portable toilet. Mayor Yates explained the reason for the request as it would be used by the court appointed community service workers since the garage did not have a restroom facility. Council Member Tiller questioned the use of the public building. Mr. Adam Barton said there were times that the building was locked if no employees were available. A general discussion was held about securing restroom availability for the community service workers. Council Member Tiller asked if the office cleaning was for the Mayor’s office only or the entire building. Mayor Yates said that he wouldn’t have his office cleaned without including the entire building. Clerk Perrigan apologized for the confusion, as it was listed under the person or department it who made the request. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

#### **ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates asked for an update from Attorney Josh Evans on the Stone Mountain Deed. Attorney Evans advised it was ready for execution as he had emailed it to him and the Clerk on March 11. Mayor Yates advised he had executed two letters of support for the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority on behalf of the town for signage and new emergency service vehicles. Mayor Yates said that progress was being made toward completing the audit. The town will hold the annual Town Wide Clean Up on April 22. Mayor Yates read a portion of a communication dispelling the rumor surrounding the potential closure of the Dickenson County Medical Center citing its critical risk status. Mayor Yates informed everyone that the Personnel Policy Committee met Monday. Mayor Yates reminded the Council that the Ribbon Cutting for Haysi’s Municipal Building will be April 9 and the Ridgeview Choir will perform the National Anthem. Mayor Yates commented about making social media posts and announcements, as he explained the Corp of Engineers didn’t want the ribbon cutting to be an event for everyone. Council Member Billy Counts said that he had received a lot of questions. Mayor Yates emphasized any contact from the press be directed to himself or the Clerk. Mayor Yates stated that a corresponding policy may be needed.

#### **ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Debbie Wood asked Mr. Adam Barton why he takes a town vehicle home. Mr. Barton answered that he takes calls for Chief James Stanley and helps the county. Council Member Wood asked if he was dispatched from home. Mr. Barton answered that he had been in the past. Chief Stanley said that he clears road hazards as an example. Council Member Wood questioned if Mr. Barton had to pick up supplies from the town hall for those calls. Chief Stanley answered sometimes. Council Member Wood clarified that the equipment needed was not in the vehicle. Council Member Wood said it was a matter that they may need to take a closer look at going forward since fuel prices had increased so much and to be a good steward of the town's money.

Clerk Amanda Perrigan asked about the spending freeze. Council Member Wood replied that since the Council hasn't developed any changes to put in place to deviate from what was put into place, it may extend for the next ninety days. Mayor Yates questioned allowing delays to the economic development projects for ninety days. Council Member Wood replied that isn't what the Council is doing since they can be approached with a presentation of request when needed. Clerk Perrigan asked Attorney Josh Evans if there was a question about whether an item was essential could the Council be polled. Attorney Evans answered no, a special called meeting would have to be arranged. Council Member Tiller asked about recessing the meeting. Attorney Evans answered that either option, either recess or a special called meeting was acceptable. Council Member Wood asked how a special called meeting would be arranged. Mayor Yates answered he would handle the arrangements and public notices. Attorney Evans said the Mayor or Council Members could call for a special called meeting. Attorney Evans stated that a change was not made to the spending freeze. Council Member Wood clarified that it would remain until it was changed. Attorney Evans answered that was correct. Council Member Tiller questioned that deterring the work on the Trail Center. Clerk Perrigan asked if the change order was considered essential. Attorney Evans to protect the hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money that would be considered essential spending. Attorney Evans said a special called meeting wouldn't be needed for that. Council Member Tiller and Wood echoed that it was considered essential spending. Council Member Tiller pointed out that the Mayor said he couldn't move forward with it. Mayor Yates said that there were times he couldn't move forward without having discretion. Mayor Yates continued that he was given discretion to sign all documents and oversee construction, but that was removed. Council Member Tiller disagreed. Mayor Yates said his hands were "tied" on spending. Council Member Wood stated the hands were "tied" on non-essential spending. Mayor Yates stated he wasn't "going to put his neck on the line for a definition." Council Member Wood said it would have to be addressed at the next meeting. Attorney Evans said to make sure it was on the agenda because it wasn't on the agenda tonight. Clerk Perrigan said she hasn't received the change order. Attorney Evans said he was referring to the spending freeze. Mayor Yates said he told the contractor not to be in a hurry preparing the change order because he couldn't approve it. Attorney Evans said the Council could informally say that it was essential spending. Council Member Wood said they would all be in agreeance with that. Attorney Evans' legal recommendation was that the recording be reviewed and the item placed on next month's agenda.

## **ITEM # XII – ADJOURN**

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