

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
March 10, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

On March 10, 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

ABSENT: Susan Tiller

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.

COUNCIL MEMBER SUSAN TILLER ENTERED THE MEETING.

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 Council Member Debbie Wood 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 Donald Owens of 948 Victorian Drive, Clinchco, Virginia. Mr. Owens expressed concern of a public nuisance in Splashdam, as a scrap yard/junk yard was being developed. Mr. Owens said that he was a business owner of tiny homes in Colorado. Mayor Yates suggested he bring his business to Virginia. Mr. Owens replied that he decided to stay in his hometown for his mother. Mr. Owens said he wanted to file a complaint about oil leaks on the Splashdam property in question, which is an environmental issue that he intends to contact the Environmental Protection Agency about, since it has potential to contaminate the river ecosystem. Mr. Owens advised that he was willing to lease vacant property, but needed the contact information for permits. Mayor Yates explained that once the Army Corp of Engineers Section 202 has been completed that the property will belong to Dickenson County. Mayor Yates said that he would provide Mr. Owens with Building Inspector Chris Rakes contact information to comply with the Flood Plain Ordinance. Mayor Yates advised that Mr. Rakes is also the town's Flood Plain Manager. Mayor Yates suggested that Mr. Owens register his concerns with the Department of Environmental Quality as well. Council Member Debbie Wood asked for the specific location. Mr. Dale Boyd answered it was located beside the property his wife had inherited at 937 Splashdam Road. Mr. Owens stated that he didn't think the operation was legal and asked if the owner had been to a Haysi Town Council Meeting. Mr. Owens said the property was a mess and eye sore for the community and visitors. Mr. Owens concluded that he thought not obtaining permission for the development from the town was disrespectful.

The second person signed up for Public Comment was Michelle Boyd of 937 Splashdam Road, Haysi, Virginia. They mistook the public comment sign in sheet as a register of attendees. Mr. Dale Boyd said they were concerned neighbors that reside in Roanoke who were misidentified as being responsible for the activity Mr. Owens discussed in Splashdam.

The third person signed up for Public Comment was Logan Deel of 244 Crooked Branch. Mr. Deel introduced himself as a member of Haysi Rescue Squad that wanted to give an update and congratulate the town on the new building. Mr. Deel said the rescue squad has answered one-hundred-eleven calls this year. Mr. Deel advised that they finished a grant application yesterday for a new ambulance. Mr. Deel said they requested the thirty percent match on the grant from Dickenson County. Mr. Deel explained that the county would have three years for preparation. Mr. Deel said they have a 2022 ambulance and two older ones in service right now. Mayor Yates gave appreciation for their work in the community. Mr. Deel said they are working with limited staff and trying new ways to recruit members. Council Member Debbie Wood extended her thanks to the Haysi Rescue Squad.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- February 3, 2026 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood and seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to approve the minutes of the February 3, 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-Clinchco Lions Club

Mayor Yates asked for a representative to present the request. Brenda Ramey introduced herself as President and the Treasurer, Melissa Charles. Mrs. Ramey explained that the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club was requesting a donation for the 2026 Community Easter Egg Hunt at Thunder River Campground. Mrs. Ramey mentioned the short time frame and advised they were stuffing the eggs tomorrow. Mrs. Ramey said they try hard to provide a good egg hunt for the children and they have been working hard to secure donations. Mrs. Ramey said the donations fund food, the egg hunt, and prizes. Mrs. Ramey stated their request was for seven-hundred-fifty-dollars and the event served between two and three hundred children. Council Member Billy Counts asked if the date was the Saturday prior to Easter. Mrs. Ramey answered yes, they try to arrange it so it's not the same day as Clintwood. It is the same day as the one at The Breaks Interstate Park. Mrs. Ramey also advised that a business had offered them a deal on bicycles. A general discussion was held about the amount in the donation budget line item available and how to meet the current meeting requests and potential requests remaining in the fiscal year. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts to donate six-hundred-dollars to the Haysi Clinchco Lions Club and amended to include six-hundred-dollars to Kids Fishing Day. The amended

motion was seconded by Council Member Carter Branham. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Donation Request from Dickenson County Kids Fishing Day

Kids Fishing Day is scheduled for May 9, 2026.

Veteran's Memorial Walk of Honor

Mayor Yates explained that the Veteran's Memorial Walk of Honor was built on property owned by the town by a group of veterans who planned, funded, and maintained the memorial. Mayor Yates advised that only one member of that group was still living and Sunny Barton led the effort. Mayor Yates gave the background story and stated that Mr. Barton wanted the town to take over the maintenance and finances after his passing. Mayor Yates said he didn't think it would be burdensome on the town and very few requests are made for additions. Clerk Amanda Perrigan stated that it would be best to have a separate bank account for the Veteran's Memorial. Clerk Perrigan said that the town already took care of several aspects involving the memorial, such as labeling, flags, and wreath placement. Council Member Billy Counts asked about the cost for new additions. Clerk Perrigan answered that she was not sure, the last amount given to her was eighty-dollars, but that hadn't been updated and the source information hadn't been obtained. Mayor Yates passed around a document (see attachment) from when the project started. Attorney Josh Evans asked if the council wanted to take over management. Attorney Evans advised it since the memorial was on town property. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham and seconded by Council Member Debbie Wood to manage the Veteran's Memorial Walk of Honor. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Discussion to Update Personnel Policy and Committee Formation

Mayor Yates advised that the personnel policy needed to be updated and although it could be time consuming, it would be as expedient as possible. Mayor Yates noted that new items also need to be included. Mayor Yates requested a few Council Members join him, Clerk Amanda Perrigan, and Chief James R. Stanley to update it with a goal of July 1, 2026. Council Member Billy Counts and Council Member Tim Wallace volunteered to serve on the Personnel Policy Committee.

ITEM # VIII – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Debbie Wood to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A1 for Personnel and Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A8 for Legal Counsel. 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 Council Member Carter Branham the Council was now convened in Open Session. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace that 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	Tim Wallace	Yes
Susan Tiller	Yes	Debbie Wood	Yes
Carter Branham	Yes	Billy Counts	Yes

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to amend the agenda to include Matters Discussed in Closed Session prior to Old Business. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Matters Discussed in Closed Session

Council Member Debbie Wood said the Council wanted to discuss items related to procurement, freezing all non-essential spending, credit card purchasing, and local merchant purchasing for a set amount of time in order to form a motion. Council Member Wood asked Clerk Amanda Perrigan about the utility bills. Clerk Perrigan answered that all invoices received by the town that are due were included in tonight's financial report. Council Member Wood said Council would need to review the financial report in order to determine more details, but basically all non-essential spending is to be frozen until the next Haysi Town Council Meeting. Attorney Josh Evans suggested wording a motion to suspend all non-essential town spending to encompass what they wanted based on the instructions given to the Town Clerk. Council Member Susan Tiller added that would encompass everything other than utilities and fuel. Council Member Wood asked Clerk Perrigan if she used a fuel card for the town. Clerk Perrigan answered that she did not. Council Member Wood asked if Clerk Perrigan had a credit card for the town. Clerk Perrigan answered that she did. Council Member Wood informed Clerk Perrigan that Mayor Yates had voluntarily submitted his credit card to her temporarily. Council Member Wood said that the motion would be made after review of the financial report. Council Member Susan Tiller questioned that all credit card purchases would be suspended except for fuel. Clerk Perrigan stated that the town used Wright Express cards for most fuel purchases.

Council Member Debbie Wood opened discussion for items related to transportation, town vehicles, and town vehicle use in order to form a motion. Council Member Tim Wallace suggested a motion to prohibit the Mayor from using a town vehicle unless each trip is voted and approved by Council. Council Member Wood asked how it would be managed. Council Member Wallace said that trips would need a month's advance notice. Mayor Yates said that previous motions would need to be rescinded. Council Member Wood replied that it would take some research. A general discussion was held about past motions,

minutes, and meeting discussions relating to vehicle use. Attorney Josh Evans advised that amendments to vehicle use could be made. Mayor Yates said that a blanket motion was made in the past for him to use a town vehicle for town business. Council Member Wood asked about making a motion to amend any previous motions made by the town regarding transportation, to temporarily pause the use of the town vehicle until the next meeting. Council Member Wood stated that she understood it could make things problematic for the remainder of the month, but they needed time to do research for the Council's satisfaction and these changes don't have to be permanent.

Council Member Wood asked if there were any other matters coming out of closed session that needed to be discussed. Council Member Wallace said to have Vice Mayor Michael Harris co-sign any checks that Mayor Yates and Clerk Amanda Perrigan needed to pay themselves to include payroll. Council Member Wood said that no one is allowed to sign their own checks. A general discussion was had about authorized signatories on the town accounts.

Council Member Wood said that the Council needed to conduct research to determine how business would proceed in the future. Council Member Wood asked were there any non-essential pressing needs. A general discussion was held about a few items discussed for purchase and classification of essential and non-essential.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

Stone Mountain/St. Charles Health Care Property

Mayor Yates stated the Stone Mountain Clinic Property belongs to the town currently and it was built with Appalachian Regional Commission grant funds. Mayor Yates continued that it was written into the agreement that if Stone Mountain operated the property as a clinic for twenty years that the town would then deed the property to them. Mayor Yates said that he and Attorney Josh Evans had been working with them and their attorney. Attorney Evans advised that the deed is basically ready. Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to have Mayor Larry D. Yates and Attorney Josh Evans proceed with the transfer of the property to Stone Mountain Clinic. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report (see attachment)

Chief James R. Stanley reported eight calls and gave his hours worked and miles driven.

ITEM # VII – FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- February 1, 2026 through February 27, 2026 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- January 30, 2026 through February 26, 2026 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 17942-17966 & deposits
- January 30, 2026 through February 26, 2026 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review
- Paid Invoice File for the month of February 2026

Clerk Amanda Perrigan stated that the itemized listing of expenditures included the split detail for each check. Council Member Susan Tiller asked who had Bobby Edwards' phone. Clerk Perrigan answered that Chief James R. Stanley had it and because the town no longer has a Verizon Wireless account representative assigned specifically to the town, it hasn't been changed. Mayor Yates advised that some Verizon account changes were difficult to make anymore. Clerk Perrigan advised the Mosca invoice was for replacement pieces damaged on the town's Christmas Tree and had been covered and paid by an insurance claim. Council Member Tiller asked if the damage was due to the wind storm. Clerk Perrigan answered yes. Council Member Tim Wallace asked what the town purchased at Food City for four-hundred-thirty-seven dollars. Mayor Yates answered that it was his mistaken charge and had been paid back in full. Council Member Wallace asked if his charges were the ones highlighted in yellow. Mayor Yates answered yes. Council Member Wallace questioned two fuel charges on January 21, 2026; one for nine gallon and one for twenty. Mayor Yates said it could have been two vehicles, but he didn't have the answer right away. Clerk Amanda Perrigan asked whose fuel card was used because Adam Barton took a few vehicles on the same day to be filled with fuel in preparation for the forecasted snow accumulation. Clerk Perrigan advised that Mr. Barton's card shows as unassigned on the invoice.

Council Member Debbie Wood asked if Council saw anything within the financial report that should not be "sent out at this time." Council Member Wood stated she didn't want a late fee on the credit card if it could be prevented. Mayor Yates stated that he wanted to reassure everyone that his charges on the credit card are paid in full. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts 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.

Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to freeze all non-essential spending including the credit cards and any local purchases, which will be revisited at the next Haysi Town Council Meeting. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to prohibit anyone from signing their owns checks regardless of payroll or reimbursement from the General Fund Checking Account.

Motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to amend any previous motions regarding transportation to remove the Mayor from utilizing any of the town vehicles, which will be revisited at the next Haysi Town Council Meeting.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported attending the following meetings:

- Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority on February 2nd.
- Haysi Town Council on February 3rd.
- Flood Friday Zoom Call on February 6th.
- Haysi's Russell Fork Trail Center Management Team on February 10th.
- Closing for the new Haysi Municipal Building on February 12th.
- Electoral Board on February 18th.
- Moved to the new Haysi Town Hall on February 25th.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Debbie Wood said it was a difficult meeting and she doesn't like being in this position at this time. Council Member Wood said speaking for the Council, that difficult decisions and difficult choices have to be made in faith of the people that elected them to do things right. Going forward, they have to do things right, good, and transparent for the constituents or anybody who would ever look at the town's recordkeeping, minutes, or financials. Council Member Wood said she didn't ever want them to be in a bad light, so this as hard as it was to face and work on, was necessary.

Council Member Carter Branham echoed Council Member Wood's comments; that it was a tough meeting and said there was "no I in teamwork;" we all got to work together from the attorney to the clerk, maintenance, and police department.

Council Member Susan Tiller agreed with the other Council Members comments and stated it was a hard night.

Council Member Billy Counts said it was for the future and paving the way for future generations. Council Member Counts continued that it came up all of a sudden and they had to start somewhere; they're not perfect.

Council Member Tim Wallace stated it was to keep the trust of the public because they can't lose that.

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 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