

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
August 5, 2025 @ 7:00 p.m.

On August 5, 2025, 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:
Carter Branham
William “Billy” Counts
Tim Wallace
Debbie Wood

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 Police Chief James Stanley 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 Council Member Carter Branham 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:

- July 1, 2025 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2025 meeting minutes 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:

- July 1, 2025 through July 31, 2025 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- June 27, 2025 through July 31, 2025 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 17688-17743 & deposits
- June 27, 2025 through July 31, 2025 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

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

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of Black Lung Resolution

Mayor Yates explained that the town had been contacted by Appalachian Citizens' Law Center to consider a Black Lung Resolution that was emailed to them earlier in the month. Mayor Yates asked if they had time to review it and wanted to approve it. Council Member Carter Branham responded that it looked fine with him. Attorney Josh Evans stated that the resolution was mainly symbolic, but the support would be appealing to the citizens since the topic is of concern to many. Mayor Yates added that lots of people are trying to get black lung benefits. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Town of Haysi is a community in Virginia, a region with many rich assets, including our land, water, heritage, and people who have mined coal that has fueled the United States for over a century; and

WHEREAS one of the consequences of our history of coal mining has been that generations of our families and communities have suffered from high rates of black lung disease, an incurable and fatal disease caused by exposure to coal and silica dust; and

WHEREAS thousands of coal miners disabled by black lung disease and their dependents rely on federal black lung benefits including, in FY2024, 2,941 Virginians, of which 84 claimants reside in the Town of Haysi; and

WHEREAS the federal benefits provided to residents of the Town of Haysi delivered an estimated \$1,903,226.71 in disability and medical benefits in 2024, providing an important financial lifeline to affected families and supporting the local economy through spending at local businesses and medical facilities; and

WHEREAS the spending value of federal black lung benefit payments have declined by over thirty percent since 1969, because black lung benefits are not tied to increases in the cost of living or rising inflation; and

WHEREAS a living wage in Dickenson County is over four times the amount of what is provided by federal black lung benefit rates; and

WHEREAS we are concerned about the general welfare of our mining families, specifically the impacts of rising inflation, and believe that our miners deserve to live their lives with dignity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of Haysi, Virginia urges U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, along with U.S. Representative Morgan Griffith, to support and vote for legislation to assist disabled miners, including legislation to increase monthly black lung benefit rates.

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

ITEM # IX – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report (See Attachment)

Chief James Stanley reported fifteen calls for last month and read off hours worked and miles driven. Chief Stanley noted that he worked more hours in July. Chief Stanley advised that he has been assured the pig issue in Fork Bottom is resolved. Chief Stanley is working with Dickenson County Animal Control on an issue with a large quantity of cats in Splashdam. Council Member Carter Branham will discuss with a contact of his the rehoming of the animals.

ITEM # XII - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Work is continuing on the projects in town. The bridge leading to Big Ridge will be closed on Wednesday evening through Thursday morning for a concrete pour. The construction company has a plan in place for emergency access to first responders.
- The Mayor is working with Food Bank Director Any Rose to get a location for distribution organized in town.
- Haysi's Russell Fork Trail Center construction is slowed due to the power connection and the Haysi Town Hall was slowed by the water connection. The water has now been installed and the building is "under roof," with work being done inside. Council Member Tim Wallace asked about the power connection at the Haysi Town Hall. Mayor Yates answered that a "work around" has allowed progress in that situation. A general discussion was held about the power connection and property issues.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ITEM # XII – ADJOURN

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Debbie Wood 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