

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
June 2, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

On June 2, 2020, 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 Rocky Wood

Council Members:  
Michael Harris  
Tim Wallace  
Susan Tiller  
William "Billy" Counts  
Carter Branham

ABSENT: None.

### **ITEMS # I, II, & III**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry D. Yates at 7:00 p.m.

The Invocation was held by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

At this time Mayor Yates asked to add Closed Session Pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A 1 and 7 for Personnel and Property after item X to the agenda. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the agenda as amended.

Clerk Amanda Perrigan took attendance and announced that a quorum existed for the meeting to proceed.

Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

At this time the Mayor covered the following information:

- The COVID 19 Emergency was noted and the authority to proceed pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2 was referenced. He announced that the documents relating to the meeting were subject to the Freedom of Information Act as usual.

- Mayor Yates announced that these new procedures may or may not be in effect for the July meeting.
- Mayor Yates announced that the meeting was being audio recorded.
- Mayor Yates read the notice that was given to the public regarding access and meeting proceedings:

*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 then return to their vehicle in the town hall parking lot.*

*Persons who have signed the register to speak shall be taken in the order in which they are listed and the individual will be requested to come inside the town hall and stand in a designated spot to give their comments.*

*Persons addressing the Town Council are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.*

*Speakers will be acknowledged by Mayor Larry Yates and shall stand in the designated area and not approach the Mayor or Town Council members. Speakers will start their comments by stating their name and address.*

*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.*

*Speakers will be courteous in their language, tone, and presentation.*

*Speakers should only comment on the items listed on the Agenda for the Town Council Meeting.*

- Mayor Yates announced that all votes will be by roll call and recorded in the minutes.
- Mayor Yates announced that Elected Officials who leave the meeting or arrive must verbally note attendance.
- Mayor Yates asked the Elected Officials if they had any questions regarding the new procedure. No questions were asked.
- Mayor Yates announced that essential business of the town is still being conducted.

## **ITEM #V – PUBLIC COMMENT**

The first person signed up for Public Comment was Johnnie Branham. Mr. Branham stated that he was there for information on the situation with the Corp of Engineers and the river since he had not heard anything. Mr. Branham expressed concern over information that he was told from the building inspector regarding a percentage of improvement to his building and wanted to know who he could speak with about this at the Corp of Engineers. Mayor Yates advised that he had limited contact with the Corp of Engineers at this time. Mr. Branham asked for phone numbers. Mayor Yates agreed to share the ones he has, but stated that the Corp of Engineers had only really discussed the Haysi Town Hall with him in detail. Clerk Amanda Perrigan added that the Corp of Engineers said at a meeting in early March that they planned to have a community meeting in July, but didn't know the status of that at this time. Mayor Yates suggested that Mr. Branham speak to Dickenson County

Building Inspector Chris Rakes more in depth about the cumulative spending and the Dickenson County Flood Plain Ordinance. Mayor Yates advised that Haysi's Flood Plain Ordinance would depend on the one the county passes, which has not been passed or presented according to the Dickenson County Administrator, David Moore. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood added that the matter is complicated and the town doesn't want to update the current ordinance until the county's has been completed. Vice Mayor Wood stated that the town has power to change it, but very little. A general discussion was held about complications of the ordinance and spending. Mr. Branham stated that his flood insurance increases every year. Mayor Yates offered to share the contact information for the Corp of Engineers that he has available. Vice Mayor Wood commented that he didn't know that anyone had talked to the businesses, but he had heard that someone had talked to the residents, but he wasn't sure it was the Corp of Engineers. Council Member Carter Branham explained the situation he had encountered regarding a house he purchased that he has tried to resolve for almost two years. Mayor Yates suggested Mr. Branham consult with legal counsel before making decisions. Mr. Branham asked for an update on the Riverwalk Project. Mayor Yates answered that the project is on hold. Mayor Yates said that the project was going good, but the state has a hiring freeze in place, so when the Department of Conservation and Recreation lost three employees they couldn't hire back. Mr. Branham expressed his desire to work on the project now instead of waiting. Council Member Susan Tiller stated that she thought the Corp of Engineers would talk to the residents in August possibly. Mayor Yates commented that Haysi was supposed to be the next town in line for assistance. Mayor Yates told Mr. Branham that he appreciated his interest in what was going on in town.

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

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

- May 12, 2020                      Budget Workshop
- May 12, 2020                      Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop on May 12, 2020 and the Regular Town Council Meeting on May 12, 2020 as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

#### **ITEM # VII – FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

- May 1, 2020 through May 29, 2020 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.

- May 1, 2020 through May 27, 2020 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 15385-15405 & deposits
- May 1, 2020 through May 27, 2020 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

**ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS**

2020-2021 Budget

Mayor Yates stated that the budget included the suggested adjustments/corrections from the budget workshop. Mayor Yates read the following ordinance:

TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED TOWN OF HAYSI 2020-2021 BUDGET  
 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Haysi, Virginia, that the Town of Haysi's  
 Projected Revenue: \$1,299,854.69  
 Expenditures:

- Administration: \$134,811.82
- Economic Development: \$911,279.43
- Maintenance: \$34,906.44
- Haysi Police Department: \$143,681.00
- Haysi Fire Department: \$75,176.00

THIS ORDINANCE shall be effective July 1, 2020.

Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote on the approval of the 2020-2021 Budget Ordinance. Let the record show the ordinance passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the 2020-2021 Budget. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

**ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Police Department Monthly Report-Officer Stefanie Mullins (See Attachment)

Officer Stefanie Mullins reported forty-five calls for the month of May and read off hours worked for each officer from the Police Department Report.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Chief Rocky Wood reported that the previous month had four motor vehicle accidents, two structure fires, one call relating to the accident at the Breaks Interstate Park. Chief Wood advised that the fire department would plan to meet again within the next two weeks, since Phase II would allow gatherings of up to fifty people. Mayor Yates encouraged Chief Wood to inform the Town Hall when their meeting was scheduled, so that the town could provide them with a meal for the meeting. Chief Wood added that they would conduct their election at the meeting as well. Mayor Yates asked about the drain. Chief Wood answered that it had helped a lot. Chief Wood commented that he was glad to see the Maintenance Department for the town mowing. Mayor Yates replied that weather had been an issue, but they also worked to get the playground opened back up. Mayor Yates said there was still more work to be done on the playground in the future. Chief Wood asked about the community service workers. Mayor Yates answered that the town has four working right now. Council Member Billy Counts said he had collected over one thousand pounds of trash on the river bank for their disposal. Council Member Susan Tiller added that she had trash that needed to be disposed of as well. Council Member Tim Wallace asked about the Virginia Department of Transportation spraying weed killer. Mayor Yates replied that VDOT did spray weed killer, but it was not much and not often. Council Member Carter Branham suggested having the town put picnic tables at the old Haysi High School Band Building location. Mayor Yates advised that the property would be used for staging the demolition equipment. Council Member Branham said it would wait until after the demo was completed. Mayor Yates replied that the demolition should happen soon and it was discussed at the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority meeting last night. Mayor Yates added that he had some ideas for the property which could be discussed at a later time.

**ITEM # XI – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A1 and 7 for the discussion of personnel and property. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

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 |
| Rocky Wood        |        | Yes | Carter Branham | Yes |

Upon motion made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts the Council was now convened in Open Session. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to adjust the compensation packages as discussed in closed session. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye.

#### **ITEM # XII - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that the town had an economic development meeting and Kirsten Deel was working on having things to do in Haysi during the UTV Takeover event. Mayor Yates stated that Haysi Supply Co. and the FasMart in Haysi were top Spearhead Trails permit sellers right now. Mayor Yates advised that the economic development meetings would be happening more regularly with the next one scheduled for June 19, at noon. Mayor Yates also advised that Mrs. Deel would be working five hours a week for the town.

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said someone questioned him regarding the town's enforcement of wearing masks. Mayor Yates replied that the governor's order took the authority for that away from the police department. Council Member Michael Harris commented that the police aren't allowed to ask individuals about wearing masks. Mayor Yates confirmed and added that it would be violation of HIPAA rights to ask. A general discussion was held about masks.

- Mayor Yates reported on updating ordinances and advised that he had made a mistake. The Town of Haysi's current BPOL Ordinance already includes the information for wholesalers. Mayor Yates said Chief of Police, Bobby Edwards will enforce it once he returns. Mayor Yates advised that the town lost the court case over the Meals Tax Ordinance and he has since been in contact with Delegate Will Wampler to fix the legislation. Mayor Yates stated that the town lost between six and ten thousand dollars, so he wanted to get the Virginia Code changed to include an embezzlement charge.

**ITEM # XIII - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the Haysi Town Council must approve decisions made by the Haysi Partners. Mayor Yates replied that the Haysi Partners are their own entity. Council Member Tiller asked what would stop someone else from creating their own organization. Mayor Yates answered that someone else could form their own organization, however, they would need to follow federal tax regulations and an official nonprofit status is difficult to obtain. Council Member Tiller said that someone complained about the Haysi Partners having too much authority/control. Mayor Yates advised that any money the town gives to the Haysi Partners has to be approved. Clerk Amanda Perrigan added that the town still has to sign off on permits and has regulations to be followed. Mayor Yates reiterated that the Haysi Partners were an independent group, but considered a management team for the town's grants. Clerk Perrigan also added that the community input is measured through the Haysi Partners for grantors. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood commented that anyone was welcome to join the Haysi Partners or come to their meetings.

**ITEM # XIV – ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting with Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and Council Members Carter Branham, Susan Tiller, Billy Counts, Tim Wallace, and Michael Harris voting aye and the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk