

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
October 4, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.

On October 4, 2022, 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

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

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Rocky Wood

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 Council Member Susan Tiller and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked for changes to the agenda as presented. 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:

- September 6, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 6, 2022 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:

- September 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- September 1, 2022 through September 29, 2022 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 163462-16481 & deposits
- September 1, 2022 through September 29, 2022 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Council Member Billy Counts asked about the water leak from last month. Mayor Yates answered that the leak was repaired for the time being. The Haysi Town Council stepped to the Town Hall garage to see the newly purchased backhoe. 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

Resolution for the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Application

Mayor Yates explained that the town was developing an application for gap funding on the theater building project with the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and one of the requirements was an approved resolution from the Haysi Town Council. Mayor Yates read the following resolution:

Resolution for the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Application
for the Haysi Russell Fork Trail Center

WHEREAS, the Town of Haysi, Virginia has actively been involved in a downtown revitalization and economic restructuring project since 2010,

WHEREAS, the Town of Haysi encourages and promotes tourism as economic development,

WHEREAS, the Town engages with the surrounding region to promote the natural beauty, outdoor tourism and cultural heritage of Southwest Virginia,

WHEREAS, Haysi's Russell Fork Trail Center, once fully developed will complement Haysi's downtown revitalization, economic restructuring and promote local and regional tourism,

WHEREAS, the Town of Haysi is facing a funding gap due to increased project cost brought about by the need to flood proof the building as required by ordinance.

THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, that the Town Council of Haysi, Virginia does support the town applying to the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for funding to fill that gap and does hereby authorize the Mayor and staff of the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission to develop, submit, and execute all necessary project related documents required for the application.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Haysi Town Council at its regular meeting held on October 4, 2022 in Haysi, Virginia.

Mayor Yates advised that Charlie Perkins at the Cumberland Plateau Planning District had been working on putting the application together and the request is estimated to be around five hundred and fifteen thousand dollars. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the Resolution for the Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission Application for the Haysi Russell Fork Trail Center as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Haysi's Riverfront Trail Contract Award

Mayor Yates said that everything was in place and cleared with the funders. Mayor Yates explained that the town has already received the letter of debarment for the contractor, but the Haysi Town Council needs to approve of the contract award in order to move forward. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Council Member Carter Branham to award the contract for Haysi's Riverfront Trail to Inland Construction. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting. Council Member Carter Branham asked about a start date. Mayor Yates answered that the town would issue the Notice of Award, then hold a Pre-Construction Conference to set the timeline. A ground breaking will be held and it's estimated to happen at the end of the month.

Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance

Mayor Yates advised that the Inoperable Vehicle Ordinance needed to be amended, but there were a couple of areas in the draft that he wanted to discuss. First, the definition in Section One, Mayor Yates said that private campers were a concern. Attorney Susan Wood asked if they needed to be excluded. Police Chief Edwards said that dilapidated ones would still need to be addressed. Second, the shielded or screened definition may impact a few businesses in town. Attorney Wood said that the businesses would be covered by a later point in the ordinance. Chief Edwards voiced his concerns about backlash from the community when asked his thoughts about the penalties. A general discussion was held about the inoperable vehicles in town and the ordinance. Clerk Amanda Perrigan will email the revised draft ordinance to the Haysi Town Council for further review and comment once received from Attorney Wood.

2022 Christmas Dinner

Mayor Yates brought up suggestions for the 2022 Christmas Dinner for the Haysi Town Council, Mayor, employees, and families. After a general discussion the Christmas Dinner will be scheduled on December 9, 2022, at The Breaks Interstate Park from six o'clock in the evening through nine o'clock and look to have Food City in Vansant provide catering.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Yates reported on the Autumn Fest, which he stated turned out good although impacted by the weather. Mayor Yates said that Kristi Rose advised visitors attended from Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Rhode Island. Council Member Billy Counts said that he saw visitors from Michigan as well. Mayor Yates continued that the event was under budget and was able to borrow items from Buchanan County. There will be a follow up meeting on Thursday for those who want to attend. Mayor Yates said that the volunteer group did a good job and is looking to make 2023 even better along with other events next year.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report (See Attachment)

Chief Bobby Edwards advised that there were thirty-eight calls for September. Chief Edwards said there were large thefts and charges had been filed for a portion of them.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

None.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates stated that the whitewater rafting would begin this weekend. He also said the Russell Fork Rendezvous was coming up and in preparation the town had been working with Gene Counts to clean up the river; lots of tires were removed.
- Mayor Yates reported that he had met with the Nature Conservancy and they have invited the town to apply for more project funding at the conclusion of the current grant, which will include nice new signs. Police Chief Edwards commented on well the new signs at Splashdam looked.
- Mayor Yates also reported that the Dickenson County Fair went well and the committee worked hard. He encouraged everyone to show volunteers appreciation.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Billy Counts said that he had a complaint regarding dead dogs being left at the old trash dumpster site starting up Backbone Ridge, which led to a general discussion about the large trash being dumped at the old Haysi High School property. Mayor Yates advised that Tiger Circle is not an official road anymore and the Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority is applying for a planning grant through the Virginia Coalfields Economic Development Authority to develop the property. Mayor Yates also advised that Dickenson County will be installing gates with locks on the road, but the town government will have access for use.

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