

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
December 3, 2019 @ 7:00 p.m.

On December 3, 2019, 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
Carter Branham
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 Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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 Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the agenda as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM #V – PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was registered for public comment, but Mayor Yates allowed Ernest Rush to ask a question. Mr. Ernest Rush first stated that he appreciated that the town held prayer at the beginning of the meeting then asked about the status of the old theater building. Mayor Yates answered that the town had been approved for funding to complete the bottom floor, which has already been designed, but is waiting for the final approval from the Appalachian Regional Commission before the work can be put out to bid. Mayor Yates explained that the town had used free labor to clean it out, but for any more work to take place that a contract must be signed with ARC. Mayor Yates said that although it is not useable yet, there was a good design in place. Mr. Rush asked about using it for small community affairs. Mayor Yates replied that it would be available for that purpose. Mr. Rush said that he was interested in music events. Mayor Yates advised that the facility would be programmable and include a café and visitor center as well.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- November 5, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 5, 2019 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:

- November 1, 2019 through November 29, 2019 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- October 31, 2019 through November 26, 2019 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 15154-15175 & deposits
- October 31, 2019 through November 26, 2019 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Johnnie Branham asked about the status of the Riverwalk Project. Mayor Yates answered that the Department of Conservation and Recreation has the funding available, but minor changes needed to be made to allow ATV usage. Mr. Branham asked how that would be accomplished. Mayor Yates answered that the solution would be up to the engineer on the project. Mr. Branham expressed concern about taking more storage from Haysi Supply Co. Mayor Yates advised that the engineers had been back in town to work on the change in design, but the no rise study was conducted and certified by a hydraulic engineer. Mayor Yates stated that water damage was still a concern for him, so they were researching the materials for construction. A general discussion was held about the Recreational Trails Program and the Section 202 for the new Haysi Town Hall. Mayor Yates informed everyone that an application had been submitted to the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority to demolish the old Haysi High School building for around four hundred thousand dollars. Mayor Yates advised new funding opportunities with the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy to close old mine portals, because they are a public safety hazard, may be a way to develop trails in the process.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report-Interim Chief Bobby Edwards (See Attachment)

Interim Chief Bobby Edwards read off the hours worked on the November report. Interim Chief Edwards advised that Officer Scottie Owens would be leaving employment with the town at the end of the month. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked about the bucket truck catching fire twice. Interim Chief Edwards answered yes, that the cellnoid melted twice. Interim Chief Edwards said next week, the Virginia EMS would conduct an inspection and he also would be attending the Chief's Conference and a board meeting for the academy. Interim Chief Edwards reported the blue Chevrolet S-10 used for maintenance is inoperable and suggested placing it up for auction. Mayor Yates added that the town has two diesel trucks in good condition to use for maintenance. Interim Chief Edwards stated that he had received a request for a letter of support for Down Home Spirits, LLC due to unforeseen complications with their situation. Interim Chief Edwards continued that he knew the Haysi Town Council had given the same business a letter of support, but wanted their consent to write one on behalf of the Haysi Police Department. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to approve a letter of support for Down Home Spirits, LLC from Haysi Police Department. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood, Council Members Carter Branham, Billy Counts, and Michael Harris voted aye. Council Member Tim Wallace voted nay. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed by verbal voting. Interim Chief Edwards advised that the police department had been awarded a grant through the Department of Criminal Justice Services for part time officers to work twenty-four hours a week, which will be worked by Officers Brent Wallace and Grant Garrett. Mayor Yates asked if the grant period was two years. Interim Chief Edwards answered that the grant was for a duration of eighteen months. Interim Chief Edwards also reported that the Clintwood Police Department would be assisting with the Annual Haysi Christmas Parade this year, so our officers will assist with their parade in return. Mayor Yates asked about the calls involving T & M Collision. Interim Chief Edwards answered that it was regarding a property dispute that has since been resolved.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Chief Rocky Wood said the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department answered twenty calls last month; four house fires, 3 brush fires, four motor vehicle accidents, one vehicle fire, two med flights, one fence fire, one assist motorist, three roadway hazards, and one fire alarm. Chief Wood reported that the fire department is continuing work on the EMS First Responder.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates invited everyone to the Annual Haysi Christmas Parade on Friday evening.
- Mayor Yates advised that the Christmas Dinner will be December 14, 2019 at six o'clock in the evening at Spring Branch Farm.
- Mayor Yates reported that Dickenson County was celebrated as a Certified Work Ready Community today at the Dickenson Center for Education and Research. Mayor Yates announced that Dickenson County was the first in Southwest Virginia to get gold status.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked about the variance from last month and who was determined to be responsible for that decision. Mayor Yates said that he was told by Rick Mullins that it may be the Dickenson County Planning Commission to his understanding. Mayor Yates advised that he had discussed it with Dickenson County Building Inspector Chris Rakes, but he didn't know. Mayor Yates pointed out that the process had slowed down due to health of Mr. Rick Anderson, who made the request. Mayor Yates also advised that the town had issued a business license for a retail business at that location, but he still wasn't sure of the town's role with the variance. Vice Mayor Wood mentioned changing the town ordinance to adjust the monetary cumulative. Mayor Yates replied that he was working with Chris Rakes to revise it and he had learned a lot since it was last revised ten years ago.

Council Member Carter Branham asked how many offices were planned at the old Kids Central building. Mayor Yates answered that he only knew of one right now.

ITEM # XIII – 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 Billy Counts 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