

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
October 4, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

On October 4, 2016, 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:  
William "Billy" Counts  
Susan Tiller  
Barry Whitt  
Tim Wallace

ABSENT: Michael Harris

### **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 Chief George Wallace and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

At this time Mayor Yates asked for any changes or additions to the agenda. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the agenda as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

### **ITEM #V - PUBLIC COMMENT**

The only person signed up for Public Comment was David O'Quinn with Haysi Little League. David O'Quinn said that he was not at the meeting to ask for money. Mr. O'Quinn registered for public comment to give an update on the Haysi Little League Program. Mr. O'Quinn passed out a Haysi Little League Financial Report to the Haysi Town Council. He advised that the treasurer was out of town, so he used the numbers from bank statements he had. Mr. O'Quinn thanked the Haysi Town Council for their donation to the program

earlier in the year and apologized for not giving the update sooner. Mr. O'Quinn said that the Haysi Little League Program had one hundred twenty-seven children between the age of four and twelve to participate. Mr. O'Quinn summarized the report he handed out and noted that the items highlighted is where the town's donation was spent. Mr. O'Quinn explained that the light outages created safety issues that had to be resolved and the remaining funds were used toward the purchase of uniforms. Mr. O'Quinn announced that during the upcoming year Haysi would host a tournament in April and an All-Star Tournament in June. Mayor Yates asked for more details. Mr. O'Quinn said that teams from Bluefield, Tazewell, Richlands, Grundy, Honaker, and Bland would come to play. Mr. O'Quinn stated that he didn't know of an All-Star Tournament being hosted by Haysi since mid-1990's. Mr. O'Quinn said that they plan to try to convert the old Haysi High School field to a little league field. Mr. O'Quinn expressed an idea for jerseys with possible advertising for the town if the town donated to the program again. The estimated cost would be around one thousand five hundred dollars. The jerseys this year had the team names and the child's name on them. Mayor Yates asked about their bills as listed on the report. Mr. O'Quinn advised that all the bills were paid up and were required to be paid before the league was allowed to play. Their bills included fees for all stars, dues, lights, equipment, some maintenance such as mowing and tools. Mr. O'Quinn said that the league made extra money on tournaments and selling concessions. Mayor Yates pointed out that one hundred twenty seven children was a good number of students. Mr. O'Quinn said that the other little leagues in Dickenson County didn't have as much participation as Haysi. Council Member Susan Tiller asked about the sponsor signs. Mr. O'Quinn said that they were late going up and accepted responsibility stating that it was his first year as President, he was busy, and other things took priority. Mr. O'Quinn said that the sponsor signs were posted, but they were posted late. Council Member Susan Tiller noted that when organizations and business donate they expect the signs to be posted. Mr. O'Quinn said that he knew and understood. Mayor Yates noted that the town was glad to help one hundred and twenty-seven children and advised that the donation equaled \$7.88 per child.

#### **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, 2016                      Regular Town Council Meeting

Mayor Yates asked about the Council Members that arrived late to the last meeting being listed as absent. Clerk, Amanda Perrigan explained that Roberts Rules of Order states that if a Council Member is absent at the beginning of the meeting then they must be listed absent and their entrance noted at the time of their arrival in all caps at the corresponding place in the minutes, so the vote tallies are accurate based on attendance. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the minutes as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

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

Mayor Yates explained a few bills presented with the accounts payable. The payment to Meyercord Revenue is for the purchase of cigarette stamps. The payment to Tri-Cities/Southwest Virginia Regional Group is for advertisement of the request for bid for the trail center renovations in the Bristol Herald Courier. The payment to VML is to pay off the remaining insurance premium due for the year; half was paid in July. The payment to Ridgeview High School is for a full page yearbook ad. The payment to Haysi Partners is for the pass through donation from EnerVest for the Autumn Fest. The council was also presented for approval the following:

- September 1, 2016 through September 27, 2016 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- September 1, 2016 through September 27, 2016 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 13519-13541 & deposits
- September 1, 2016 through September 27, 2016 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Barry Whitt 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 – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Police Department Monthly Report-Chief George Wallace (See Attachment)

Chief Wallace reported thirty-two calls for the month of September and he reviewed the calls on the September Monthly Report. Chief Wallace said that there was a big variety with more assisted motorists. The first call listed on the report was shots fired and Chief Wallace let Council Member Billy Counts explain a little more about the situation. Council Member Billy Counts said that shots were fired around the railroad tracks near his home.

Council Member Counts said that it was young kid with dogs and he ran off when he saw Council Member Counts. Council Member Counts called Chief Wallace, but when he arrived he was not able to locate the person. Mayor Yates asked what laws were broken. Chief Wallace said that it wasn't permissible to shoot in state water and discharge a weapon in town limits. On September 6, there was a safe malfunction at the FasMart, so Officer Brent Wallace assisted with a night deposit. On September 7, a copy of the animal ordinance was given to new renters at a residence on Ferrell's Branch. Chief Wallace said a complaint was made about the care of the dogs, but they were found to be taken care of adequately. Council Member Susan Tiller commented that the dogs run in her yard. Mayor Yates asked about the situation involving a pit bull dog in Fork Bottom area. Chief Wallace said that the owner can't handle the animal and wants to try to find it a good home. Council Member Susan Tiller suggested that the owner advertise it on Facebook. A general discussion was held regarding dogs in town. On September 8, a man broke into a home in the Fork Bottom area. The police looked around and asked around, but finally a neighbor saw the man and the police picked him up. On September 12, there was a domestic call for the renters on Ferrell's Branch. Chief Wallace said that the county dealt with the family a lot when they lived on Dead End Road. On September 14, a lady cashed a \$570.00 check that she knew to be bad, but a new teller at the bank cashed it. The lady has since paid back the money on the date she said that she would. Mayor Yates thanked Chief Wallace for the work of the Haysi Police Department and asked if the vests had been ordered. Chief Wallace said that Assistant Chief Edwards was checking prices on the vests. Mayor Yates advised that the snow blower needed to be ordered since the VML Risk Management Grant had been awarded.

#### **ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates thanked everyone for working on the Russell Fork Autumn Festival. Mayor Yates stated that it was an excellent festival, with a great parade and perfect Grand Marshall. He said that was the biggest crowd he had ever seen on a Sunday during the festival.
- Mayor Yates said that he was on the equestrian trail about two weeks ago with Kenny Mullins. Mr. Mullins thought that the trail was fantastic. The equestrian trail is ninety-five percent done. Mayor Yates noted that Spearhead Trails is still waiting on VDOT for crossing Route 80. VDOT has everything that they need from the town. Mayor Yates said that he didn't know if the ATV trail would be able to open this fall because there are still three or four easements needed.
- Haysi Elementary School is going to be on the agenda for the Dickenson County School Board Meeting this month and Mayor Yates encouraged everyone to attend.
- Mayor Yates met with Delegate Todd Pillion in town on Friday about the upcoming session, both Delegate Pillion and Jim Baldwin bragged on the town.

- Mayor Yates met with Dean Hill at the Splashdam property. A meeting is set for ten o'clock Friday morning to meet with Mr. Hill and Attorney Stephen Mullins. Mr. Hill showed Mayor Yates his plans and is interested in another one or two acres. Mayor Yates suggested that the town allow Mr. Hill deal with the cut off channel, which is critical to the rest of the property. Mayor Yates advised that Mr. Hill has most of the campground built out. Mayor Yates said that he would like for the Council Members to visit the property. Mr. Hill is requesting a total of four acres now and offered to sweeten the deal by cleaning up the town's property there as well. Mayor Yates said that he has not negotiated a price with Mr. Hill. Council Member Tim Wallace wanted to clarify that Mr. Hill was interested in the middle of the town's property. Mayor Yates said that was correct, but the town would still own the road and the property on the end. Council Member Wallace asked if the town needed to keep any of the property. Mayor Yates stated that he would like for the town to keep some of the property even though it's a little hard to get to because it's the best place to exit the river and there is room for a park or picnic area especially after the gob is removed. Appalachian Voices is still working on the Splashdam Project. If the property is sold to Mr. Hill that would be two businesses paying taxes and the property would be added back into the tax base. Council Member Wallace asked if Mr. Hill would proceed with the campground if the town didn't sell any additional property. Mayor Yates said that Mr. Hill would proceed. Mayor Yates also noted that selling the property removes insurance liability from the town, so there are lots of good reasons for the sale. Mayor Yates stated that he told Mr. Hill to request all the property now that he thinks he will need, so the town doesn't have to revisit the topic in a couple of years. Again, Mayor Yates said that he would like for the Council Members to visit the property. A general discussion was held about the road and access to the Splashdam property. Mayor Yates advised that he would be attending the Dickenson County PSA Board Meeting on October 16, 2016 to discuss the property. Council Member Barry Whitt said that he didn't hear a price mentioned. Mayor Yates reminded everyone that Mr. Hill said last month that he thought the property was only valued at about half of the other property purchased from the town due to the flood plain, but no specific number was mentioned. Council Member Tim Wallace said that the previous property was purchased for \$10,000.00 an acre and Mr. Hill wants the property because of its location on the water which increases the value to him. Mayor Yates said that would mean Mr. Hill was thinking about \$5,000.00 an acre for this property. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said that he thought the property was worth more than that amount. Mayor Yates said the price would need to be negotiated.
- Mayor Yates advised that the bids for renovations to the Haysi Russell Fork Trail Center were opened last week. The grant funds available for the construction were between \$244,000.00 and \$245,000.00. The lowest bid was around \$100,000.00 more, so Mayor Yates asked for ideas for funding. Council Member Tim Wallace asked about the use of the building. Mayor Yates explained that it would be visitor

center, event space, café, and gift shop. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if the building would have any housing. Mayor Yates said that it would not, the plans include an elevator shaft and stairs to the second floor, but no renovation on the second floor. Construction drawings and plans are available at the town hall for review. Jim Baldwin suggested a Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority loan that could possibly be turned into a grant. Mayor Yates gave a breakdown of funds already spent on the building including purchase price, new roof, and water line. Mayor Yates said that the town could utilize its existing building use policy to generate revenue and clear expenses. The town could review servicing some debt with numbers from generated revenue as well. Mayor Yates said that the town needed to move forward to get the building open. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood stated that the town should accept the bid. Mayor Yates advised that the next step would be to send a letter of intent to award and start negotiating with the bidder on the cost. Mayor Yates mentioned the possibility of getting the demolition work done at no cost to save money on the bid in addition to “shaving down other costs here and there.” Mayor Yates noted that the building will enhance the downtown area. The opening of the trails and Dean’s business will bring more people who need something to do. Mayor Yates explained that he never tried to put the town in debt, but may need to consider getting a loan to finish the renovations. Vice Mayor Wood said that the plan was good. Mayor Yates said that he insisted on a plan that the town could afford. Vice Mayor Wood said that the town need to accept the bid to move to the next step. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to send the Letter of Intent to Award and begin negotiations with Paisley Kerr, LLC. Council Member Tim Wallace clarified that the motion was not accepting the bid, just negotiating. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting. Vice Mayor Wood said that the town needed to “shave” what they could on the bid and get the final cost in order to consider additional funding options. Mayor Yates said that VCEDA has over eleven million dollars in the pool for Dickenson County. Council Member Susan Tiller asked long the renovations would take to complete. Mayor Yates said the estimated time would be between three to five months. Vice Mayor Wood stated that the town should be able to “shave” off around \$10,000.00 at least. Mayor Yates noted that the building was a key part of the town’s master plan. Vice Mayor Wood agreed that the building would bring revenue to the town.

**ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM # XII – 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 Susan Tiller to adjourn the meeting. Let the record show the motion was passed unanimously by verbal voting and the meeting was adjourned.

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Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk