

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
September 4, 2018 @ 7:00 p.m.

On September 4, 2018, 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
Michael Harris
Tim Wallace

ABSENT: Susan Tiller
Carter Branham

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 any changes to the agenda. 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

Mayor Yates asked Town Clerk Perrigan to read the following Public Comment Policy out loud:

A Public Comment Period will be held during the regular Town Council monthly meetings, during Special Called meetings, and Public Hearings. The Public Comment period will be on the Agenda for the meeting. The Town Council asks that speakers only comment on the items listed on the Agenda for the Town Council meeting or Special Called meeting and only comment on the specific reason for the Public Hearing. All comments made during the Public Comment period shall be subject to the following procedures:

- 1.) 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.
- 2.) Persons who have signed the register to speak shall be taken in the order in which they are listed.
- 3.) Persons addressing the Town Council are asked to limit their comments to 3 minutes.
- 4.) Speakers will be acknowledged by Mayor Larry Yates in the order in which their names appear on the sign-up sheet. Speakers shall stand at their seat to address the Council and not approach the Mayor or Town Council members. Speakers will start their comment by stating their name and address.
- 5.) 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. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed.
- 6.) Speakers will be courteous in their language, tone, and presentation.
- 7.) Only one speaker will be acknowledged at a time. If a large number of people are present to register concerns about the same subject, it is suggested that they might be acknowledged as a unified group and a designated speaker will cover the various points.
- 8.) In the event that there are more people who wish to speak than can be accommodated in the 30 minutes set aside for public comment, the Town Council may extend the period, delay it until the rest of the agenda has been completed, or continue it to the next regular council meeting.

The first person signed up for Public Comment was Robert D. Linkous of 138 New Camp Street, Clinchco, Virginia, 24256. Mayor Yates acknowledged Mr. Linkous to present his comments. Mr. Linkous introduced himself and said he was born and raised in Clinchco, but is currently from central Kentucky and with the United States WWI Centennial Commemoration Commission. Mr. Linkous said that he is working on the Luther Hay and Thomas Jefferson Grizzle grave sites and wants to clean the head stones, so he had asked about any corresponding ordinances. Mr. Linkous invited the Mayor and Haysi Town Council Members to attend a ceremony to clean the grave stones which he intends to have on the one hundredth anniversary of their date of death; October 18 for Luther Hay and October 15 for Thomas Jefferson Grizzle. Mr. Linkous handed out information on the sixteen soldiers from Dickenson County who died during their service one hundred years ago. Mr. Linkous said he was honorably discharged from the United States Army and wanted to help veteran's organizations with Veteran's Day celebrations in 2018. Mayor Yates gave Mr. Linkous his business card and thanked him. Council Member Billy Counts offered to help with research.

ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- August 7, 2018 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the minutes of the meeting on August 7, 2018 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:

- August 1, 2018 through August 31, 2018 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- August 1, 2018 through August 30, 2018 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 14522-14559 & deposits
- August 1, 2018 through August 30, 2018 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Mayor Yates asked for any questions regarding the financial report. 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

Black Lung Trust Fund Resolution

Mayor Yates read the following Black Lung Trust Fund Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Haysi is a community in southwestern Virginia, an area of many rich assets, including our land, water, heritage and people, who have, for more than 100 years, provided the coal that has fueled America; and

WHEREAS, the Central Appalachian region is experiencing economic distress with the decline of the coal industry and mining jobs, and we believe that a just and equitable transition to a future economy should be one that celebrates culture; invests in communities; generates meaningful jobs; and protects and restores land and water while, crucially, providing care for workers, such as our miners who have dedicated and risked their lives to work in the coal industry; and

WHEREAS, black lung disease is an incurable and fatal disease caused by exposure to coal dust; and

WHEREAS, rates of black lung disease are surging among coal miners in southwestern Virginia; one in five veteran working coal miners in Central Appalachia now have black lung; and

WHEREAS, thousands of coal miners with black lung disease and their dependents rely on benefits from the federal Black Lung Disability Trust Fund; in FY2017, more than 2,500 Virginians were paid \$24 million across all federal Black Lung claims; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund is in poor financial health and in dire need of protection; unless Congress takes action, the rate of the Black Lung excise tax, which is paid into the trust fund, will be slashed by more than half at the end of 2018; this would undoubtedly threaten the financial health of the trust fund and put the benefits of miners in jeopardy; and

WHEREAS, the processes required for coal miners to acquire federal black lung benefits are currently difficult, and eligibility criteria should not be changed to make such processes more difficult; and

WHEREAS, coal mining companies have a moral and legal responsibility to pay for their employees' health and disability costs associated with black lung disease; the American taxpayer should not be held financially responsible for providing black lung benefits; and

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Town of Haysi urges U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner and Congressman Morgan Griffith to take action to ensure the solvency of the Black Lung Disability Fund by preventing the Black Lung excise tax from being reduced in 2019; the legislative solution should not make black lung benefits more difficult to acquire, nor should it include a taxpayer bailout of the fund; so miners with black lung disease and their dependents are guaranteed to receive all benefits to which they are entitled.

Mayor Yates called for a roll call vote to approve the resolution:

| | | | | |
|-------------------|--------|-----|----------------|-----|
| Wm. "Billy" Brice | Counts | Yes | Michael Harris | Yes |
| Tim Wallace | | Yes | Rocky Wood | Yes |

Let the record show the Black Lung Trust Fund Resolution was approved by verbal voting.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Assistant Chief Bobby Edwards reported the hours worked on the police report for the month of August and offered to take questions. Assistant Chief Edwards mentioned the department had received five new laptop computers from the military for two hundred and sixty one dollars, which was the cost of shipping. Assistant Chief Edwards also mentioned that the department should know a decision on the School Resource Officer Grant in about two weeks. The estimated cost to the town for the position if approved would be between seventeen and twenty-four thousand dollars, which was based on Bobby's salary and included the cost for a family insurance plan. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked how long the position would last. Assistant Chief Edwards answered one year. Mayor Yates added that there was no further obligation to the town past the one year either, but hoped to see an increase in School Resource Officer Funding by the state next year. Mayor Yates informed everyone that the Haysi Police Department and town administration attended the swearing in of Dickenson County's new Sheriff Scott Stanley.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Vice Mayor Rocky Wood said that the fire department had nine med flights, six car wrecks, and one call at the Breaks Interstate Park. Mayor Yates asked about the call at the Breaks Interstate Park. Vice Mayor Wood said that a gentleman had a seizure on platform two of the Canyon Rim Zipline.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that Allison O'Quinn had opened a law office in town. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked for the location. Mayor Yates answered that her business was located in Derrick Yates' former office.
- Mayor Yates advised the town is working hard to plan the Russell Fork Autumn Fest.
- Mayor Yates also reported that the town has three new trash cans purchased with the VML Risk Management Grant money. Mayor Yates said that he is working with the County Administrator to bear proof some of the dumpsters in town.
- Mayor Yates asked the Town Council Members for contact information for concrete contractors. Vice Mayor Wood brought up two people and will provide their information to the Mayor.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

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