

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
April 4, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

On April 4, 2023, 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
William "Billy" Counts
Tim Wallace
Carter Branham

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 Interim Police Chief J.R. Stanley 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 Vice Mayor Michael Harris to approve the agenda as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM #VI – PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Yates asked Town Clerk Amanda 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 Shelly Mullins of Little Doc Hollow, Clintwood. Mr. Mullins stated he was running for Dickenson County Commissioner of Revenue. Mr. Mullins said that he was a lifelong resident of Dickenson County and currently serving on the Clintwood Town Council. Mr. Mullins continued that he owns West End Auto and a small farm. Mr. Mullins said he thought he would do a great job as Commissioner of Revenue, citing his experience and background as well as community involvement. Mayor Yates wished Mr. Mullins the “best of luck.”

The second person signed up for Public Comment was Lilly Thacker of Haysi. Mrs. Thacker stated that she owns Lilly’s Pad in town.

SUSAN TILLER ENTERED THE MEETING.

Mrs. Thacker said people had been asking her about tubing for the upcoming season and she was concerned about parking with the construction taking place behind the Pizza Factory. Mayor Yates advised that parking would still be available, but there would be construction taking place and large equipment on site at times. Mrs. Thacker asked about the availability of bathrooms at the Haysi Kiwanis for trail users. Mayor Yates referred Mrs. Thacker to address her question regarding public restrooms to the Haysi Kiwanis and

Spearhead Trails. Mayor Yates stated that he would be glad to propose or advocate for restrooms, but the request would be better voiced by local citizens. Mrs. Thacker asked about consideration of a rails to trails program. Mayor Yates advised that he had worked on that project in years past, but the door of opportunity had been closed by the railroad. Clerk Amanda Perrigan suggested that she contact Mr. Bartley, who had been having regional meetings regarding the subject. A general discussion was held about the railroad and its use.

ITEM # VII – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- March 14, 2023 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 March 14, 2023 as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VIII – FINANCIAL REPORT

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

- March 1, 2023 through March 31, 2023 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- March 1, 2023 through March 30, 2023 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 16695-16727 & deposits
- March 1, 2023 through March 30, 2023 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

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

Donation Request from Haysi Community Library

Mayor Yates welcomed Sarah Rose to present the donation request. Sarah Rose introduced herself as the children’s programmer of the Haysi Community Library and thanked the town council for the donation last year. Mrs. Rose explained that the program served between eighty to one-hundred children each week last year, which was around fifty more than she had planned to attend. Mrs. Rose told how local businesses in town helped her to supply the extra needs. She also explained that after four or five years of not having entertainment, this year would see entertainers every week except two. Mrs. Rose advised instead of a family reading challenge, this year would be an individual reading challenge

with a first place prize awarding a Nintendo Switch, a second place prize awarding a variety of board games, and a third place prize awarding a variety of card games, all of which would be suitable for the age range of those expected to participate. Mayor Yates asked for the amount of the request. Mrs. Rose answered three-hundred-twenty dollars. She stated that they sent flyers home with kids at school and posted flyers in town, which they intended to do again. Mrs. Rose also said the Headstart kids came each week as part of a field trip. Council Member Carter Branham stated that it was a good program and would like to donate more in case the number of attendees was higher than expected again this year. Mayor Yates said that the library was an integral part of the community. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve a five-hundred dollar donation request for the Haysi Community Library. Mayor Yates called for a roll call vote.

Wm. “Billy” Brice Counts	Yes	Michael Harris	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Abstain
Carter Branham	Yes		

Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed by verbal voting.

Haysi Town Council Appointment

Mayor Yates stated that former Vice Mayor Rocky Wood had “large shoes to fill” and the town had worked with Attorney Susan Wood to schedule a special election. Mayor Yates advised that the town has the authority to appoint a replacement on the Haysi Town Council until the election. Mayor Yates said he had contacted former Vice Mayor Wood’s widow, Debbie Wood to see if she would be interested. He said that Mrs. Wood would accept the position if selected. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Michael Harris to appoint Debbie Wood to serve on the Haysi Town Council. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Surplus Property

Mayor Yates advised that the town had purchased new Christmas light fixtures and the old ones were taking up storage space. Clerk Amanda Perrigan said there were about fifty fixtures in a variety of shapes. A general discussion was held about what to do with the old fixtures. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to gift any old Christmas light fixtures Clinchco wants to them and sell the remaining ones. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Yates brought up for discussion a way to honor former Vice Mayor Rocky Wood, who loved the fire department and started volunteering for them around the age of sixteen. He became the chief in his twenty’s and served around twenty-five years as chief. After a brief discussion and a few ideas Vice Mayor Michael Harris suggested waiting and trying

to come up with other ideas. Council Member Tim Wallace suggested asking for input from Haysi Volunteer Fire Department, his wife Debbie Wood, his mother and daughters. The topic will be tabled to a later meeting.

ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Police Department Monthly Report (See Attachment)

Interim Chief J.R. Stanley read his report including hours worked, mileage driven, and number of calls for the month of March. Mayor Yates asked if everything was going well. Interim Chief Stanley replied that he was working with the county to get issues in the Fork Bottom under control. Interim Chief Stanley also mentioned that ATV drivers on unauthorized roads will be given tickets.

Fire Department Monthly Report

Mayor Yates welcomed Jennifer Cook to present the Haysi Volunteer Fire Department monthly report. Mrs. Cook introduced herself as the Secretary/Treasurer and advised that her husband Phillip Cook was the new Fire Chief. Mrs. Cook reported sixteen calls for the month of March including four structure fires, one landing zone, two brush fires, six motor vehicle accidents, one roadway hazard, one possible structure fire, and one vehicle fire. One of the motor vehicle accident calls was worked by Russell Prater Fire Department because it happened during the days of mourning following former Chief Rocky Wood's passing. Mayor Yates asked if they held their monthly meeting last night. Mrs. Cook answered yes, they had about fifteen members attend. Mrs. Cook added that they did not have a meeting in March due to a brush fire, then former Chief Wood's passing/funeral occurred. Mayor Yates thanked Mrs. Cook for her report and the work of the fire department.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that Clerk Amanda Perrigan had been working with Rodefer Moss & Co.; the town's auditor and everything went well. The auditor was bragging on the ease of assessing the town's financials.
- Mayor Yates reported that he met with the County Administrator and Chairman of the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors at Sandlick to compile a request for the playground equipment, bleachers, scoreboards, signs, and outdoor classroom among the items to be left for town use and the continued use of the football field for events. The Haysi Kiwanis would like some of the bleachers for the truck pull, horse ring, and motocross areas.
- Mayor Yates also reported that he had been working with former Police Chief Bobby Edwards to have the town employ him full time again as Chief of Police; discussions are ongoing at this time, but Police Chief JR Stanley will be kept informed.

- Mayor Yates advised that Attorney Susan Wood had been working on Haysi's Riverfront Trail Project. The concrete slab for the bike racks has been completed.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

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 Tim Wallace 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