

Town of Haysi  
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting  
January 7, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

On January 7, 2020, 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

Tim Wallace

Carter Branham

Susan Tiller

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Rocky Wood

William "Billy" Counts

### **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 Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace 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 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 Joseph Boyd of 227 Haysi Main Street. Mr. Boyd said that he wanted to speak about Old Business and he had received a letter from the town's attorney about the parking lots at the location of his previous business. Mr. Boyd stated that he guessed his attorney responded to the letter. Mr. Boyd said that he received a call about someone driving across his fence; vandalizing his property. Mr. Boyd stated that he had gotten a call back from an officer, but no other follow up had occurred. Mr. Boyd said he asked about camera reports and believed that the town had a camera, but was unsure about whether or not it was working, so that is what he wanted to ask about. Mayor Yates asked Mr. Boyd for the date of the letter from the town's attorney. Mr. Boyd looked for the answer in his paperwork. Mayor Yates commented that it was not recent. Mr. Boyd answered no, around October. Mr. Boyd said he was unable to attend the meetings after that, so he guessed his attorney responded. Mayor Yates stated that the one correspondence was all that had been done. Mr. Boyd said that he made the report with dispatch then spoke with Officer Brent Wallace regarding the fence. Chief Edwards said that he was aware of it and that it happened on Election Day. Chief Edwards said he checked the town's camera footage, but didn't see anything. The camera in the area does not belong to the town and Chief Edwards did not have access to it. The town's camera system only covers up toward the Jones and Counts Pharmacy. Mr. Boyd asked who owns the camera on the town's gazebo. Chief Edwards answered Belcher Insurance Agency. Mr. Boyd asked if the town owns the gazebo. Mayor Yates answered yes. Mr. Boyd said that was all he had to discuss. Mayor Yates said he was sorry that someone had damaged Mr. Boyd's property.

**ITEM # VI – APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

- December 3, 2019 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller and seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the minutes of the meeting on December 3, 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:

- December 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- November 27, 2019 through December 30, 2019 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 15176-15234 & deposits
- November 27, 2019 through December 30, 2019 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Tim Wallace to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

**ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS**

Abandoned Mine Land Re-Authorization

Mayor Yates said that he was asked by Appalachian Voices to have the Haysi Town Council consider the approving the Abandoned Mine Land Re-Authorization Resolution. Mayor Yates explained that the money appropriated was almost gone and a request in process for reauthorization of those funds. Mayor Yates said that the mining industry isn't in favor of the resolution because of the tax, but eighty million dollars in outstanding projects need to be completed in Dickenson County. The fund will expire in the year 2021 unless reauthorized. Mayor Yates read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The Town Of Haysi is a community in Southwest Virginia with a long history of coal mining, which has fueled the United States; and

WHEREAS, Haysi has Abandoned Mine Land (AML) sites, which were abandoned prior to the passage of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act and are therefore eligible for federal AML funding for reclamation; and

WHEREAS, the reclamation of such sites is vital to the health and safety of our communities and the future of our region; and

WHEREAS, reclamation of such sites provide local job opportunities at a time when economic growth is needed; and

WHEREAS, the Abandoned Mine Land fee is set to expire in 2021 unless reauthorized by Congress; and

WHEREAS, over \$10.6 billion dollars of AML sites have yet to receive funding for reclamation across the country; and

WHEREAS, Dickenson County has over 80 Million dollars of AML sites that have yet to receive funding for reclamation; and

WHEREAS, the fund is financed by a fee on current coal production, so as to ensure that Southwest Virginia's coal legacy is a positive legacy that leaves our communities better situated for the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Town Of Haysi urges U.S. Senator Mark Warner and Senator Timothy Kaine, along with U.S. Representatives Robert Wittman (VA-1), Elaine Luria (VA-2), Robert Scott (VA-3), Donald McEachin (VA-4), Denver Riggleman (VA-5), Ben Cline (VA-6), Abigail Spanberger (VA-7), Donald Beyer (VA-8), Morgan Griffith (VA-9), Jennifer Wexton (VA-10) and Gerald Connolly (VA-11) to support and vote for legislation that reauthorizes the AML program, including fee collection at no less than the current rate, for an additional 15 years. Specifically we urge the passage of H.R. 4248, sponsored by U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright, which would extend the existing fees for 15 years, expanded funding for states with the greatest need, and reimburse states for AML fees that were sequestered since Fiscal Year 2013.

Mayor Yates advised that over three hundred thousand dollars in AML funds had been awarded in Haysi for the Splashdam Water Line Project and that six mine portals had been identified to be in need of sealing. Mayor Yates also advised that the Cranes Nest Trail was awarded AML funds. Chief Bobby Edwards informed the town council that the police department had reports of people being inside the town's mine portals within the last two months. Mayor Yates added that two of the mine portals will be sealed during the Splashdam Water Line Project. Motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Council Member Michael Harris to approve the resolution as presented. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

**ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**ITEM # X – UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Chief Bobby Edwards reported thirty-six calls for the month of December and advised of the yearly report also submitted for review. Chief Edwards read off the hours worked on the report for December and stated that a new part time officer may be hired in the next few days. Chief Edwards offered to answer any questions regarding the reports. Mayor Yates commented that the police department had a busy month and he liked the annual report.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

None.

**ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that he had been approached by Mike Phipps from Bristol regarding a one acre lot in town that he had not be able to identify, but thought may be located near Dennis Reedy's residence. Council Member Carter Branham said that Mike Phipps was the grandson of Auty Phipps and he knew exactly where the property was located; near the caboose joining Clayton Belcher's property. Council Member Branham said that Auty Phipps' son Roger had tried to sell the property to him in the past. Chief Bobby Edwards mentioned that Mike Phipps referred to unpaid tax tickets. Mayor Yates said that he didn't want to mention the price, but was looking for direction from the town council. Mayor Yates said that a survey and deed research would have to be done in order to move forward. Council Member Tim Wallace asked what purpose the town would have for the property. Council Member Branham mentioned the road frontage on two sides of the property. Mayor Yates advised that Virginia Department of Transportation would have right of way for both of those. A general discussion was held about VDOT right of ways. Mayor Yates said that the price for the property was reasonable and he would discuss it more openly in closed session if the town council wanted. Chief Edwards advised that the tax ticket was incorrect. Council Member Susan Tiller commented that she didn't see the town's need for it. Mayor Yates recommended that the town not pursue the matter, supported by the above discussion.

**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 Susan Tiller 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.

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Larry D. Yates, Mayor

Attest:

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Clerk