

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
September 2, 2014 @ 7:00 p.m.

On September 2, 2014, 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

Barry Whitt

Tim Wallace

Susan Tiller

William "Billy" Counts

ABSENT: None.

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 Police Chief George Wallace and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # IV - APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

At this time Mayor Yates asked the Council to amend the agenda by adding Closed Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A1 for Personnel as item XI and move the following items down in number accordingly. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to approve the agenda. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM #V - PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ITEM # VI - APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

• August 5, 2014

Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the minutes as presented in writing. 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, 2014 through August 28, 2014 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- August 1, 2014 through August 28, 2014 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 12371-12401 & deposits
- July 1, 2014 through July 31, 2014 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review
- August Bank Statements

Mayor Yates advised that the \$1,000 donation to the Haysi Russell Fork Autumn Fest was the \$500 donation from the Town of Haysi and a \$500 donation from the discretionary fund of Sandlick District Supervisor Delano Sykes. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Barry Whitt to approve the financial report. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # VIII - NEW BUSINESS

Town of Haysi Readiness Package Information

Mayor Yates welcomed Andrea Hicks to speak about the Town of Haysi Readiness Package. Ms. Hicks explained that the readiness package was an opportunity for the community to get ready for trail riders and develop the best exposure. The document focuses on welcoming riders and cultivating an ATV friendly atmosphere. Virginia Tourism Corporation came in May to visit the town and put together recommendations for the town's future and existing businesses. The package will help potential entrepreneurs start businesses that riders need and what non-motorized opportunities exist for hikers, bikers, and other outdoor tourists. The package points out a need for more restaurants and lodging. The document referred to the Hatfield McCoy Trail for some of the statistics researched and Ms. Hicks summarized those. Ms. Hicks encouraged the town to pursue an ATV rental business to open opportunity and change the dynamic of the visitors who would travel to Haysi. Ms. Hicks described the new promotion that Mountain View has received and changes pertaining to the trail. Ms. Hicks advised that the readiness package was in the draft stage and the Virginia Tourism Corporation would present the information to the

town once it is completed. Mayor Yates said that he had the draft and he would be happy to give a copy to those interested. Mayor Yates thanked Ms. Hicks for her presentation and stated that the trail is under development in the engineering stage. Mayor Yates mentioned that Spearhead Trails is a top sponsor for the Outdoor Expo on October 13, 2014 at the Heartwood, where legislators, senators, and other law makers could take an interest in the outdoor recreation of Southwest Virginia. The Town of Haysi will be represented at the event.

Property Acquisition from Russell Fork Pharmacies, Inc. and Richard Edwards for Sidewalk Project

Mayor Yates explained that the town had been working to acquire sidewalk easements and two property owners had offered their sidewalk property to the town. Attorney Derrick Yates advised that the motivation for the property owners was release of liability. Attorney Yates said that the town had government immunity and the transfer of property would not result in extra liability. Attorney Yates said that a simple deed would be prepared, but a motion was needed. He added that no money would be involved. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to accept the transfer of property adjacent to the Haysi Post Office and Jones and Counts Pharmacy to the Town of Haysi. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Mayor Yates said that he was working with Lester Hill of AEP and Asleigh Marshall of Hill Studios on the streetscape project. The project is waiting for AEP's portion to be completed for the bid package.

ITEM # IX – OLD BUSINESS

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

Chief Wallace reported fifty calls for the month of August and briefly described several of the calls on the August Monthly Report. During the month Kerry Hay's daughter's foot was crushed by a car in an accident on Bartley Street, 3 large trucks got stuck in town, a stolen car hauler was recovered and returned to New Road Trade Center, a parent assaulted the secretary at Sandlick Elementary, a drug arrest was made in Splashdam, and Assistant Chief Edwards arrested two wanted persons. Mayor Yates thanked Chief Wallace and Assistant Chief Edwards for the work of the Haysi Police Department.

VRS Hazardous Duty Study

Mayor Yates stated that a copy of the VRS Hazardous Duty Study was included in the board packs. Mayor Yates summarized the key points in the report including what it would cost for the first year and the town's funding level. Chief Wallace, Mayor Yates, and Vice

Mayor Rocky Wood discussed the percentage rate and how it is calculated for the town and other agencies using VRS. Mayor Yates stated that it was a complicated program with many factors contributing to the funding level. Mayor Yates read the paragraph under the heading of "Current Status." The study was done with two multipliers; 1.70% and 1.85%. Mayor Yates also noted that the town is labeled "at risk." Council Member Susan Tiller asked if the town was going to be able to offer the program to employees. Mayor Yates said that it would be up to the council, however the cost of the program was not available in the current budget. The cost for the first year is over \$20,000 for both multipliers. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked when a decision had to be made. Mayor Yates said that he was not sure how much time was allowed for deliberation. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to table the discussion until the October meeting so the council could research the study and budget further. Council Member Billy Counts asked how much the town was currently paying. Mayor Yates said that the town currently contributes 22% of full time employees' salaries. Council Member Susan Tiller, Mayor Yates, and Assistant Chief Edwards discussed the "at risk" status, \$1,500 to produce the study information and data in Exhibit 4 of the study. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if all police departments were offering the program to their employees. Mayor Yates stated that many offer it as a retention tool. Chief Wallace said that being a police officer is not an easy job and the Hazardous Duty coverage helps officers retire about five years early and helps the department maintain quality personnel. Mayor Yates said that it was a "much needed benefit", but the cost was not covered in the budget. Mayor Yates stressed that the funding must be in place before the coverage can be offered and \$23,000 would be tough to find. Council Member Susan Tiller seconded the motion on the floor. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # X - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates advised that there was a letter of grant award from The Columbus Phipps Foundation included in the board packets. The grant was to cover tuition for Clerk, Amanda Perrigan and Economic Development Coordinator, Kirsten Deel to attend the Bushy Fork Institute later in the month.
- Mayor Yates advised that there was a letter of grant award from VML included in the board packets for the Risk Management Grant.
- Mayor Yates said that he has been reviewing information on a new grant opportunity for the town under the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The grant is for river type boating access. He said that he would continue to research the possibility of submitting an application in October for a boat launching ramp.

- Mayor Yates said the town has easements on the two properties for the river viewing platform ready to be signed. It is expected to be put out to bid at the same time as the sidewalks.

ITEM # XI – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood to adjourn into Executive Session pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A1 for the discussion of Personnel. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote to certify the statement:

Wm. “Billy” Brice Counts	Yes	Michael Harris	Yes
Tim Wallace	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes
Barry Whitt	Yes	Rocky Wood	Yes

Upon motion made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts the Council was now convened in Open Session. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood and seconded by Council Member Billy Counts for to take no action until after the discussion next month regarding the continuation of the VRS Hazardous Duty Study. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Mayor Yates requested that the Council consider holding the October meeting on the alternate date due to the schedule conflicts for the Clerk and himself. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to hold next month’s meeting on the alternate date of October 14, 2014. Let the record show the motion on the floor passed unanimously by verbal voting.

ITEM # XI - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Tim Wallace requested that the new Economic Development Coordinator, Kirsten Deel be introduced to the Council. Mayor Yates introduced Mrs. Deel and allowed her to give an update on work. Mrs. Deel explained that she had been

working with the Clerk on the Haysi Russell Fork Autumn Fest and vacant property listings in town.

ITEM # XV – 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 Barry Whitt 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