

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
March 14, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

On March 14, 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
Susan Tiller

ABSENT: None

ITEMS # I & II

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.

ITEM # III - MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Yates called for a moment of silence in honor and memory of Vice Mayor Rocky Wood.

ITEMS # IV – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ITEM # V - 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 Council Member 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

None.

ITEM # VII – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- February 7, 2023 Regular Town Council Meeting

Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts and seconded by Council Member Michael Harris to approve the minutes of the meeting on February 7, 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:

- February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 16660-16694 & deposits
- February 1, 2023 through February 28, 2023 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

Council Member Billy Counts commented on the increase in the electric bill. A general discussion was held about the electric bills and streetlights. Mayor Yates mentioned that the town had renewed the line of credit and he had negotiated a higher interest rate on the certificate of deposit renewal. Motion was made by Council Member Billy Counts 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

Donation Request from Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club

Mayor Yates welcomed Brenda Ramey to present the donation request. Brenda Ramey introduced herself as the current President of the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club and advised that 2023 was the tenth year of the Community Easter Egg Hunt. Mrs. Ramey advised that the donation request would be used for food, gifts, and prizes. Mrs. Ramey said this year the focus would be on larger prizes. Mrs. Ramey plans to ask for the Town of Clinchco's donation again as well since the towns are the biggest supporters. Mayor Yates asked for the number of children that attend. Mrs. Ramey answered between five to eight hundred. Council Member Billy Counts asked if the location was Sandlick Elementary School. Mrs. Ramey answered it was, but acknowledged that the Haysi Kiwanis Park was preferable. Mrs. Ramey pointed out that they didn't advertise as much in the past because they were beginning to see children from outside the county and wanted to focus on children in Dickenson County. Mrs. Ramey also discussed their concern about planning for next year with the close of Sandlick Elementary School. Mayor Yates stated that he had been working with the County Administrator to keep as much as possible at the school site.

Council Member Carter Branham mentioned including the school site in the town limits. Mayor Yates replied that it takes a lot of work to accomplish an annexation. Council Member Branham stated that the school site could be a park for the town. Mayor Yates replied that anything kept on the property would require the approval of the Corp of Engineers and the county’s responsibility to maintain as owner. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to approve the five hundred dollar donation request for the Community Easter Egg Hunt to the Haysi-Clinchco Lions Club. Mayor Yates called for a roll call vote.

Wm. “Billy” Brice Counts	Yes	Michael Harris	Yes
Tim Wallace	No	Susan Tiller	Yes
Carter Branham	Yes		

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

2023 The Local Choice Renewal

Mayor Yates asked Clerk Amanda Perrigan about the rate renewal form. Clerk Perrigan passed around the form and advised that the highlighted plans were the current plan offered by the town and the plan with asterisk circled was the dental option currently offered. Mayor Yates advised that the town has not had any employees select coverage since George Wallace’s retirement, but had always provided the Key Advantage 250, with a two-hundred-and-fifty-dollar deductible. Clerk Perrigan added with comprehensive dental. Clerk Perrigan explained that a plan needed to be chosen as well as the amount that the town would pay toward the policy, by law the employer must pay eighty percent of the employee premium and twenty percent of any dependent’s premium. A general discussion was held about the health insurance plans and percentages. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Billy Counts to continue to provide the Key Advantage 250 Plan with Comprehensive Dental from The Local Choice and to pay eighty percent of the employee premium and twenty percent of any dependent’s premium. Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed unanimously by verbal voting.

Select Vice Mayor

Mayor Yates stated that Rocky Wood did a “fantastic job” as Vice Mayor. He had good communication with the town operations, knew about the town’s finances, filled in for the Mayor, lead meetings, and was a signatory on the bank accounts. Mayor Yates advised that Council Member Michael Harris is a signatory on the ARC Bank Account. Mayor Yates opened the floor for motions or discussion. Motion was made by Council Member Carter Branham seconded by Council Member Susan Tiller to appoint Council Member Michael Harris as Vice Mayor. 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 (See Attachment)

Interim Chief J.R. Stanley read his report including hours worked, mileage driven, and number of calls for the month of February. Interim Chief Stanley advised that he was driving each of the vehicles himself to help maintain them.

Mayor Yates stated that Phillip Cook is the new Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Chief and Chris Edwards is the Assistant Chief. Mayor Yates will invite them to give the monthly report to the council in future.

ITEM # XI - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates reported that the town owed Bobby Edwards a debt of gratitude and explained that the town wanted him back to work part time since he was good team member. Bobby Edwards spent four to five days working on behalf of the town to assist with matters related to Vice Mayor Rocky Wood's passing and doesn't want compensation for the work. Mayor Yates advised that he is working on an agreement with the county, similar to the past school resource officer agreement to have Bobby work for the town full time. There are still some obstacles to be resolved, but Sheriff Jeremy Fleming is agreeable and Officer Edwards would keep his benefits already in place with the county.
- Mayor Yates reported that the contractor was site for the riverwalk project today and is expected to pour the concrete slab on Thursday for the bike rack and charging station. The town is looking for an electrician to wire the fixtures. The larger riverwalk construction is on target to start in four to six weeks.
- Mayor Yates also reported that he had been in contact with the Corp of Engineers about the bids on the new town hall. All of the bids received, which he recalled as three, came in over budget and therefore unable to be awarded. The Corp of Engineers has purchased the property.
- Mayor Yates brought up for discussion a way to honor/public show of appreciation for Rocky Wood. Mayor Yates told the story of how former Vice Mayor Wood was included in the town annexation and became a town council member. Mayor Yates advised that the town provided supplies and food to the family following the news of the accident. Mayor Yates asked the council to think about ways to accomplish a public memorial project to honor him. A few suggestions were discussed, but the Mayor stressed the importance of being thorough, so he didn't want a decision rushed and the matter will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Mayor Yates read the names of people and organizations that had sent condolences to the town and advised Virginia Governor Glen Youngkin had given an order to lower the flags on March 13, 2023.

ITEM # XII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Susan Tiller asked why the town didn't send flowers to former Vice Mayor Rocky Wood's funeral services. Mayor Yates advised that there wasn't a set policy, but the notification of the arrangements was late Saturday and the florists are closed on Sunday. Council Member Tiller said she purchased her flowers Sunday from Haysi Town Florist. Mayor Yates responded that everything happened suddenly and everyone was hurting. Mayor Yates stated that the town will do everything it can to honor and respect former Vice Mayor Wood and would not want to offend his family. Mayor Yates said the open seat on the town council would be discussed at the next meeting when the town's attorney is present.

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 Susan Tiller 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