

Town of Haysi
Minutes of Regular Town Council Meeting
September 1, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

On September 1, 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
Vice Mayor Rocky Wood

Council Members:
Michael Harris
Susan Tiller
Tim Wallace

ABSENT: Carter Branham
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 Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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 Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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

None.

ITEM # VII – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- August 4, 2020 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 public hearing and the regular town council meeting on August 4, 2020 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:

- August 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 Financial Report listing: beginning balance, revenue, expenditures and ending balance.
- July 31, 2020 through August 26, 2020 itemized listing of expenditures including checks # 15512-15530 & deposits
- July 31, 2020 through August 26, 2020 Profit & Loss Report
- Current payables to date for review

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

ITEM # IX - NEW BUSINESS

Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance

Mayor Yates explained that a Transient Occupancy Tax is basically a tax on lodging at hotels, bed and breakfast establishments, and campgrounds for stays of less than thirty nights. Mayor Yates advised that the town of Clintwood has a Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance at five cents per one hundred dollars and generates a good revenue stream from it. Mayor Yates also advised that the town of Haysi needs more revenue and this would allow the town to collect money without hurting local citizens. Police Chief Bobby Edwards asked if the thirty days stipulation was part of the Virginia State Code because the campgrounds offer monthly rentals. Mayor Yates read the following passage from:

Mayor Yates stated that he would look to Attorney Taylor Hay for assistance. Mayor Yates said that he liked it because it was on visitors coming into town and it was common to pay the tax everywhere you travel. Mayor Yates said he was projecting the town would collect around twenty thousand dollars annually. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked if tent camping would be included. Attorney Hay answered that she didn't see why tent camping would be exempted. A general discussion was held about lodging. Mayor Yates offered to present a sample ordinance at the Council's direction, but the process would take a few months to implement. Council Member Tim Wallace asked if the county charged the tax. Mayor Yates answered that the county did charge the tax, but were capped at four percent. Mayor Yates also explained that businesses would not be charged a tax to the county and the town, only the town if implemented. Vice Mayor Wood stated that he would rather the tax come to the town than the county. Mayor Yates said the business owners would be asked to pay the town quarterly. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood seconded by Susan Tiller to allow Mayor Yates and Attorney Taylor Hay to draft a Transient Occupancy Tax Ordinance. Mayor Yates asked for a roll call vote:

Michael Harris	Yes	Tim Wallace	Yes
Rocky Wood	Yes	Susan Tiller	Yes

Let the record show the motion on the floor was passed by verbal voting. Attorney Taylor Hay gave the governing Virginia Code Section as 58.1-3819.

ITEM # X – OLD BUSINESS

None.

ITEM # XI – UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Chief Bobby Edwards reported thirty-six calls on the August Monthly Report and pointed out that the amount was drastically lower and read the notes from the report. Chief Edwards stated that there were a couple of rough calls including a homicide on Lick Creek, but he would prefer not to discuss that call. Chief Edwards also reported that Officer Brent Wallace had decided to quit, so the department hired Officer Jerry Shane Fuller to take his part time hours. Officer Fuller will start work on September 11, 2020. Chief Edwards advised that the department was awarded a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice for over eleven thousand dollars for equipment, furniture, and software. Mayor Yates asked if mounts for the tablets were included. Chief Edwards answered that they were included and everything should work well for a long time to come. Mayor Yates advised that the full time officer grant was turned down. Chief Edwards said that the expected delivery for the new police department Tahoe was between the end of October and the beginning of November. Mayor Yates added that the furniture chosen will work well for the new town hall facility as well. Chief Edwards also advised that the Maintenance Department will receive new signs for litter pickup to aid in employee and community service worker safety from the Virginia Risk Sharing Association Risk Management Grant.

Haysi Volunteer Fire Department Monthly Report

Chief Rocky Wood reported one power pole fire, two structure fires, one road blocked by a tree, one hazmat call, one missing person, and two car wrecks. Chief Wood advised that the department had been slow, which was a good thing. Fire Season starts October 5, 2020.

ITEM # XII - MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Yates reported the following:

- Mayor Yates advised that he is working on the Riverwalk Trail and expects that the advertisement will be posted within the next ninety days. If the bids come back over budget there is another funding opportunity available if needed.
- Mayor Yates said the new elementary school would be built at Ridgeview. The Dickenson County Industrial Development Authority met last night and the final vote was five to two, with Mayor Yates and Shane Hillman voting against it. Mayor Yates stated there will no longer be a school in Haysi. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood asked where they were going to put all the kids because the school wouldn't be big enough. Mayor Yates explained that many of those making the decisions were not looking for a bright future for Dickenson County.

Johnnie Branham asked if the design for the Riverwalk was the same. Mayor Yates answered that it was pretty much the same, but the fishing piers were replaced with a universal fishing pad. Mr. Branham asked about the use of ATV's on the Riverwalk. Mayor Yates answered that the Riverwalk would be limit motorized access to E-Bikes. Mayor Yates added that the new design would also include charging and repair stations. Mayor Yates invited Mr. Branham to come by the town hall to see the design plans.

Mayor Yates announced that the Russell Fork Autumn Fest was cancelled this year and asked for thoughts on Halloween and the Christmas Parade. A general discussion was held about the events. Vice Mayor Rocky Wood suggested an ad to include instructions for citizens that don't mind visitors to leave their light on for Halloween Trick or Treat Hours and those that prefer not to have visitors leave their light off during that time. Mayor Yates pointed out there was still time and the topic could be revisited next month.

ITEM # XIII - COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Susan Tiller asked for an update on the alcohol tax. Mayor Yates said that he would revisit. Chief Edwards said he didn't think the town could impose a tax unless the alcohol was consumed on premises. A general discussion was held about the distillery.

Council Member Tim Wallace asked about the parking at the end of Bridge Street. Chief Edwards answered that he hadn't had any complaints. Council Member Wallace said the street was blocked this evening, but the parking lot was empty. A general discussion was held about parking.

ITEM # XIV – ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to be brought before the Council, a motion was made by Council Member Susan Tiller seconded by Vice Mayor Rocky Wood 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