

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on June 16, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Tricia Spencer, Larry Carter and Bill Weaver Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Deputy Town Clerk Anita Catron; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Chief Rex Anders; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm, Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Several Members of Marion Police Department.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Cecil Hicks rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Kel Lowry, Jeff Spickard, Stephen Farris, Kathy Farris, Shelby Farris, Alan Morgan, Donna Roberts, Sandip Patel, Carol Doss, Nicole Vachon-Hanlon, Mike Edwards and Charles Wassum.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held June 2, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Owens, Barker, Spencer and Carter voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved with one addition for Closed Session.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF ROBERT KEL LOWRY, IV: Mr. Lowry retired from the Town of Marion Police Department June 1, 2014. Mayor Helms read the resolution and presented it to Mr. Lowry. Mayor Helms thanked him for his service to the Community and The Town of Marion. The Mayor, Town Council, Fellow Officers, and Staff wish Mr. Lowry the very best in his retirement. Mr. Lowry expressed his thanks to everyone and stated his wish that friends Mike Roberts and Darrell Hayden could have been present for this occasion. Chief Rex Anders presented Mr. Lowry with his revolver (the \$1.00 dollar fee was paid by Mr. Jim Barker), and also an appreciation plaque.

RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT OF MINDY J. DYER: Mrs. Dyer was not present and will be presented her resolution at a later date.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TOWN POLICE OFFICERS: Mayor Helms introduced two (2) new police officers and performed the Swearing In Of Officers, Mr. Benjamin Dillow and Mr. Uriah Farris. Chief Anders pinned the badges on these new officers and officially welcomed them.

INTRODUCTION OF PROMOTED OFFICERS: Chief Anders explained the process involved when officers are to be promoted. These interviews are conducted by Law Enforcement Officers from outside the Town of Marion so as to allow for impartial choices. This has been standard procedure for several years. Police Sergeant Rusty Hamm promoted to Police Lieutenant. Police Officer April Morgan to Police Sergeant. Police Officer Steve Hagy to Police Sergeant. Chief Anders pinned each officer with their new

badges and expressed his thank you for their hard work. Mayor Helms noted that with the promotion of April Morgan to Police Sergeant, this is the first female to be promoted to Sergeant with the Town of Marion Police Department.

Mr. Barker inquired about the burning of the brush pile at the Water Plant. Mr. Rush noted this had gone well. Mr. Barker also commended the Police Department on their visibility.

Mr. Owens stated the Farmer's Market Concert event on Friday night was well attended, and wish to thank all who had helped with this event.

Mr. Carter stated that as of the last District III meeting they still have no budget in place and this will hinder what they can do.

Mayor Helms noted the Chamber of Commerce Business & Industry Luncheon will be on Tuesday, June 24th at the General Francis at 12:00 noon. The VML Regional meeting will be Wednesday, June 25th at 5:00 pm also at the General Francis. The Town and County meeting will be Thursday, June 26th at the Wave Pool in Saltville. This will be a family event. Please let the Town Clerk know if you plan to attend these events and the number of guest you will bring to the Town and County meeting. Mr. Rush noted there is a Public Hearing scheduled for June 26th also. This is no longer needed, but has already been advertised for 5:00 pm so members of Council will still need to attend.

Mr. Fenyk noted the Amended Revenue Sharing Agreement with Smyth County needs to be renewed. This will require the Town to vote on this item. Smyth County has made one change to the agreement but this change will not affect the Town. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES this agreement will be accepted and renewed.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$783,487.33.

Chief Anders informed Council of the death of retired Town of Abingdon Police Chief Kelly and stated he will be attending this service on Tuesday the 17th. Also he, Mayor Helms and Bill Rush have been working on a new patrol schedule that will help to eliminate overtime for officers and allow for better police coverage especially during special events. They feel this will be ready to go into place soon.

Fire Chief Billy Hamm informed Council that the applications for licensing have been sent for insurance purposes. They are waiting for the Attorney on the Code Book outline for combined Fire/EMS agencies. The Fire Department has everything in place for pay per call. EMS side will take longer because of certain regulations that will need to be met. He informed the Fire Committee to let him know if they would like to review this with him. Mr. Rush stated this has been a hard thing to put together, but Billy has worked hard to coordinate this and he would like to recognize his hard work.

Economic Development Director Ken Heath spoke on behalf of the Marion Downtown and also for Economic Development. Marion Downtown has several events in place. Christina's Discount Clothing Ribbon Cutting was June 6th. The July 4th Festival plans are being made and these do include having Dirt Track Cars here to co-promote with Wythe Raceway. The Chili Cook-Off will be held again this year on

the 3rd Friday in July. The Summer Concert's have began and this past Friday night was well attended. Pop Up Boot Camp #6 has began. The Farmers Market has been well attended. Ribbon cutting for Past Time Antique Emporium a new business in downtown will be at 12:00 noon on Monday, June 23rd.

Economic Development also has several projects. He stated Back of the Dragon signs have been installed. Emory & Henry round table event is scheduled for July 24th. Wayne Henderson School of Music updates are going well. Anyone that wishes may come by on Tuesday, June 17th for a tour. Review of applications for the director position are complete. He will have more information on this at the next meeting. The bid process has been completed on both The Gateway Enhancement Project and the Streetscape Phase IV Project. Mr. Heath has requested Council approval to proceed with Hill Studio negotiations for The Gateway Project and Bill Huber for the Streetscape IV Project. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Council gave permission to proceed with negotiations for both projects.

Mr. Heath introduced Nicole Vachon-Hanlon and Carol Doss with the Upper Tennessee River Round Table. These ladies would like to remove the debris from the burnt Ice Plant and from the Old Dam. This is a Historical Site, and they discussed the possibility of a memorial being placed there. They request the Town help with removal of this debris. They have spoken with the property owner, and she also would like for this site to be cleaned up. It was noted the property, including the dam was on private property (not on the town). Discussion ensued. Mark Fenyk advised this needs to be between their agency and the property owner. After discussion, Council and the Town Manager feel this item should be tabled. Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was tabled.

Town Engineer Cecil Hicks noted the generator at the Sewer Treatment Plant is working now but not at full capacity. They have been told by the contractor, to fill the digester with gas for testing. No one has come to do these test, and they have now switched back to methane gas to maintain the required temperature for operations. Mr. Hicks has requested a progress report from the engineer. The water accountability is at 50% they hope to perform leak studies soon. There is a Health Department grant for help with this and he has applied for this. Mount Rogers Planning District also offers grants for help with water lines and he also has applied for this. Work on the Baughman Bridge Project has started and the contractor is doing a great job. Paving will begin this week. They will take some of the milling material and make a way for large trucks to enter the Golf Course by the back way and avoid the bridge. Planning Commission Members are considering possible changes to the width requirements for lots. He also requested Council to consider a date for the annual employee summer cook-out.

Town Manager Bill Rush stated the Gateway Project with the IT department for the phone and internet project is basically complete. He has been contacted with regards to the boundary adjustment reports. There were changes that needed to be made to incorporated requested items into this report. Mr. Rush will be attend the VLGMA meeting this week. Mr. Edwards will have a report on the Airport Commission meeting at the next council meeting. With regards to the house that was donated by The Bank of Marion to the Town on Iron Street, we will work with Marion Redevelopment & Housing Authority on a

pilot project for this to avoid blight. The Line of Credit at Bank of Marion is going well. Ken Heath will have a report at the next meeting with regards to the Tobacco Commission and First Fruits.

Mr. Carter noted although improvements have been made at one end of River Bend Park Walkway, there is another problem at the other end that needs to be made.

Adoption of a Resolution in Recognition of 2014 EMS Week, May 18-24: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this resolution was adopted.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3), (A-5),(A-29)and (A-30) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion or consideration of Real Estate matters, prospective Business, Confidential Proprietary Records and Award of a Public Contract involving the expenditure of public funds. Dr. Gates moved that Town Council return to Open Session and identified it be known that only those matters legally exempted from Open Session and identified in the motion were discussed during Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Owens and carried by a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Carter, Barker, Spencer and Owens voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council agreed to a memorandum of understanding.

Mayor Helms reminded members of the special called meeting on Monday June 30, 2014 at 5:00 to close the end of year.

Upon motion, Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk