

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 September 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Larry Carter Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Lieutenant Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Engineers Assistant Todd Long; Senior Citizen Center Director Mindy Dyer; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Holston Hills Community Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arriving late) and Deputy Town Clerk Anita Catron.

ABSENT: None

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Charles Wassum, Jane Hale, Dave Thomas, Brian Reed, Charles Hayden, Jill Wolfe, Joanne Kelly and Brittany Shuler.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held August 19, 2013 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Owens, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as amended.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Jill Wolfe co-owner of Wolfe's BBQ 138 E Main Street invited everyone to the grand opening for this business on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00 p.m. They have events planned for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Dave Thomas 221 Wassona Circle presented each council member with a brochure "Aging in America" and a letter containing some history of the Senior Citizen Center and stating contributions made by the senior citizens. Brittany Shuler spoke requesting permission to hang gold ribbons on Main Street for the month of September for childhood cancer awareness. Ribbons will be hung by a group and they will be responsible for their removal. Mr. Heath reminded these will need to hang on the lamp posts, not on the trees. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this request was approved with a reminder to please remove these by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

REQUEST TO VACATE UNDEVELOPED RIGHT OF WAY-JOHN STREET: Mr. Rush requested this item be removed as the persons involved will request a variance from the Planning Commission because of the size of the area involved. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was removed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION: Mr. Rush noted he would like to suggest Dr. Gates as the town representative for this board. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES, 0 NOES and 1 ABSTENTION(Dr. Gates), council approved Dr. Gates for this position.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT-DAY TO SERVE: Mr. Heath requested Council approval for this resolution to be observed for the week of September 15-19, 2013. This is to encourage all groups of people to come together to "feed the hungry, protect and enhance the environment, as well as strengthening our communities." Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this will be discussed more at the next meeting on September 16, 2013.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT-EXTRA MILE DAY: Mr. Heath requested Council approval for this resolution and to once again participate in this event which is set for November 1, 2013. He will have the nomination forms for members at the next meeting. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was approved and members will participate.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT-EMORY & HENRY COLLEGE: Mr. Heath noted that Emory & Henry College has applied for funding for renovations of the former Hospital on Park Blvd and request the Town's support for the grant application. Mr. Heath has prepared a letter in support of this ARC grant application.

Mr. Barker noted he has traveled in several areas this summer and feels there is good support for what the people and members of Council do in this area. He also thanked Council for allowing him to attend the Planning Commissioners training and feels more people should attend as this is very informative.

Mr. Owens stated he has received positive and negative comments on the Golf Course.

Mrs. Jennings noted she has received positive support from citizens on the send off given to the troops.

Mr. Carter had positive feedback from a meeting with prospective business owners.

Mayor Helms reminded members of a reception to be held at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 11, 2013 in the cafeteria at Smyth County Community Hospital for the President/ CEO of Mountain States Health Alliance. Smyth County Tourism Center will host Ambassador's Appreciation Picnic at the Chilhowie Town Park on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Please let the Town Clerk know if you plan to attend by September 12<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Helms attended the Graduation for Blue Ridge Job Corps on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. He would like to thank members of Marion Volunteer Fire Dept and all other fire department members along with all law enforcement personnel for the help and support with the fire at Country Club Crossing Apartment Complex.

Mr. Fenyk informed council the deed from the sale of surplus property on Crescent Avenue has been recorded. Also, the deed on the Court Street Right of Way has been given to Smyth County for signatures.

Mr. Heath reviewed Pay Request # 10 for the Downtown Marion Historic Streetscape Project. Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, pay request #10 in the amount of \$73,268.75 was approved for payment. Wayne Henderson School of Music all phases are coming along nicely. North Iron Street streetscape project is nearing completion, awaiting AEP to install the lights and then final inspection, which is anticipated by the end of September. The space is usable now, and barricades have been removed, allowing for pedestrian access. The gateway sign for the Iron Street Mall is set to be installed in the next 10 days, and this will wrap up another grant. Mr. Heath has continued to communicate with VDOT in reference to phase IV of the downtown streetscape, and anticipates an early fall contract and announcement. He is coordinating work with adjacent property owners (Blue Ridge Job Corps and Ebenezer Lutheran Church are also preparing to do work in conjunction with the project). The Town has received a Gateway Enhancement Planning Grant, and Mr. Heath is coordinating a public information and input session on Thursday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. following the Appalachian Trail designation ceremony. Back of the Dragon way finding signs have been installed, and Mr. Heath has received permission for the Town to purchase and install similar logos on an "Attractions" sign at exit 45, he is awaiting committee action. 911 Memorial dedication and remembrance are scheduled for Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. with a guest speaker who was one of the last pilots flying before the crash of the twin towers. Economic Development Demographics information has been provided showing retail leakage and surplus analysis that may be useful to perspective businesses and also an update on the incentives of the Enterprise Zone.

Brian Reed with Mount Rogers Planning District presented information on a new initiative to build collaborative communities, and has asked for Marion's participation. The Town's match would be provided by funds already expended to promote tourism and special events. Mr. Heath also stated the "Pop-UP" class will begin again Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. They have received an additional \$10,000 from Well Fargo in support of these classes. The Farmer's Market will be offering a variety of classes. Wedding Showcase is scheduled for Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. He also reminded everyone that Friday night football begins and encouraged everyone to support the local teams.

Lt. Anders stated his appreciation for all the help and support at the Country Club Crossing Complex fire. He feels there was good cooperation between all law enforcement and fire departments that responded. He informed council of a DMV grant that has been received in the amount of \$16,125.00.

Mr. Hicks stated there is no update on the Co-Gen project. He has been unable to contact the contractor. The Edwynne Drive project has received approval from the Health Department. Jeff Spickard has the forms to be signed and the contractor has been notified of a possible start date. He and Donnie Coley attended a meeting last week with VDOT with regards to the S. Church Street project. The traffic

flow for that street is significant and they were able to discuss possible ways to help as some streets may have to be closed for drainage pipe installation and to allow for patching during that time. Possible start date for this project is January of 2015. They hope the Chatham Hill Road Bridge will be open again by the middle of October, and may want to discuss paving costs with VDOT. Baughman Avenue Bridge is scheduled to begin next year. Mr. Rush requested they discuss paving costs at the next meeting for Chatham Hill Road Bridge.

Terry Jennings stated the rainy season has had an impact on the golf course. The pool has now closed for the season. As discussed earlier, he will contact someone to check on a problem they had at the pool. Mr. Rush informed him that Tony Edwards at the Water Plant is qualified to do a diagnostic check so this can be performed in house. Mr. Jennings also stated after receiving the ABC license they have extended the grill hours these will be adjusted seasonally. After having some questions with regards to the retail selling price of beer on premises, he has discussed this with one of his distributors, has also done a comparative market analysis, and feels the price is competitive with other locations.

Mr. Rush stated he has informational items for council that requires no action. These include: The Gateway Project he would like to discuss this at possibly the next meeting as there may need to be some restructure of this. Also, over the next 6-8 months, there will be a water/sewer and storm water drainage study. This will determine if the pipe size needs to be increased to allow for better drainage. He has also included pictures and information in the packet showing some work from Matthew Moorer. This is a volunteer project group and they have done an excellent job on various projects. Due to the weather the Amphitheatre grand opening had to be postponed.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1), (A-3) and (A-7) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters, discussion of the disposition of publicly held real property, and discussion of legal issues. Mrs. Jennings 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 Dr. Gates and carried by vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Barker, Owens, Dr. Gates, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk