

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 April 6, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Larry Carter, Bill Weaver and Suzanne Jennings Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long (left early); Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Reverend Harry Howe rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Michael Edwards, Reverend Harry Howe, Jeff Spickard, Bob Lincoln, Lyn Thompson, Karen Fouts, Sandip Patel and Scott Schumaker.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held March 23, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the Special Called meeting held March 30, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Reverend Harry Howe reviewed the plans to hold a Remote Area Medical Clinic on April 30 and May 1, 2016 at the Mt Empire Airport. The tentative budget for the event is approximately \$30,000. This event will provide medical, dental and vision care for those interested. Reverend Howe's request is for the Town of Marion to help support this event with \$8,000 to \$10,000. The next planning meeting will be held at the VFW on May 14, 2015. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Finance Committee. Expected attendance for this clinic is approximately as many as 2,000 participants.

PUBLIC HEARING PAWNBROKER ORDINANCE: Mayor Helms referred this to Mr. Fenyk to review. The Pawnbroker Ordinance was reviewed by Mr. Fenyk. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. With no comments from the public, the Public Hearing was closed. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Pawnbroker Ordinance was approved as presented.

Mrs. Jennings reported that the Rotary Club wants to do a River Walk Cleanup Project.

Dr. Gates expressed his appreciation to the Town for their expressions of sympathy during the loss of mother-in-law, Alpha Scott.

Mr. Barker noted the Fish On event last Saturday went very well.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone the VML Regional Supper will be April 15, 2015 in Bristol. He also reviewed a request from the Chamber of Commerce Office for a matching scholarship fund recommendation from John Clark. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Finance Committee. Mr. Rush noted a VCCS Chancellor's Town Hall meeting will be held on April 15, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Higher Ed Center. April 5-11, 2015 is Local Government Education week. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Local Government Education Week Proclamation was accepted. Mr. Rush reviewed the Boundary Adjustment which was approved and will be effective June 30, 2015. Mr. Fenyk noted a Special Election will be held November 3, 2015 for the unexpired term of Mr. Jim Owens. Mayor Helms continued noting 15 to 20 people from Tazewell visited today with Mr. Heath and Mrs. McDonald for information to help with their Main Street Program. He also noted that May 9, 2015 is the March of Dimes Walk. There will also be a 5k run that day. Mayor Helms reviewed a request from the VFW Post #4667 for the Memorial Day Parade and a Civil War Re-enactment to be held at the Amphitheatre on May 25, 2015. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the request for the Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2015 and the Civil War Re-enactment was approved. Mr. Fenyk and Chief Anders requested an ordinance for the Town to be able to collect \$5.00 per electronic ticket. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this was referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Jennings noted soccer signups were March 23, 2015. Va Tech will host a soccer camp here July 8-10, 2015. The cost will be \$75.00. He also reviewed the changes for the Senior Citizen Center meals. The Emory & Henry students that participated in the Senior Citizen Program will be at the next Council meeting to give a presentation. Mr. Jennings reviewed a request to purchase a new workman due to the fact the current carry-all equipment is 20 years old. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the purchase of a new workman was approved to be paid for from the foundation funds.

Mr. Rush covered the Public Works report, noting the garbage truck is back in service. The hiring of seasonal part time employees will begin soon.

Chief Anders requested a Street Committee meeting about the Downtown Parking. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this was referred to the Street Committee. The problem with the Walmart entrance was discussed and research will continue for solutions.

Mrs. McDonald attended the National Main Street Conference last week and presented the Pop Up Program to approximately 75 participants. The 8th round of Pop Up classes will begin on May 5, 2015. The Farmers Market will open May 2, 2015. Scott Schumaker requested to hold an event on June 13,

2015 at the Farmers Market from 1:00 to 6:00 pm. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town will work with Mr. Schumaker to allow this event.

Ms. Poole reviewed the construction of the Schoolhouse Project. She anticipates moving in near the end of April. She is working on establishing the curriculum. Ms. Poole has accepted the position on the Board of Directors for Round the Mountain.

Mr. Heath also attended the National Main Street Conference last week. The Grand Opening for the Schoolhouse is scheduled for June 20, 2015.

Mr. Hicks noted the Wilden Street Water Line Replacement design is complete and has been submitted to the Health Department for approval. The new Zoning Ordinance book was distributed. Mrs. Thompson addressed an issue of concern with storm drains with Mr. Hicks. He will look at these issues at a later date.

Mr. Rush reviewed a letter stating the Holston Harwood Building application has been turned down for this year; however, he anticipates a favorable review next time. He also noted the staff and Committee continue to work on the budget process. Mr. Rush will be attending the Rural Water Conference in Roanoke on April 14, 2015 along with Cecil Hicks and Donnie Coley.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1), (A-3) and (A-6) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Personnel matters, Investment of public funds and Real Property. 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 Mr. Weaver and carried by a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Carter, Barker and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk

