

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 18, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, Avery Cornett and Suzanne Jennings Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk (arriving late); Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm (arriving late); Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; and Economic Development Director Assistant Samantha White.

**ABSENT:** Mayor David Helms.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation. Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates' grandsons led the Pledge to the Flag.

**VISITORS:** Anna Leigh & Jeff DeBord, Jeff Spickard, Brian Reed, Mike Edwards, Bob Lincoln, Kathy Smith, David Rose, Herbie Clay, Beth Gates, McKenzie Gates, Alexander Gates, Kingston Gates, and Griffin Moore.

**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 April 4, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:** Mike Edwards, Collins House Inn, represented Marion, Smyth County and the Chamber of Commerce at a Fly Fishing & Wine Tasting Festival in Doswell. There was an increase in attendance from last year. He ran out of printed material to distribute.

Mr. Rush introduced David Rose and Griffin Moore with Davenport & Company. Mr. Rose gave a Financial Planning Presentation for restructuring the Town's long term debt. The printed version was distributed to Council Members. Mr. Moore reviewed the CIRP observations for refunding, refinancing opportunities and possible lower interest rates. Billy Hamm arrived. The proposal is to apply to the VRS Summer Financing Pool and simultaneously request bids from local banks. Davenport & Company would return in May with the results. Brian Reed arrived. Mark Fenyk arrived. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the town will proceed with the application for the Summer VRA Financing Pool and request bids from local banks. A Formal Resolution will be presented at the May 2, 2016 meeting and the results will hopefully be presented at the May 16, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Barker congratulated Mrs. Porter-Nichols on three articles that received awards. There will be a Joint Public Hearing between the Smyth County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, April 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Smyth County Office Building, the Town of Marion is an adjoining property owner. Wednesday, April 27, 2016 is Arbor Day. Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates read the

Proclamation for Arbor Day. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proclamation Declaring April 27, 2016 Arbor Day was accepted.

Mr. Fenyk noted the proposed deed prepared by Mr. Graham had been received and will need to be accepted at a later date and submitted to Mr. Harrington.

Ms. Stanley congratulated Mrs. Samantha White for accepting the position of Deputy Clerk.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,029,691.01. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Chief Hamm reported that some of the Grant items have been ordered. The Ambulance should be delivered in July or August. The Garbage Truck should arrive around July 1, 2016.

Chief Anders noted that the two new officers are doing well. Chief Anders reported that he will not be serving as President on the Marion Downtown Board any longer, however he will continue to stay on the Executive Board.

Mrs. McDonald reported there were about 40 participants last Wednesday for the VA Main Street workshop. A group from South Boston stayed here for two nights last week. The Marion Downtown Board of Directors ask for Council to nominate a Council Representative to serve on that board due to the Mayor's term expiring in May. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Avery Cornett was appointed to the Marion Downtown Revitalization Association.

Mr. Heath reviewed a request for up to \$600,000 for IRF Funds for Old Holston Harwood Building. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Local Certification and Resolution for the IRF Funds for the Old Holston Harwood Building was accepted. A Grant has been secured through the USDA for \$50,000 for kitchen equipment at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. The Town's match would be \$42,000 with \$6,600 already applied toward this amount. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Code of Conduct and Resolution for the USDA Grant for kitchen equipment was accepted contingent on future staff recommendation. The deadline for finalization is September 2016. Senator Mark Warner will be here on May 5, 2016 at 3:30 pm in Ken's office. The bid opening for the Streetscape Project will be Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 2:00 pm.

Mr. Hicks reported the Water Treatment Plant received an Award for Excellence in Drinking Water. The Board of Zoning Appeals will have a meeting on May 9, 2016 for election of officers. Mr. Smith's term has expired. Mr. Hicks attended a round table meeting with VDOT. They asked for suggestions of areas with traffic conflicts that need to be considered. Mr. Reed has submitted the Gateway Project for the Town of Marion to VDOT.

Mr. Rush reported that the budget process is now on the iPads for review. The next budget meeting is Monday, May 2, 2016 at 4:00 pm.

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

---

Mayor

---

Clerk