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 January 19, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Larry Carter, Bill Weaver (arrived late) and Suzanne Jennings Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Mona Barr; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; , Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Police Chief Rex Anders and Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Avery Cornett and Tricia Spencer.

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

VISITORS: Richard Keesling, Greg Armstrong, Sara Harrington, Bradley Powers, Julius Winebarger, Jimmy Shupe and Jeff Spickard.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 4, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Greg Armstrong, 1511 Matson Drive, brought his concerns to council about property and road conditions on Matson Drive. His property appraisal was very low due to the surrounding conditions. The road is in bad need of repair, specifically a drainage ditch. (Mr. Weaver arrived.) Mr. Rush addressed some of Mr. Armstrong's concerns. A plan is being developed to fix the drainage pipe issue. The CIRP Program will replace water and sewer lines and the road will then be repaved. A Housing/Property Maintenance code will be implemented to allow an ordinance to help with the blight areas on a comprehensive level. Mayor Helms asked Mr. Hicks to address the issues on Williams Road.

Mr. Barker asked Mr. Rush to address issues concerning the purchase of the Old Buster Brown building. Mr. Rush noted he did not receive any commission for the sale of that property.

Mrs. Jennings noted her Extra Mile Nominee will be at the next meeting.

Mayor Helms reported that VML Legislative Day is January 26, 27 and 28, 2016 in Richmond at the Library of Virginia. The VFW sent a thank you letter for the contribution in memory of Mal Brown. Mayor Helms note that Council elections will be May 3, 2016 and the filing deadline is March 1, 2016. Mayor Helms noted that he attended the Junior Appalachian Music Program and there were 65 kids participating.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of $633,520.12. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Chief Anders reported receiving notification from the Department of Criminal Justice Service that we have been awarded a one-time training grant for $10,000, with a $500 match from the town. The Henry Street case has been continued until February.

Chief Hamm reported that the EMS Summit last weekend was a great success. Bradley Powers worked very hard to coordinate this event. Mr. Powers reported there were 202 attendees on Saturday and 100 attendees on Sunday, which included people from 5 states. Mr. Hamm reported that the Fire/EMS department has received a 50/50 hardware grant for $1,400, the town match will be $700. Mr. Hamm introduced Fire/EMS members present Richard Keesling, Jimmy Shupe, Bradley Powers, Sara Harrington and Julius Winebarger. Mr. Hamm reported that the Fire/EMS department has also been awarded a 80/20 Rescue Squad Assistance Fund Grant for $168,222.88. This grant is specifically for a 2016 Ambulance and a Zoll AutoPulse CPR device. Mr. Hamm congratulated Jimmy Shupe on receiving his certification as a Flight & Critical Care Paramedic. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this 80/20 Grant was accepted.

Mr. Heath noted that Mrs. McDonald is in Abingdon attending a Virginia Main Street program for the next three days. Mt View Pediatrics made a donation to the JAM Program to purchase instruments to allow all children interested to participate in the program. Memorial Day Weekend this year will include a Nashville group performing a concert on Main Street on Saturday, May 21, 2016. There will be an Elvis Tribute Show on July 4th at the Lincoln Theatre. Mr. Heath noted there is an available grant for $20,000 to continue the Pop Up Program for new and existing businesses. Mr. Rush noted the Town of Marion is one of three communities that have been allowed to apply for the $2.5 million Vibrant Communities Grant.

Mr. Hicks noted the Sewer Treatment Plant is having some maintenance and warranty issues with the Co-Gen Project. There will be smoke testing on sewer lines on Sayers and Hutton Street in February. Mr. Hicks reviewed a request letter from John Graham for a crosswalk to be installed at the new entrance to the Courthouse on Church Street. Several options were discussed. The CIRP Zone Meter Project is waiting on arrival of materials and will hopefully be able to start on Monday. The On-Street Parking issue has been reviewed by the Planning Commission. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Hicks reviewed the request for rezoning at 1046-48 Terrace Drive. The Planning Commission has also reviewed this item and agrees with changing the zoning from MA Medical Arts to R-3 Residential. Mr. Rush noted this item has been expedited due to the time frame for construction with the target audience being students for the Emory & Henry College of Physical Therapy. This has been advertised and the adjacent property owners notified. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing for February 1, 2016 for the rezoning request for 1046-48 Terrace Drive was authorized.

Mr. Rush reviewed the VDH CIRP water project. Clerk of the Works and an operator for the CIRP Project will be advertised and hired near the end of February. Mr. Rush reviewed the Appalachian Music Heritage Foundation request for level of support and a Town Representative to be on the board. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 4 AYES, 0 NOES and 1 ABSENTATION (Barker), Mr. Barker was appointed to the Appalachian Music Heritage Foundation Board. Mr. Rush reviewed the Comcast Franchise notification letter of price increase effective February 1, 2016. Mr. Rush reported that the Army Reserve Captain, Noah Barnhill, has contacted him requesting to rehab the RiverWalk Bridge. A plan and materials list has been submitted. The request is for the town to purchase the materials and the Army Reserve will furnish the labor. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the funds were allocated to supply the materials for the Army Reserve to rehab the RiverWalk Bridge.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (A-3) 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 a personnel matter and acquisition of 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 Barker, Weaver, Carter, Dr. Gates and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is authorized to negotiate for the discussed real property and bring back the determination to council for consideration.

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

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Mayor Clerk