

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 August 17, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair, Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Joe Naff, C. B. Gwyn, Cathy Cooper, Brad Mullins, Lili Cornett, Kathy Cobbs, Rex Anders and Joshua Widener.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held August 3, 2020 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: None.

Mr. Barker gave an update on the Fire/EMS department noting there were 224 calls for the month of July. He reviewed a blighted property for sale on Matson Drive. Mr. Carter made a motion for the town to negotiate and not to exceed \$5,000 for the town to purchase this blighted property on Matson Drive for demolition. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jennings. Dr. Gates requested more research be completed on the property before purchase. Mr. Carter rescinded his motion and Mrs. Jennings rescinded her second. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the blighted property was referred to the Buildings and Grounds Committee with report to be presented at the next meeting. Michael Zumpf's term on the Board of Zoning Appeals will expire soon. He is willing to serve another term. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, it is recommended Mr. Zumpf be re-appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals by the judge.

Mr. Rush reviewed a Special Use request from Emmaus Medical by Dr. Backus. There is a facility in Bulls Gap, TN run by Dr. Backus and he would like to have a facility in Marion. Mr. Rush recommended the employees be credentialed by Ballad Health and no out of state clients be allowed. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Special Use request was referred to the Planning Commission. Mr. Rush noted this facility would include prescription writing. Dr. Gates requested statistics to justify the need and would like this information to come from an agency like Mt Rogers Planning District Commission.

Mrs. Jennings reported Brian Tibbs has resigned from the Lincoln Theatre. The board meets tomorrow at 5:00 pm. The Lincoln Theatre will be closed until the first of the year.

Mr. Carter reviewed the District III Senior Citizens meals contract. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the District III Senior Citizen meals contract was accepted.

Mayor Helms encouraged everyone to follow the Governor's and Health Department guidelines concerning the Coronavirus.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts payable were approved for payment as submitted in the amount of \$1,111,502.37. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett and Carter voted affirmatively. Discussion ensued regarding the 5 Community Development allocations that were not included. Mrs. Jennings made a motion to place the Lincoln Theatre and Song of the Mountains payments back inline to continue with monthly payments. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Jennings rescinded her motion. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Lincoln Theatre and Song of the Mountains will be paid for the month of August. Discussion ensued regarding the other 3 agencies. Upon a motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Library will be paid for the month of August. Upon Motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Chamber of Commerce and the Smyth County Tourism Center will not be paid for the month of August.

Chief Clair reported an FBI LEEDA training is being held at the Golf Course this week. Chief Clair, Mr. Heath and Mayor Helms will conduct a zoom orientation meeting tomorrow for the new Emory & Henry College of Health Sciences students.

Mr. Heath reviewed a Marion Mobile vendor program and recommended a designated area from the East Chilhowie Street Bridge back to the Town Pool parking lot for vendor setup. However they are not compelled to setup there. They will continue to be allowed to setup on private property with landowners permission. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Marion Mobile vendor program, including the designated area was accepted. Mr. Heath noted some live Drive In shows will be coming soon to the Park Place Drive-In. A Small Business Loan application will be presented at the next meeting. Mrs. Jennings left.

Mr. Rush reviewed Phase V Sewer progress. There is a new contract with Schwarts, Inc for the VDOT bridge inspections. There will be a public hearing on September 7, 2020 for the Phase V Water grant. Mr. Rush reviewed a proposal for support of a MSHS Class of 2020 Prom. He recommended funding through the Town Council budget. Discussion ensued. Mr. Weaver made a motion to approve the \$400 request. Dr. Gates noted this should be a community supported event. Mr. Weaver rescinded his motion.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Personnel matters. 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. Weaver and carried by a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, with recommendation of the Police Committee, after evaluation of Chief Clair we want to commend him for his exemplary work during all the issues we have had in the past 6 months and for his continuing excellence in the job he has done; council approves setting his salary at \$85,000 a year.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Mayor

Clerk