

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 June 1, 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; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Joe Naff, Bob Valentine, Mike Guy, Julius Winebarger, Lili Cornett and Kristopher Ratliff.

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 May 18, 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 Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the removal of Mike Albano under Public Presentation.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: None.

Dr. Gates reported the Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Proposed Budget will be June 15, 2020 at 5:30 pm.

Mrs. Jennings reported a virtual meeting was held by the Lincoln Theatre Board and the possibility was discussed of opening September 1, 2020.

Mr. Cornett reported the Greens Committee met this afternoon. Mr. Valentine and Mr. Guy presented a temporary plan at the Greens Committee meeting to restore play. Mr. Cornett made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Jennings, to reset the golf course rates as follows:

For the 158 people that had memberships in April,

18 holes - \$20 cart/greens fee Monday thru Friday

18 holes - \$35 cart/greens fee Saturday and Sunday

General Admission

18 holes - \$33 cart/greens fee for Monday thru Thursday

18 holes - \$40 cart/greens fee for Friday thru Sunday. These rates will be in place until October 2020 at which time a plan to move forward will be considered. Discussion ensued. Mr. Guy noted this is a great step in the right direction and good discussion came from the Greens Committee meeting this afternoon. The possibility of lowering member fees to \$50 monthly and increasing cart fees to \$14 was discussed. This Committee will plan to meet more frequently to help determine a long term structure. With a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the new rate structure was accepted.

Mayor Helms noted the town is following guidelines implemented by the state for COVID-19. Mayor Helms thanked the Economic Development department for working so closely with the businesses during this time. He thanked the Public Works staff for helping place the Memorial flags on the courthouse lawn.

Chief Clair reported the Police Department has met with the Sheriff's office on contingency planning.

Mr. Heath reported the Veteran's Administration Clinic has selected a location in Marion in the Marion Plaza Shopping Center. Mr. Heath reviewed a USDA Grant Resolution for \$100,000. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the USDA Small Business Loan Pool 2020 Resolution was accepted.

Mrs. Veatch noted the Economic Development department has been evaluating guidelines for events and there are some concerns about the food supply chain for restaurants to be able to hold summer events. Some agencies are recommending no large scale events until there is a vaccine for the Coronavirus. Marion Downtown recommends cancelling the Chili Cook Off in July. Economic Development department recommends delaying all large events, with further recommendations in July. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, council agrees to follow Marion Downtown and Economic Development recommendations of cancelling the Chili Cook Off and delaying large events during the summer of COVID-19.

Mr. Hicks noted the paving contract is ready to be executed and paving will begin in two weeks. Mayor Helms reviewed a request for paving Middle Avenue Extension noting the homeowners paid for paving this last time. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Middle Avenue Extension will be added to the paving schedule. Mayor Helms welcomed Board of Supervisor member Kristopher Ratliff.

Mr. Rush noted Phase V Sewer loan closed last Thursday. Park Blvd Sidewalk/Drainage Project is still under review by VDOT. Callen Drive Recreational Park Project has been awarded \$250,000 grant. Mr. Fenyk has reviewed the documents. An application for a composting grant will be submitted to DEQ by the end of June. It appears DEQ is interested in this project.

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

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, due to recent retirement of a number of key personnel there will be a change in job assignments for Mr. Tony Muncy and Mr. Zack Woods, council authorizes Mr. Rush to adjust their pay scale commiserate with their new duties.

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Manager is authorized to contact Virginia Department of Fire Services to work out the possibility of providing an interim Fire Chief and the opportunity to look over our fire program.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Mayor

Clerk