

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 March 21, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, Avery Cornett, Suzanne Jennings and Tricia Spencer 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; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Director Assistant Samantha White.

ABSENT: None.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Heath rendered the invocation. Boy Scout Luke Hicks led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Luke Hicks, Valerie Hicks, and Dr. D. K. Armbrister.

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 March 7, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett, Dr. Gates, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one deletion under Town Manager for Resolution Request.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Luke Hicks, 105 Kelly Hill Road, Boy Scout with Troop #832 gave a proposal for his Eagle Scout project. Luke is requesting permission from Town Council to construct 3 park benches and a set of stairs on the River Walk Trail. He will be using the same material the Farmer's Market benches are constructed with. The project is estimated to be complete by the end of June. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Boy Scout Luke Hicks has permission to construct 3 park benches and a set of stairs on the River Walk Trail per the project plans submitted.

Mr. Barker reported that Marion was selected as a Tree City USA again. Mr. Barker submitted a request to serve on the VML Environmental Committee.

Mrs. Jennings gave an update on the Lincoln Theatre and distributed some materials. The Golf Tournament for the Lincoln Theatre Fundraiser will be June 11, 2016.

Mr. Carter attended a luncheon for the Northwood Panthers Girls Basketball team for winning the State Championship. He also attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting last week as well as the District III board meeting.

Mr. Cornett had a follow up meeting with Mr. Harrington regarding his land donation and informed Mr. Harrington that it is under consideration. Mr. Rush reported that Mr. Fenyk is working on a deed preparation price.

Mayor Helms reminded Council and staff that the Town and County quarterly meeting will be hosted by Chilhowie at the River Front Restaurant on Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 6:00 pm. The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Annual Dinner will be April 7, 2016 at the Holston Hills Community Golf Course. Mayor Helms received a booklet with an article about the home of Mt Dew. More copies will be available. There are 4 vacancies on the VML Executive Committee this year. The Guest Speaker for the Memorial Day Program will be John McMannis.

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 \$1,185,402.31.

Ms. Stanley reported that the Deputy Clerk position has been advertised and hope to have a recommendation by the next council meeting.

Mr. Hamm thanked Councilman Weaver for the help of his staff and equipment during the EMS call to Utility Trailer.

Chief Anders reported that the Police Committee will be in on the next round of interviews for the officer job openings. Chief Anders requested an Ordinance Committee meeting be scheduled to discuss overnight parking downtown. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Heath noted a \$10,000 Drive Virginia Grant has been completed. The last Pop Up Class will be Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 6:00 pm and Council is invited to watch presentations. South Boston representatives will be here next month along with several other VA Main Street Community Representatives. for 2 nights April 12 & 13. There will be an administration change this year for the Farmers Market. Deneena McCathran, Catherine Poole's Assistant, will be managing the Farmers Market this year.

Mrs. White noted the Southwest Virginia Brand Rollout meeting will be held at the Holston Hills Community Golf Course Tuesday, March 22, 2016 at 10:30 am. There will be an IRF Workshop held at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Thursday morning, March 24, 2016 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. The Virginia Commission of the Arts is coming to the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts April 6, 2016 to host a workshop. Emory & Henry College will be hosting a BBQ Bash on Friday, April 22, 2016. Mrs. White thanked Chief Anders for helping with the Lincoln Theatre school event. The Junior Appalachian Musician Program has 96 students. This program is in week 7 now and a big Finale will be scheduled. Tomorrow at 10:00 am there will be a Nixle Tornado Alert Test.

Mr. Hicks reported that the Zone Meter Project is about 20% complete on the meters and 15% complete on isolation valves. Phase I water line project will be in the Chatham Hill Road area. The zoning request for 592 Radio Hill Road was discussed at the Marion Planning Commission meeting last Monday night. No special use permit will be required due to the fact this request is allowed according to the Appendix for Dwelling units contained within a business.

Mr. Rush gave an update on the CIRP Program and noted that Jeff Richardson has been selected as the Foreman and Joe Morris as the Clerk of the Works. The Department of Environmental Quality sewer side of the CIRP Program should be bid out in May. Work on the piers for the River Walk Project took place this weekend.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1), (A-3) and (A-7) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of a personnel matter, discussion of the acquisition of real property and consultation with legal counsel. 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 Barker, Weaver, Carter, Dr. Gates, Cornett, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

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

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Mayor

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Clerk

