

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 4, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, 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; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arrived late); Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; and Economic Development Director Assistant Samantha White.

ABSENT: Dr. Jim Gates and Tricia Spencer.

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

VISITORS: John Perdue, Norma Perdue, Ruthie Perdue, Dan Wann, Sally Wann, Samantha Perdue, Johnny Perdue, Jr., Reba Perdue, Anna Leigh & Jeff DeBord, Bryan, Amber, Kaylynn & Cameron Morris, Chip Shuler - Sheriff, Ernie Atwell - Captain Sheriff's Office, Kathy Smith, Northwood Basketball Team - Sissy Doane, Kelsey Puckett, Haylee Frye, Naska Eller, Peyton Williams, AJ Spence, BJ Buchanan, Tammy Gillespie and Emily Porter.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held March 21, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed. Terry Jennings arrived.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Anna Leigh DeBord, 343 Collins Street Saltville, VA, invited everyone to the Historical Society Museum April 24, 2016 from 2:00 until 4:00 pm. She also expressed her concerns regarding the safety of the crosswalks downtown.

Mayor Helms introduced Sheriff Chip Shuler. Sheriff Shuler has been in office now for 3 months and wanted to give an update on his department. He reported 3 major drug takedowns in Smyth County recently. There is an active shooter training program, developed by Homeland Security, in place for anyone that requests. He also noted that Smyth County will be implementing a drug court soon and that there is a need for more treatment facilities in the area. Mayor Helms welcomed Sheriff Shuler and his department to team with the Town on any events planned.

Chief Anders introduced 2 new officers, Johnny Perdue, III, and Brian Morris. Johnny Perdue, III, from Abingdon was accompanied by his wife, 2 children, parents and in-laws. He has served 19 years in Washington County. Mayor Helms welcomed him to Marion and swore him in as a Town of Marion Police Officer. Brian Morris was accompanied by his wife and 2 children. He previously worked for Saltville Police Department. Mayor Helms welcomed him to Marion and swore him in as a Town of Marion Police Officer.

The Northwood Lady Panthers Girls Basketball Team arrived. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Honor of the 2016 Lady Panthers Basketball Team was accepted. Mayor Helms read the Resolution and presented it to the team and congratulated them on their accomplishment of a 29-0 record and being crowned the VHSL 1A State Champions.

Mr. Barker thanked Mr. Perry, Mr. Hicks and the crews for doing such a great job on the RiverWalk Project. Dixie Hall, wife of Tom T. Hall, will be on Song of the Mountains on May 7, 2016.

Mrs. Jennings gave an update on the Lincoln Theatre and distributed some materials.

Mr. Carter gave an update on the Town and County Quarterly meeting.

Mr. Cornett noted the Song of the Mountains complimentary tickets is a really good program. The Recreation Committee met and the Recreation Department is subject to the Virginia Code and will work

to be in compliance. Mr. Fenyk clarified that the Recreation Department must establish a set of guidelines when utilizing school facilities or follow the school guidelines. Arbor Day is tentatively set for April 27, 2016.

Mayor Helms reported that the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Annual Dinner will be Thursday, April 7, 2016 at the Holston Hills Community Golf Course. The 2016 Student Government Day will be May 16, 2016 beginning at 9:15 at the Lincoln Theatre. Mayor Helms also noted the RiverWalk is looking great and he is receiving lots of compliments. Mayor Helms attended the Fish On event at the Golf Course, there was a good turnout in spite of the cold weather.

Mr. Fenyk reported on the recent activities at 27 Lions, as they hosted a singer from The Voice Saturday night and there was an overflow crowd. The gift donation at RiverWalk and the House on Orchard Street Deeds have been delivered.

Ms. Stanley reported that interviews for the Deputy Clerk position will be held tomorrow.

Mr. Jennings reported that the Fish On event went very well with lots of fish caught and they sold hot dogs. There were 343 kids signed up for soccer. The Town Parks are now open. Chlorinators for both swimming pools have been rebuilt and replaced. The Senior Citizens will be attending quilting classes on Thursdays at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts beginning April 14, 2016 . They will also be attending painting classes there on Mondays, beginning on April 11, 2016. There will be a Senior Expo this Saturday from 10:00 until 2:00 at the Golf Course. There are 30 vendors participating.

Mr. Perry noted there are 6 participants in the Offender Program and they are doing a great job. They are currently working on Highway 16 and they will be mowing the cemetery this summer.

Chief Hamm presented a change order on the Ambulance purchase with the 80/20 Grant. The change order is due to a Chevrolet 3500 4x4 chassis is not heavy enough to support a four wheel drive. The net difference is the Town will end up paying \$8,107 more. There is a cot loading system that is state mandatory. This amount is not included in the grant. There is a special cot you must use with the loading system. Cost of the cot/stretcher is \$15,944. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the change order and stretcher were approved with the total cost of the Town's portion being \$69,088. The estimated delivery is 90-150 days to receive the ambulance. Mr. Rush thanked Richard Keesling for his work on this project.

Chief Anders reported there is no change on 633 Henry Street since last meeting. He noted that he was very appreciative of the Lieutenant's assistance with the hiring process. The Police Department is back up to full force with the exception of one officer out on sick leave. Council asked Chief Anders for suggestions on the crosswalk issue. Discussion ensued. Lighting is an issue at night. It was suggested to install the flashing crosswalk lights.

Mrs. McDonald noted the 2016 event list is in the packet. The Farmers Market will open May 7, 2016 for the season and will be having monthly events. If you prepare food on site now you will be governed by the Virginia Department of Health. The Blue Line 5K Law Enforcement Race will be May 21, 2016 at 8:30 am. It will follow the same course as last year, from the Courthouse to the Golf Course. The 10th round of Pop Up Marion classes have been completed and there were 26 participants. There were 7 strong presentations from the class competing for a grant. The winners will be announced May 13, 2016. Virginia Main Street Program will be hosting a conference for Historic Tax Credits at the General Francis Marion Hotel April 13, 2016 from 10:00 until 2:00. Mrs. McDonald is working with several clubs in town to help clean up the planters downtown. The Smoke 'N Guns will present a concert on May 28, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Hicks will research the possibilities and the cost of installing the flashing crosswalk lights. The CIRP Zone Meter Project is scheduled for completion around mid June. Mr. Hicks is working on the paving list for the spring paving. The grant rating did not qualify for North Main Street paving.

Mr. Rush noted the paving is going to go to a fall and spring paving process. The RiverWalk Bridge Project is still in progress. The rest of the piers need to be set and a refurbishing and cleaning of the area is still to take place. The fiscal 2016-2017 budget process is underway with the budget committee's first

meeting set for Wednesday at 4:00 pm. After this meeting all the information will be placed on the iPads and go out to all council members. Mrs. DeBord reviewed the design cost for the Historical Museum, approximately \$17,000 to \$18,000, and stated the Museum would appreciate any financial assistance the Town might provide for the design cost.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) and (A-7) 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 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 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Carter, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk