

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 May 2, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, 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; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Public Works Director Jackie Perry and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Anna Leigh & Jeff DeBord, Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith and Mike Snavely.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 18, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition for closed session under legal.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mike Snavely, 733 Holston Hills Lane, spoke as Vice President of the Smyth County Humane Society. He distributed brochures and reviewed their education, food and fundraising committees. They also have a fostering program in place. The Humane Society would be very appreciative of any funding the Town of Marion would be willing to donate.

Mr. Barker thanked the Smyth County News Representative for attending Arbor Day. He also addressed a safety issue with the North Church Street Parking. Discussion Ensued.

Dr. Gates gave an update on the Dental portion of the recent RAM Clinic held at the Airport. Dr. Hollyfield worked very hard on this project and there were seven dentists that provided services during the clinic.

Mrs. Jennings elaborated more on the RAM Clinic noting 773 services were provided to citizens by 1,253 volunteers.

Mr. Carter reported that eligible Senior Citizens will be receiving a \$40 check to purchase goods at the Farmers Market. Older Americans Day will be held May 26, 2016 at the Park in Chilhowie.

Mayor Helms attended the VML meeting in Norfolk last week. The Governor was the keynote speaker. There will be a VML Regional meeting held in Big Stone Gap. Pop Up Marion will be one of the presenters. A Thank You letter was received from the Northwood Lady Panthers for the Resolution presented to them by the Town of Marion. Mayor Helms noted there was a request in the packet for a contribution for a 4-H intern. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the request for a 4-H intern was referred to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Stanley thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the VMCA Conference in Washington DC.

Mr. Jennings reviewed the Recreation events. There are six Golf Tournaments scheduled over the next seven weeks. Mayor Helms invited the Recreation teams to participate in the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Rush reviewed a work order for a pump replacement for the irrigation system at the Golf Course.

Mr. Perry reported that the brush pile needs to be burned very soon. During the recent major water line break on Wassona Circle the estimated loss was 600,000 to 700,000 gallons of water and the tank dropped nine feet.

Chief Anders has received a Byran Justice Grant for equipment for \$5,732 with the Town's cash match being \$637. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES,

the Byran Justice Grant for equipment was accepted with the Town's cash match being \$637. The voting polls will be open tomorrow at the Senior Citizen Center from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm.

Mr. Heath reported US Senator Mark Warner will be here this Friday and will host a meet and greet at Sister's Cafe at 3:30 pm. Governor McAuliffe will be at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts on Friday, May 13, 2016. Wells Fargo has donated another \$7,000 for the Pop Up Program. The VDOT Streetscape bids came in extremely over the anticipated amount. Mr. Rush will research other pathways with better costs. Mr. Heath reported that in order to establish a food lab at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts, the cost will be significant. His recommendation is to not accept the grant. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a letter to decline the \$50,000 USDA Grant will be submitted to release the funds for the kitchen equipment.

Mr. Hicks reviewed the paving schedule. The Zone Meter Project is approximately 70% complete. The Isolation Valves are approximately 30% complete. Mr. Hicks reviewed a Special Use Permit for Scott Morris at 615 Catron Street to operate a home based Landscaping Business. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing for a Special Use Permit at 615 Catron Street will be set for June 6, 2016. The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet May 9, 2016 for election of officers and a board member needs to be replaced.

Mr. Rush reported that old records from the attic are being moved to a secure offsite location. Mr. Heath will be on Jury Duty starting Wednesday. The CIRP Project is moving forward and we took possession of a new excavator today. A balanced budget has been submitted to the Finance Committee and forwarded to all council members. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing for the 2016 - 2017 budget will be set for June 6, 2016. Ms. Stanley reviewed the VRS Resolution for the final percentage of the 5% Member Contribution Phase In. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the VRS 5% Member Contribution Resolution was accepted. The USDA Hungry Mother Sewer Project Loan has been paid in full. The Garbage Truck should be here in July and we will pay \$80,000 down and finance the rest.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (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 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, Cornett, Dr. Gates, Spencer and Jennings voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk