

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 16, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver (arriving late), 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; Police Lieutenant Rusty Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm and Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Jane Hale, Griffin Moore, Susan Edwards and Barbara Kahana.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 2, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Barker, Carter, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition under Public Presentation for Davenport & Company Representative Griffin Moore.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:** Griffin Moore, Davenport & Company representative, gave an update on the refinancing proposal. The request for proposals went out to the banks two weeks ago and were received last Thursday. Two proposals were received. The Bank of Marion has a potential savings of approximately \$88,000 and Pinnacle Bank in Phoenix, Arizona has a potential savings of approximately \$100,000. The Virginia Resource Authority projects approximately \$150,000 in savings. The Bank of Marion and Pinnacle quotes will be honored until the end of June. An Authorizing Resolution will be required at the June 6, 2016 council meeting. (Mr. Weaver arrived.)

Jane Hale spoke about Older Americans Day in Chilhowie on May 26, 2016. She inquired about our Senior Citizens being able to attend. Mr. Rush confirmed transportation has been arranged. She also inquired about the possibility of council meetings being made available publicly via the internet or television for those not able to attend in person.

Mrs. Jennings gave an update on the Lincoln Theatre.

Ms. Spencer asked about the parking on Main Street time limit. Mr. Barker reported that process is still being reviewed.

Mr. Barker gave a report about the progress of the RiverWalk upgrade.

Mayor Helms reported that 13 students attended Youth Government Day at the Town of Marion. There will be over 900 flags on display this year for the Memorial Day weekend activities. The Rolling Thunder group will be here Thursday, May 26, 2016. There will be a Tourism meeting Wednesday at noon at River Front in Chilhowie. Letters from Home will be performing May 29, 2016 at 3:00 pm. The Memorial Day Parade will be May 30, 2016 at 10:00 am.

Mr. Fenyk reported that the deed for the land donation from Mr. Harrington has been accepted and recorded.

Ms. Stanley reminded council and staff that Statement of Economic Interest forms are due June 15, 2016.

**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 \$793,508.84. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Lieutenant Hamm noted that the Police Department has assisted with the March of Dimes Walk. Police Memorial Week is May 15th and there have been 35 Line of Duty Deaths this year. Henry Street court case has been set for June 2, 2016 at 1:30 pm.

Mr. Hamm noted the Fire/EMS is teaming with the American Red Cross on a Smoke Detector program. The American Red Cross will provide the smoke detectors and the Fire Department will install them for those homes that are eligible. The department received a 50/50 Forestry Grant in the amount of \$1,144 to purchase Forest Firefighting equipment. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the 50/50 Forest Grant was accepted in the amount of \$1,144.

Mrs. McDonald noted this is National Law Enforcement Week and the 5K Blue Line Run will be held Saturday, May 21, 2016. Next week kicks off the Memorial Holiday festivities. The flags will be placed at the Court House Wednesday, May 18, Rolling Thunder will be here Thursday, May 26, a concert will be held on Main Street on Saturday, May 28, Letters from Home will perform on Sunday, May 29 and the Parade is Monday, May 30.

Mr. Heath reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Marion, The Lincoln Theatre and the Appalachian Music Heritage Foundation for video production equipment to be purchased using the Comcast PEG Fee funds. The equipment is new demo models with warranties. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, authorization was granted to spend \$35,000 of the Comcast PEG Fees based on the MOU. Virginia Community Capital Celebration will be held at the Henderson School Wednesday, May 18, 2016 from 5 - 7 pm. The Streetscape project will be rebid. Mr. Heath reviewed an application for a Small Business Loan from Austin Hoffman, LLC for the Wooden Pickle. This will be the second loan to be funded out of the pay back monies. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the loan in the amount of \$15,000 was approved for Austin Hoffman, LLC. Mr. Heath introduced Barbara Kahana from Hawaii.

Mr. Rush reviewed the paving bids noting the apparent low bidder is AAA Paving and Sealing, Inc. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the paving bid was awarded to AAA Paving and Sealing, Inc. The Church Street crosswalk curbs have been painted and a stop sign installed. The Board of Zoning Appeals held a meeting in May for the election of officers and there is a vacancy on that board. Michael Zumpf is willing to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, it is recommended that the Judge appoint Michael Zumpf to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings, it is recommended that the Judge reappoint Brian Reed to serve another term on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Rush reviewed a proposal for adjusting the commercial tap fees. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, commercial and residential water and sewer tap fees for anything larger than one inch will be charged time and material. Mr. Rush reviewed the VRS Alternate Rate Resolution. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the certified rate was accepted.

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

