

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 October 3, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, Suzanne Jennings and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Samantha White; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Patrick Sidey, Martha Martin, Kathy Smith, Katy Smith, Jeff DeBord, and Anna Leigh DeBord.

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 September 19, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Carter, Jennings, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition of a Road Closure in the Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Carter reported that he had attended two local Ribbon Cuttings recently at Laurel Springs Farm and newly relocated Smyth County Family Physicians. He also noted that the Town and County Dinner hosted by the town at Holston Hills Community Golf Course was very nice.

Mrs. Jennings reported that the Lincoln Theatre Board Retreat had been held the previous weekend and they had developed four goals that would be shared with Council soon. Lola's at the Lincoln will host an Open House on Friday, October 7 at 4:00pm. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution will be prepared in honor of Mrs. Pat Hatfield's career at the Smyth-Bland Regional Library.

Mayor Helms reminded Council Members of the annual VML Conference to be held October 9-11 in VA Beach. The VML Regional Dinner will be held in Gate City on Wednesday, November 2 at 6:00pm. A Miata Club will be in town the weekend of October 21-23 and a Porsche Club was in town this past weekend. The Bonham Walking Trail Dedication in Chilhowie is on Thursday, October 6 at noon. Marion Fire/EMS, through a Red Cross program, will be installing smoke detectors in the neighborhoods around the VFW Post on Saturday, October 15. They did a trial run on October 1 that went well. The Emory & Henry School of Health Sciences Open House was well-attended. The Mel Leaman Free Clinic Open House will be held on Friday, October 7 from noon to 7:00pm.

Mr. Fenyk reported that the Smyth County Grand Jury issued a "Not True Bill" in the Danny Parks case. The Grand Jury did not find probable cause for the matter to be set for a criminal trial. The matter is considered closed with no action.

Mr. Jennings reported there are 174 children participating in football and 74 in cheerleading. That season started on September 12 and will end on October 18. MSHS has invited the football players and cheerleaders to be on the field before the varsity football game on October 21. There are 108 girls registered to play basketball. All parks and fields have been cleaned and had maintenance work recently. Holston Hills Community Golf Course has hosted several tournaments recently and the Banquet Room has been reserved every weekend in September and October. Senior Citizens Lunch continues to be held on Tuesdays at noon at the WW Scott Senior Center with an average attendance of 40-45 senior citizens.

Chief Anders thanked Council for allowing him to attend the Executive Retreat at Breaks Interstate Park and the VA Chiefs Association Conference in Roanoke. Marion Police Department assisted with the Apple Festival in Chilhowie.

Mr. Hicks reported that Striping has gone well. Work on the Matson Drive Culvert will begin within two weeks. East Chilhowie Street Bridge project is ready for bid dates to be set. Leak Crews, with assistance from Lane Engineering, began a two week leak detection project the previous night. Phase I Water and Phase I Sewer projects began in September. Virginia Department of Transportation has incorporated a new six-year plan program, HB2. Mr. Rush and Mr. Hicks have been working to identify areas for these VDOT projects. Two projects have been identified and submitted to VDOT for approval.

Mr. Rush reported that the DEQ Closed on Phase I Sewer on September 30. Streetscape project will begin early next spring. Ann Rose with New Happy’s restaurant has requested they be allowed to use the town-owned parking lot adjacent to them on October 22 for a 50’s event that will include a car show and silent movie. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, consideration of traffic flow and patterns on Veterans Street, Magnolia Street, and Lynn Street has been referred to the Streets Committee.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3), (A-1), 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 discussion of Real Estate, Personnel, and Litigation. 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 Dr. Gates and carried by a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Cornett, and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager’s evaluation as discussed was approved with a 2.5% increase to his salary effective as of September 13, 2016.

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

Mayor

Clerk