

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 17, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer (arriving late), Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, Jim Barker and Avery Cornett 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 Andrew Moss; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Town Engineer Assistant/IT Coordinator Todd Long; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Schrenker and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Jeff and Anna Leigh DeBord.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held October 3, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Jennings, Carter, Weaver, Barker and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition under Town Manager section for a street closure request.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:** None.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

Mr. Barker reported that the Tree Commission will meet Wednesday about Sally's Crying Tree. Mr. Barker requested approval for the Gobbler Gallop to be held again this year on Thanksgiving Day. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Gobbler Gallop will be held on Thanksgiving Day with the same format as last year.

Mrs. Jennings thanked Mrs. McDonald for the ribbon cutting at Lola's and noted a packed house at the Lincoln Theatre Saturday night.

Mr. Carter reviewed a request for stricter guidelines and enforcement regarding trash receptacles. He noted in some areas residents are placing garbage out days before the scheduled pickup and not using secure receptacles. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Planning Commission/Ordinance Committee.

Mayor Helms noted the VML Conference attendance was about the same as last year despite the weather conditions. Some of the meeting locations had to be rearranged. He also noted there were some very interesting speakers. The Town of Crewe is proposing a "Round the State Campaign" that will take 5% of Lottery revenue and send back to the localities in which the tickets were sold. (Ms. Spencer arrived.) The next VML Regional Supper will be in Gate City on November 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm. The Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner will be held at the Riverfront in Chilhowie on November 8, 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 \$1,002,554.42. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Barker, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Hamm noted 27 smoke detectors were installed during Saturday's program working with the Red Cross. Mayor Helms noted his appreciation for this program and all the agencies that assisted.

Lieutenant Moss reviewed a Body Camera Grant that has been awarded to the town for \$12,388.00 with the Town's investment being \$1,269.00. A policy must be in place before deploying the equipment.

Mrs. McDonald gave an update on upcoming events. Scarecrow Lane will begin this Thursday. A Ghost Tour will take place on October 28, 2016 from the Collins House Inn to the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. Halloween Madness will take place on October 29, 2016. A Barter presentation will be at the Lincoln Theatre on October 29, 2016. The Christmas Market will run from November 18-20, 2016 at the Farmers Market. The Christmas Parade will be Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 pm.

Ms. Schrenker gave an update on the events at the Henderson School. The Letterpress is going great. District III is providing transportation for the Sugar Grove students to the JAM Program.

Mr. Heath reported that Josh Smith is the new Housing Rehab contact at Mt Rogers PDC. A Grant for Camera Equipment for \$45,000 has been awarded from the Tobacco Commission for Song of the Mountains.

Mr. Hicks reported a Litter Grant has been awarded in the amount of \$3,042.00. Matson Drive Culvert will be completed soon. East Chilhowie Street Bridge repairs pre-bid is Friday, October 21, 2016 at 2:00 pm. The bid opening will be November 28, 2016 at 2:00 pm. The Zone meter project is complete and is already yielding some excellent information locating leaks.

Mr. Long noted the Property Maintenance Code implementation is going well. He has sent out 10 letters to property owners. Most have contacted him regarding their intentions for cleaning their property and becoming compliant. Henry Street cleanup will be November 16, 2016. Mr. Long thanked the Smyth County News for helping us get the information to the citizens.

Mr. Rush advised that on the financial side of CIRP projects, these are being closed out with the funding agencies. The Streetscape project will be ready to submit to VDOT by the end of this month. In the process of getting the back lot at the Town Shop cleaned up, there is a RC250 asphalt tank that needs to be removed. Due to the nature of this tank, it will need to be disposed of properly. Mr. Rush has received a quote from Oil Masters to remove the tank for \$3,800 with the Town providing the crane. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Oil Masters quote for \$3,800 to remove the RC250 asphalt tank was approved with the town providing the crane service. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Personnel Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the new overtime rules. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss a 5 year utilization plan. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Recreation Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the Golf Course and Grill operations. Mr. Rush reviewed a street closure request for the Graham Centre building during remodeling period. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the street closure request was approved for Court Street to be closed from Chestnut Street to Broad Street for no more than 60 days.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-7) and (A-29) 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 litigation and negotiations. 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 Cornett, Weaver, Carter, Jennings, Barker, Dr. Gates 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

