

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 November 21, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Deputy Clerk Samantha White; Deputy Clerk Anita Catron; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representatives Stephanie Porter-Nichols and Linda Burchette; Police Chief Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; and Town Engineer Assistant/IT Coordinator Todd Long.

ABSENT: Dr. Jim Gates and Suzanne Jennings Council Members.

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

VISITORS: Mike Edwards, David Sawyers, Olivia Sawyers, Charlie Harrington, Jen Surber, Marion Senior High School Volleyball Team and Coaches.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held November 7, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition of Accounts Payable in the Town Clerk's Report.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mike Edwards reported that the efforts in promotion of the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission are going well.

Mayor Helms welcomed the Marion Lady Canes Volleyball Team and recognized their accomplishments, including winning the State Championship game. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Honor of the 2016 Lady Canes Volleyball Team was accepted. Mayor Helms read the Resolution and presented it to the team.

Mayor Helms read and presented a Resolution in Honor of David Sawyers and his career for the Town of Marion. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was accepted. (Mrs. Catron left.)

Mr. Rush introduced Jen Surber of Surber Development to present information on plans to improve the Country Club Crossings Apartments. Ms. Surber explained that she will be submitting an application to Virginia Housing Development Authority and that if approved, improvements averaging \$43,000 - \$45,000 per apartment will begin in the spring of 2018. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Revitalization Resolution for Country Club Crossings was approved as read aloud. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, review of a Tax Abatement on the improvements to the Country Club Crossings Apartments was referred to the Ordinance Committee and a Public Hearing was set for December 5, 2016.

Mr. Rush introduced Charlie Harrington, Marion Redevelopment and Housing Authority, who presented plans for new mixed-income, market-rate housing units. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Harrington through Marion Redevelopment and Housing Authority, was given authorization to form a nonprofit LLC to be used for development of residential housing.

Mr. Barker reported that Mr. Guy Meilleur will work on Sally's Crying Tree on Wednesday, November 30 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. He asked that the flags in front of Town Hall be replaced. The Friends of Hungry Mother State Park have asked to maintain the landscaped area at the intersection of North Main Street and Park Boulevard. Mr. Barker also requested that we invite someone to explain the effects of the Mountain States Health Alliance and Wellmont merger on Smyth County Community Hospital. Mr. Rush will invite Mr. Gary Peacock, Chairman of Smyth County Community Foundation, to speak at a Council meeting soon.

Mr. Weaver commented that the Christmas Market and Parade went well this past weekend.

Mr. Cornett has had requests that the flags in front of the Senior Center be replaced and that Christmas lights be placed on the tree in front of Town Hall.

Mayor Helms reported that the Blue Ridge Job Corps Community Appreciation Luncheon will be held on December 9 in their gymnasium. The Chamber of Commerce Legislative Breakfast will be on December 7 at 8:00 am at Southwest Virginia Community College. The Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner will be held December 29 at 6:00 pm at Riverfront in Chilhowie. Town offices will be closed during the Holiday season on November 24 and 25, December 23 and 26, and January 2. Members of Town Council and staff will be participating in United Way’s Celebrity Bagging at Marion Food City on November 22 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. The Senior Thanksgiving Luncheon will begin at 11:15 am on November 22 at the Senior Center.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,064,181.15. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Anders thanked the Town Crew for their work to make the parade go well. He also reported that he, Mayor Helms, and VFW representatives were presented with a flag by Rolling Thunder in honor of Smyth County veterans. The Officer hiring process is going well.

Mr. Heath expressed his appreciation to the Town Crew, Town Police, and Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald for their work on the weekend’s Holiday activities.

Mr. Hicks reported that the first round of Leaf Pick-up is complete. Work on the Matson Drive Culvert Replacement continues. Ken Construction will begin work on East Chilhowie Street Bridge the week of December 10. The Leak Study has been completed and sent to Virginia Department of Health. Leak repair has begun. The Fire Hydrant Study showed that twenty hydrants need to be replaced and replacements have been ordered. Teaters Trucking is currently working on Phase I Sewer. The Planning Commission is reviewing Town Right of Ways and Trash Receptacles. They will report their recommendations to Council soon. The Town Staff Christmas Dinner will be held on December 16 at noon at the Senior Center.

Mr. Rush reviewed the Monthly Water Accountability Report for the last six months.

Mr. Long reported that the Property Maintenance Enforcement at Henry Street on November 16 went well and will be completed on November 22.

Mr. Rush reported that he and Mr. Heath have finished the Streetscape IV assessment and met with architects. They are making plans with VDOT for use of the project surplus funds. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES the review of the Old Mill property lease has been referred to the Building and Grounds Committee.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-29) upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Negotiation of Public Contract. Mr. Weaver 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. Barker and carried by a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Barker, Spencer, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk

