

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 December 19, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Suzanne Jennings, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver (arriving late), Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representatives Stephanie Porter-Nichols and Linda Burchette (left early); 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: None.

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

VISITORS: Charlie Harrington, Chris Slemph, Jim Talley, Herbie Clay, Jeff Spickard, Michael Armbrister, Ron Thomason, Laura Lincoln, Sara Harrington, Danny Parks, Charles Hayden, Jimmy Shupe, Police Lieutenant Rusty Hamm, Police Officer Jason Horner, Police Officer Timothy Whisman, Katie Smith and Kathy Smith.

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 December 5, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition for Closed Session (A-7) Legal.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Police Chief Anders introduced the newest Officer hired, Jason Horner. Officer Horner and Officer Whisman have just completed the Police Academy. Mayor Helms swore in Officer Horner.

Mayor Helms read and presented a Resolution in Appreciation of Charles Harrington on the Occasion of his Retirement from the Marion Fire/EMS. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was accepted.

Michael Armbrister, Representative of the Mel Leaman Free Clinic, gave an update on the clinic. He also thanked council for their support. The clinic relocated in August to the Emory & Henry School of Health Sciences campus. They implemented a Dental Hygiene Program this year. They hired a Physician's Assistant in July. He distributed brochures and business cards and invited everyone to tour the clinic at its new location.

Ron Thomason, Director of Smyth County Tourism, expressed his excitement about the Golf Course implementing a driving range.

Mr. Barker thanked Mayor Helms for attending the State Park Conference.

Mr. Carter requested the town install permanent signs recognizing the Marion Lady's Volleyball team as state champions. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Cornett, Mr. Carter requested the town install these signs. Discussion ensued. Mr. Carter rescinded his motion. Mr. Rush noted this can be designed in a short period of time. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this request was referred to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for design and costs, with a recommendation to be presented at the next council meeting.

Mayor Helms reviewed a Resolution to Name "Hurricane Alley", the pedestrian walkway formerly known as North Iron Street, in recognition of the students and alumni of Marion Senior High School. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution to Name "Hurricane Alley" was accepted. Town offices will be closed during the Holiday season on December 23 and 26, and January 2. Mayor Helms reported that due to the Holidays in January, both council meetings in January will be rescheduled to the following Tuesday of each week. The Town of

Marion will host a VML Regional Supper on April 5, 2017. Mayor Helms thanked those that have helped by ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$795,072.40, this is reduced by \$50 from the amount submitted due to a typo on line #118. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Ms. Stanley distributed and reviewed the new Statement of Economic Interest forms which will be due January 17, 2017.

Chief Anders noted the officer hiring process is ongoing with background checks and drug testing.

Mr. Heath asked everyone to let him know if you are planning to attend VML Legislative Day in January. Operation Rudolph will load toys tomorrow and deliver them to Newport, TN on Wednesday. Mr. Heath thanked council, Mr. Rush and Mayor Helms for all their support of his department throughout the year. Mayor Helms thanked Mr. Heath and his department for all their hard work.

Mr. Hicks noted that the Matson Drive culvert project is complete with the exception of the guardrail and pavement. The South Church Street drainage project will be scheduled for summer of 2017. The Fairway Drive sink hole will involve replacing the existing drainage pipe and should be scheduled for spring 2017. (Bill Weaver arrived). Mr. Hicks thanked those council members that helped with the employee Christmas Luncheon.

Mr. Rush reported that the Streetscape project narrative and budget will be submitted to VDOT this week. Mr. Rush reviewed the Country Club Crossings tax abatement ordinance. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the tax abatement ordinance was approved not to exceed \$2,000 for 3 years. Mr. Rush noted that Mr. Fenyk and Mr. Harrington have reviewed the request for the MRHA non-profit LLC formation. The formation of the MRHA Non-profit LLC, Terrace Enterprises, LLC, will have the same powers as the Housing Authority. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the request for the formation of MRHA Non-profit LLC, Terrace Enterprises, LLC was approved. There was one bid submitted for the renewal of the Old Mill Property. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Charlie Wassum's bid of \$200 per year for 5 years, to renew the Old Mill Property Land Lease was accepted. Teater's Trucking was the successful bidder on the construction of the Driving Range at the Golf Course. Lou Broskey was contracted to oversee the Environmental aspect of this project. Mr. Rush discussed the possibility of becoming the Zoning Administrator to allow Mr. Hicks to take a more active role in overseeing the Public Works department, which would be a highest and best use of the Assistant Town Manager. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager will now take on the role of Zoning Administrator.

Mayor Helms thanked all staff for their efforts and progress this year, thanked council for all their efforts, thanked Jeff Spickard for always attending the council meetings and he thanked Fire Chief Hamm for all his hard work with the Fire/EMS department. Mr. Rush also expressed his appreciation for the staff.

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 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 Dr. Gates and carried by a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Carter, Barker, Jennings, Spencer, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, council authorized the Town Manager to sign a Conflict of Interest Waiver for Gentry Locke Attorneys who are representing the Smyth County Foundation in negotiations.

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

Mayor

Clerk