

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 March 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Joe Naff, Margie Naff, Charles Hayden, CB Gwynn, Cameron Wolfe, Erwin Roland, Lili Cornett, Jeffrey Repass, Donald Stinnette, Kenny Alexander, Jim Dancy, Doug Henderlite, Marvin Leslie, Bob Valentine, Harvey Johnston, Bryan Richardson, Don Wilson, Greg Armstrong, Linda Mathews, Steve Parks, Carolyn Cooper, David Pennington and Jerry Archer.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 18, 2020 were approved as written with the addition of the Boy Scout Troop 93 members' names, Sawyer Jennings and Caden Hash. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Cameron Wolfe reviewed a rezoning request for Mount Rogers Community Services for property at the corner of Culbert Drive and Terrace Drive. The existing site is zoned part Medical Arts and part R-1. The request is to re-zone the R-1 portion to Medical Arts and vacate all property lines within the tracts owned by Mount Rogers and to build the proposed structure on the back of the property as a separate structure which better fits the program and site and would be less visible to the neighborhood. This request also includes a Special Use Permit for the same purpose.

Jeff Repass, General Services Manager for Mount Rogers Community Services, noted this expansion would house pregnant women, mothers and their children while in treatment programs. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the re-zoning request from Mount Rogers Community Services was referred to the Planning Commission. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rush noted Cameron Wolfe, Planning Commission Chair, will abstain from voting as he represents Mount Rogers Community Services. No drug treatment will be done at this facility.

Mrs. Erwin Rowland read a letter she wrote in opposition of the re-zoning.

Joe Naff, 148 Countryside Drive, expressed his concerns regarding the town's purchase of the old Buster Brown property. He had three concerns; the purpose for purchasing the property, alternate storage options for CIRP materials, and plans for the use of the property following closure of CIRP program. Mr. Naff closed asking Mr. Rush if he, a family member, or any of his agents received commission from the sale of the Buster Brown Property. Mr. Rush responded to Mr. Naff that no commission was received. Mr. Hicks addressed Mr. Naff's concern regarding storage of CIRP materials explaining that materials are purchased up to one year in advance and require adequate storage.

Marvin Leslie, 184 Keller Lane, spoke on behalf of golfers. Mr. Leslie's stated the town has done a great job with the Golf Course, with 18,000 rounds being played. Mr. Leslie made a proposal for a food service option, "the 19th hole". Holston Hills golfers want more food options than cold sandwiches. The golfers would like to see a 19th hole during the playing season.

Bob Valentine noted he is not a town resident and the window for the RFP listed in January was only open two weeks. He offered to poll players to see about setting hours for a 19th hole.

Lili Cornett, 104 Panorama Drive, noted the number of score cards printed for the Golf Course verifies lots of people are utilizing the Golf Course and if there was food service available lots of people would patronize the restaurant.

Mr. Cornett noted there is a restaurant at the Golf Course now that was inspected and passed in 2018 by the Health Department. Amenities are expected at the Golf Course and this could be a revenue stream. Mr. Cornett would like to have a Greens Committee formed to gather and convey information from golfers to administration. Mr. Cornett made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gates, to establish a Greens Committee consisting of one council member, the chairman of the Recreation Committee, one Recreation Department staff, and four golfers. This would be an advisory committee. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rush reviewed the grill revenues noting it consistently loses money. Mr. Rush noted grill sales would have to be \$300 per day to support a fry cook and server five hours per day. With a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Greens Committee will be established.

Dr. Wassum expressed his appreciation of the Public Works crew removing two downed trees on Wassona Circle.

Bob Valentine requested to see the figures confirming the Golf Course is not making money.

Charles Hayden, South Church Street, questioned the economic impact of the Golf Course verse other agencies supported by the town.

Mr. Cornett noted he had acquired some dishwasher quotes and \$40,000 for replacement might be a misrepresentation.

Mayor Helms noted the Blue Ridge Job Corps Quarterly meeting will be Wednesday, March 11 at noon. A list of committee meetings has been distributed. The VFW Officer of the Year Awards Ceremony will be Thursday, March 5 at 6 pm.

Chief Clair noted Officer Keith Finney will be recognized Thursday at the previously mentioned Ceremony.

Mrs. Veatch reported the Farmers Market will be open March 14. Virginia Main Street will be visiting March 31.

Mr. Heath noted the town has went above and beyond to try to make the Golf Course Grill work.

Mr. Hicks reported the Water Treatment Plant received an Excellence in Waterworks Operation Award again this year. CIRP Phase V Sewer bids have been received. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, CIRP sewer bid for Phase V was awarded to Teaters Trucking in the amount of \$388,490.

Mr. Rush reviewed a variance request for 209 Miller Avenue. The Sheffey Street/Miller Avenue CDBG Project will be able to do a complete teardown and rebuild. The owner will need to apply for a variance for setbacks with the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Mayor

Clerk