

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 January 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Larry Carter, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings and Bill Weaver Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Chief Rex Anders; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald and Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole.

ABSENT: Mayor David Helms and Town Attorney Mark Fenyk.

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

VISITORS: Mike Edwards, Bob Lincoln, James Tyler, Ryan Boone and Michael Wright.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 15, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Owens, Spencer and Jennings 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 the addition of one closed session for (A-3) Real Estate.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. James Tyler, new CEO for Smyth County Community Hospital, gave a brief explanation on Medicare evaluations of hospitals concerning infections and preventable measures.

PUBLIC HEARING: The Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grant Application was rescheduled until next Council meeting, Tuesday, January 20, 2015.

Mrs. Jennings announced the Lincoln Theatre Fundraiser truck winner was Douglas White.

Mr. Barker presented a citizen request for the elimination of the parking spot on the corner of South Park Street and West Main Street.

Mayor's report was given by Mr. Rush. There is a thank you letter in the packet from Extra Mile America. There is also a thank you letter from the Mel Leaman Free Clinic for the funds the Town appropriated. A third thank you is in the packet from MEC concerning the attendance of the Mayor, Mr. Rush and Mr. Heath at the grand opening of the new plant. VML Legislative Day will be on January 28, 2015 in Richmond.

The Attorney's report was also given by Mr. Rush. The pawn shop ordinance is still under revision. The Boundary Adjustment has been presented to the Judge and there should be a decision before the next Council meeting concerning the next step in the process, which is referring to the statutory three judge panel for final authorization.

Chief Anders reported that a considerable private donation for the Police Department had been presented by a Town Citizen. The funds will be used to purchase equipment for the officers.

Mrs. McDonald reported that the Bonanza report has been completed for VA Main Street. She continues to work on a list of 2015 events. She is also developing a website for Marion Downtown. This year's Fourth of July Celebration will be titled Rock, White and Blue Festival.

Mr. Heath expressed his appreciation for Mrs. McDonald completing the Bonanza report. He noted this is a very intense report and requires much time. Mrs. McDonald and Ms. Poole will be attending a VA Commission of the Arts workshop here on January 28, 2015. The letter on the Spruce/Matson project requires a response by January 26, 2015. The Streetscape Project is currently under review by VDOT.

Ms. Poole gave an update on the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. Burke Print Shop will be donating some printing equipment. She is also working on teacher contracts.

Mr. Hicks reported that the Operations and Maintenance Manual has been completed and sent to the Lane Group for review.

Mr. Rush noted the Joint Town/County Representative for the Airport Commission, Mr. Billy Dungan's term is up for renewal. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens, and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Billy Dungan is reappointed to serve on the Smyth Wythe Airport Commission as the Town/County Representative. Mr. Rush noted that all the legal documents for the Fire/EMS merger are in place and we are ready to take over the assets. Mr. Rush will schedule committee meetings for all committees over the next 30 days.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. 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 Gates, Weaver, Jennings, Carter, Spencer, Barker and Owens voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk

