

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 February 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Larry Carter, Suzanne Jennings and Bill Weaver Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath (arriving late); Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald; Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole; Director of Public Works Jackie Perry and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arriving late).

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Mike Edwards, Michael Wright, Melanie Carter and Carol Doss.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 20, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Owens, Dr. Gates 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Carol Doss representative for the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable introduced Melanie Carter with the U. S. Fish Wildlife Service. Ms. Carter gave an update on the Ice Plant project. The project is to begin Monday, February 16, 2015. The railroad will inspect the tracks and provide a flagman during the project. All environmental permits have been obtained. (Terry Jennings and Ken Heath arrived.) Signs will be provided to keep spectators at a safe distance.

Mr. Owens expressed his appreciation for being able to attend the 2015 Legislative Day at the Capitol.

Mrs. Jennings noted Song of the Mountains will have a good group performing Saturday. There were about 20 volunteers that came and helped clean the Lincoln Theatre.

Mr. Weaver noted that Legislative Day allowed local elected officials quality time with the Delegates.

Mr. Carter thanked the Town for allowing him to attend the 2015 Legislative Day.

Mayor Helms noted that the Governor mentioned Marion's Pop Up Program during his speech. The new Legislative Day format worked very well. Mayor Helms was pleased with the number of Senators and Delegates at the reception. Mayor Helms also expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the 2015 Legislative Day. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 17, 2015 due to the President's Day Holiday.

Mr. Fenyk reported the pawn shop ordinance draft is still waiting to go before the Ordinance Committee. The Boundary Adjustment is still waiting for the 3 judge panel to be set.

Mr. Jennings noted the renovations at the Golf Course were on schedule to be completed by the February 14th event. He reported that 27 teams have registered for the Basketball Tournament that is scheduled for February 20-22, 2015. He also reviewed the First Tee Golf Program. He also reviewed a new program for the Senior Citizens that will be partnered with Emory & Henry College. The students will present information about the outcome of the project at the Council meeting on April 20, 2015.

Mr. Perry noted the meter replacement project is currently on book four. Mapping of the sewer lines is continuing. He also noted Mr. Jim Burkett retired February 1, 2015.

Chief Anders also thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the 2015 Legislative Day. He reported that a law that went into effect last year which overlooked localities, will begin to include localities July 1, 2015 to create revenue of \$5 per citation issued electronically.

Mrs. McDonald noted a Grand Opening will be held on February 13th at noon for New Horizon's Counseling Center. The MDRA Strategic Planning meetings will be February 10th & 24th at 5-7:30pm. The Weddings Showcase will be February 21st from 11am-2pm at the General Francis Marion Hotel. She thanked Stephanie Porter-Nichols for her wedding article. Mrs. McDonald received a call today from Houston Texas inquiring about the Pop Up Program.

Mr. Heath noted his appreciation for the opportunity to attend the 2015 Legislative event. He noted the Department of Housing and Community Development has accepted our response letter for Spruce/Matson Phase II Project. The Project will be allowed to continue with modifications. Mr. Heath reviewed the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Tax Credit program. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is authorized to sign the Summit Center for Virginia Community Colleges lease agreement. The Economic Development Authority board will now consist of Tom Graham, Scott Burnop, Debbie Grim Yates, Bill Rush and Ken Heath, as these five people have agreed to serve on this board. Mr. Heath reviewed an Employee Loan Agreement for Catherine Poole and the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is authorized to execute the Employee Loan Agreement, pending final staff and legal review.

Ms. Poole reviewed a program that will take place at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts called JAM, Junior Appalachian Music for kids. Sprouting Hope is a program needing a canning and food preservation kitchen which will partner with the School.

Mr. Hicks reported the O & M Manual for the Co-Gen Project has been reviewed by The Lane Group and the suggested changes have been implemented. Mr. Spickard reviewed the Wilden Street Water Line Replacement Project and noted this is a very aggressive time frame but is hopeful it can be accomplished. Mr. Hicks noted the Zoning Ordinance Draft is ready to be set for a Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing on the Zoning Ordinance will be held on February 17, 2015 at 5:30pm. Mr. Bob Ramsey's term on the Planning Commission expires on March 31, 2015. Mr. Hicks will ask Mr. Ramsey if he is willing to serve another term.

Mr. Rush noted the 2015 Legislative Day was a great opportunity. Mr. Rush had a good session with Bill Shelton, director of the Department of Housing and Community Development. During the VLGMA session Mr. Rush spent time with other surrounding Town Officials.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) and (A-6) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Acquisition of Real Property and competitive negotiation. 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Jennings, Carter, 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

