

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, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Larry Carter 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; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Chief Rex Anders; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald and Economic Development Director Ken Heath .

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings and Tricia Spencer.

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

VISITORS: Ryan Boone, Ed & Karen Fouts, Michael Edwards, Michael Wright and Jeff Spickard.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 17, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Owens and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of a closed session for consideration of acquisition of real property and competitive negotiation.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Ed Fouts, 315 Sprinkle Avenue, requested staff to consider a plan of action for the noncompliant property 319 Sprinkle Avenue for the Health of other residents. Discussion Ensued.

Mr. Barker reminded members of the Ordinance committee meeting on March 12, 2015.

Mr. Owens commended Mr. Perry's department for the good job on snow removal.

Mr. Carter noted his appreciation for all the hard work the Public Works department had demonstrated during the last weather event including multiple main line water breaks.

Mayor Helms reminded Council members of the invitation to the River Front Restaurant in Chilhowie on March 10, 2015 at 11:30 for a Tourism Luncheon. The VML Regional Supper will be April 15, 2015 in Bristol. The Town and County quarterly meeting will be March 24, 2015 in Chilhowie.

Mr. Fenyk noted the Boundary Adjustment will be heard by the three judge panel on March 30, 2015 at 10:00 am at the Smyth County Court House. The Life Saving Crew building deed was recorded on February 19, 2015.

Mr. Jennings noted the basketball tournament had to be cancelled due to the weather. The RiverBend Park and Amphitheatre will now accept reservations for \$50 per day for the use of the facility. There will be a Senior Citizens Expo on April 18, 2015 at the Golf Course from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Mr. Fenyk noted that the Memorandum of Lease needs to be re-executed for the Historic Tax Credit process. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager and Economic Development Director are authorized to re-execute the necessary documents for the Historic Tax Credit process. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager also has authorization to extend the 40 year leases.

Mr. Perry reviewed the monthly report for the Public Works department.

Mr. Rush reviewed the Fire/EMS merger. The merger will be effective at 12:01 am on Sunday, March 1, 2015. This has taken a considerable amount of time and effort and he would like to commend the staff for all their hard work on the project.

Chief Anders noted the town crews continue to do a good job with the snow removal. He reported that Lieutenant Hamm will be attending the Virginia Chief of Police administration training.

Mrs. McDonald thanked the Public Works department for their efforts on snow removal on behalf of the Downtown Businesses. The Wedding Showcase was rescheduled for March 14, 2015. Wells Fargo donated \$10,000 for the next round of boot camp for the Popup Business program.

Mr. Heath noted on March 1, 2016 the Town will submit an application for a Community Development Block Grant for exit 45 gateway project to allow more time to compile a better application. Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Marion Downtown Revitalization Association will handle vending for the Summer Concert Series.

Mr. Hicks noted that the Dam Removal Project has been delayed due to weather. Discussion ensued in regards to the Zoning Ordinance update. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Zoning Ordinance was adopted as presented at the Public Hearing with the following changes: 45 days to replace manufactured home once removed and must be with a 7 year old or newer model and the recommended wording changes for section 5.01, 02, 03, 04, 05 and 06.

Mr. Rush distributed a suggested committee meeting schedule. He also noted the first budget committee meeting will be March 26 at noon.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) and (A-6) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Acquisition of Real Property and competitive negotiation. Dr. Gates 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. Owens and carried by a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Carter, Barker and Owens voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk