

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 17, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Larry Carter, Tricia Spencer and Bill Weaver Council Members; Chairman Cameron Wolfe, Bob Ramsey, Alice Freeman, Ben Reedy, Dan Surface and Avery Cornett Planning Commission Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Anita Catron (left early); Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm; Police Chief Rex Anders and Economic Development Director Ken Heath .

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Bishop Nolan Wolfe rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Bishop Nolan Wolfe, James Purefoy, Mr. Coleman, Janice Orr, Ron Orr, Fred Brown, Debra Velazquez, Alicia Robinson, Aaron Sizemore, Karen Glaeser, Bob Lincoln and Sandip Patel.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 2, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Owens, Dr. Gates and Spencer voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Janice Orr, Coordinator for the Museum of the Middle Appalachians, invited Council and staff to a Virginia Department of Historic Resources Workshop. The workshop will be held at the Museum on Saturday, February 28, 2015 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

PUBLIC HEARING ZONING ORDINANCE: Mayor Helms noted the Public Hearing was for the Proposed Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing and turned the meeting over to Chairman Wolfe of the Planning Commission. Chairman Wolfe briefly reviewed the four major changes. Aaron Sizemore, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Consultant, thanked staff for the opportunity to work on the Zoning Ordinance Updates. With no public comments the Public Hearing was closed. Upon motion of Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mrs. Freeman and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES the Planning Commission approved the draft copy of the Zoning Ordinance Update. Mayor Helms thanked everyone for their hard work on this project. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proposed Zoning Ordinance will be continued until the next Council meeting. Planning Commission was excused.

RESOLUTIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Black History Month and the Sesquicentennial of First Baptist Church Resolutions were adopted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution in Honor of the Sesquicentennial of First Baptist Church

to the members of the church that were present. Mayor Helms read the Resolution in Honor of Black History Month and this will be presented on February 28, 2015 at the Lutheran Church Celebration.

Mr. Carter noted a good attendance at the Song of the Mountains Saturday night.

Mr. Owens noted a good job by Public Works on the latest snow event.

Mr. Barker also was appreciative of the snow removal efforts.

Mayor Helms noted the Fire Department Banquet was very nice and that Billy Hamm received the award for Fire Fighter of the Year, which is determined by the membership of the fire department. Council is invited to the River Front Restaurant in Chilhowie on March 10, 2015 at 11:30 for a Tourism Luncheon.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$907,342.84.

Mr. Hamm reported on the Life Saving Crew merger and reviewed the items still left to complete, with the date of March 1, 2015 as the official transfer date. The process for the pay per shift and pay per call is in place. A pre-employment interview is scheduled for the potential EMS Battalion Chief. The deeds are prepared for the transfer of the real property. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the deeds for the EMS property will be accepted and the Town Manager is authorized to sign the note to assume the loan.

Chief Anders noted the town crews did a good job during the recent snow event and he thanked Mr. Hamm for the invitation to the Fire Department Banquet.

Mr. Heath noted the Wedding Showcase is scheduled for February 21 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the General Francis Marion Hotel. The Spring 2015 Boot Camp will be held in May. Mr. Lincoln will give a presentation at the next Council meeting regarding the motorcycle event he attended. All aspects of the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts are moving forward. A new R E B G Loan application has been submitted by Kidz at Play, 642 North Main Street. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this RBEG Loan for \$15,000 for 5 years at 2% interest was approved.

Mr. Hicks noted that Mr. Bob Ramsey is willing to serve another term on the Marion Planning Commission. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Bob Ramsey was re-appointed to serve another term on the Marion Planning Commission. Mr. Hicks has received an application for a Special Use Permit at 255 Gilman Street for a home occupation business for a home cleaning company. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing will be scheduled for March 16, 2015.

Mr. Rush reported on the budget process.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3), (A-6) and (A-7) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into

Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Acquisition of Real Property, competitive negotiation and consultation with legal counsel. 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. Weaver and carried by a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Spencer, 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