

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 April 20, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Larry Carter, Bill Weaver and Suzanne Jennings 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; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm (left early); Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Heath rendered the invocation. Commander Brooks with the VFW Post #4667 led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Michael Edwards, Susan Edwards, Jeff Spickard, Bob Lincoln, Lyn Thompson, Wanda Owens, Michael Wright, Emma & Herbert Johnson, Sveva Mazzari, Chiara Mossi, Robert Pearson, Paul Ferney, Jr., Madison DeBord, Marquise Coleman, Rashaad Ford, Emily Ballard, Emily Jones, Sydney Owens, Jenna Viar, Morgan Wilder, Dallae Collison, Shelley Koch, Sabrina Gomez, Jessica Harosky, Travis Proffitt, Tanner Bradley, Elizabeth Platt, Danielle Loving, Taylor Moxley, Carter Bauman, Taylor Greenway, Caley Hodge, Jeanette Smith, Ann Hearn, Ronald Branum, Luther Williams, John Crabtree, Nina Crabtree, Ruby Brooks, David Brooks, Akeya Wright, Virginia Nihart and Tal Stanley.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 6, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of Anthem Insurance Renewal, Fire/EMS report and Accounts moved up, and two closed sessions for Personnel and Public Funds.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Vietnam War Proclamation was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution in Remembrance of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,078,377.30.

Chief Hamm presented the Fire/EMS report for April. He noted there are several EMS trained Fire Fighters also helping with the rescue calls. The EMS building is being equipped with necessary items to provide the staff with sleeping quarters. The vehicles have been lettered. Medical billing will begin as soon as the medicare license number is issued. Chief Hamm reviewed the merger for the group of Emory & Henry students that were present.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: EMORY & HENRY SENIOR CITIZENS STUDY REPORT: Mr. Jennings introduced Travis Proffitt, the leader for the study. Carter Bauman began with the perception of the current Senior Citizen Center. Taylor spoke about volunteer days at the center and at Francis Marion Manor. Danielle Loving reviewed the design and space concerns for the facility. Elizabeth Platt reported on the focus groups and the interests of the Senior Citizens. Tanner Bradley reviewed the results per age group. Jessica Herosky reviewed more results about proposed attendance. Sabrina Gomez reviewed more results of the study. Travis Proffitt summarized the findings of the study. He also noted that Emory & Henry would like to partner with the Town of Marion in the future on other projects.

Susan Edwards, 204 West Main Street, spoke as a concerned citizen regarding an article in the local newspaper regarding a local business serving alcohol to motorcycle riders at a Special Event.

Mike Edwards, 204 West Main Street, reported on a Tourism event he attended in Harrisonburg involving fly fishing and a wine tasting.

Mr. Barker distributed an additional page for the Zoning Ordinance Book.

Mr. Carter noted the Smyth County Senior Citizen Day will be held on May 21, 2015 at 10:00 am in Chilhowie.

Mayor Helms noted that Highlands Fellowship Church will be helping again this Saturday with the Volunteer Day. There was good attendance at the VML Regional Supper. Mr. Rush and Mr. Weaver attended the VCCS Chancellor's Town Hall meeting on April 15, 2015 at the Higher Ed Center. Mayor Helms also reported that the Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 25, 2015 and there are over 800 flags to be displayed. May 14, 2015 will be Youth Government Day.

Mr. Rush noted that Ms. Stanley will be attending the 2015 Clerk's Conference this week.

Chief Anders reported that the Police Department had been awarded the Bryne Justice Matching Grant for \$7,072 with the Town's match being \$786. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this grant was approved with the Town's match of \$786. The issue with wrong way parking was addressed and the Police Department will make the public more aware, they will give warnings and then start giving citations. Crosswalks will be given increased patrols and Mr. Hicks also noted that the contractor for the crosswalk lights will be on-site soon to work on those.

Mrs. McDonald noted the 8th round of Pop Up classes will begin on May 5, 2015. The 5K Blue Line Race will be held May 9, 2015.

Ms. Poole reported the Virginia Commission of the Arts will provide a \$5,000 grant for the letter press shop. A \$1,000 grant has also been received for the JAM Program. The tentative soft opening for the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts will be May 29, 2015 with the first event. The official Open House will be June 19, 2015 with six performers.

Mr. Heath noted that the Alcohol Beverage Control Training has been presented. There will be an Exit 45 Gateway Project planning review meeting on April 29, 2015 at 9:00 am. The grant will be completed by

the end of June. A new downtown business has applied for an RBEG Loan for \$15,000 at 2% interest over 60 months. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG Loan for \$15,000 at 2% interest over 60 months was approved for Sisters Cafe & Gifts on Broad Street. Mr. Rush reviewed the Spruce/Matson CDBG Housing project. Due to participation problems this project is no longer viable. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a letter of Deobligation of Funds for CDBG Grant #11-09 Spruce/Matson Drive Housing Rehabilitation Project will be sent to the VA Dept. of Housing and Community Development. Mayor Helms also noted we just can't meet the guidelines for this project, however Crescent/Palmer Project is ahead of schedule.

Mr. Hicks reported 48% water accountability. Several staff members attended the Rural Water Conference in Roanoke and met with the state engineer regarding the possibility of using workforce to install and implement the (CIRP) Capital Infrastructure Replacement Plan. They noted this is hard to accomplish with a town our size, however considering all our institutional knowledge and current workforce they are receptive to our ideas.

Mr. Rush reported the next budget committee meeting will be Tuesday, April 28, 2015 at noon. He presented a request from the 4-H Club for use of the Town's shooting range. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this request will be continued until the next meeting. Mr. Rush reviewed the VML Insurance renewal packet. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the VML Insurance renewal packet was approved. Mr. Rush also reviewed the Anthem Health Insurance renewal noting a 7.1% increase of the premiums. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Anthem Health Insurance will be renewed with the 7.1% increase with no changes to the policy or deductibles.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (A-6) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Personnel matters and Investment of public funds. 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 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Carter, Barker and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Mr. Weaver made a motion for the Finance Committee to increase the 2015-2016 budget to the Song of the Mountains to \$95,000 and \$25,000 to the Lincoln Theatre, as long as it exists in the present form, maintains the originally scheduled programming, and maintains it's economic impact to the Town of Marion, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 2 AYES and 3 NOES, the motion failed.

Mr. Weaver made a motion for the Finance Committee to increase the 2015-2016 budget to the Song of the Mountains to \$85,000 and \$25,000 to the Lincoln Theatre, as long as it exists in the present form,

maintains the originally scheduled programming, and maintains it's economic impact to the Town of Marion, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 0 AYES and 5 NOES, the motion failed.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Susie Jennings, Ken Heath and Bill Rush are to enter into negotiations with the Lincoln Theatre Board to assume ownership, operations, brand ownership and all creative control of the Song of the Mountains and to bring back the negotiated deal at the May 4, 2015 council meeting for consideration.

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

Mayor

Clerk