

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 May 18, 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 and Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

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

VISITORS: Michael Edwards, Jeff Spickard, Avery Cornett, Kristen Untiedt-Barnett, Jay Overbey, Michael Overbey, Robbie Doyle (arriving late), Brian Reynolds, Ethan Smith, Lauren Kopp, Garrison Kopp, Travis Doane, Franki Doane Fullen, Ed & Karen Fouts and Bill Powers.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 4, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Lauren Kopp, 4-H representative, addressed the shooting range request which was tabled at the last Council meeting. Mr. Rush reported that VML will require a certified officer to be present and a rider to the current policy. Chief Anders spoke with all other agencies that use the range and all agreed with Chief Anders to keep the range for officers only. Mr. Rush cannot recommend the use of the range to 4-H members. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town will partner with the 4-H program to research the possibilities for finding them another property to use for this purpose.

PUBLIC HEARING FISCAL 2015-2016 BUDGET: Mayor Helms asked the Town Manager to review the proposed budget. Mr. Rush noted the total budget is \$10,071,780. He reviewed the increase of 10% water and sewer, motor vehicle and motorcycle decal fees to \$25 and permits to \$25. The increase in vehicle decal fees is following the County rates, which has been historically done in the past. Dr. Gates noted this is a really tight budget and the revenues are not overinflated and expenditures are not underinflated. Mrs. Jennings thanked the staff for their work. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing for comment. Ed Fouts noted the Golf Course expenditures at \$686,780. Kristin Untiedt-Barnett spoke on behalf of the Lincoln Theatre. She noted there will be a reorganization of the Theatre and appreciates the Town's partnership. Dr. Gates responded to the first citizen noting the Golf Course loss is less than some other departments. Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing on the budget.

Mr. Barker noted Arbor Day will be May 27, 2015.

Dr. Gates has received positive public comments on the mowing this spring.

Mr. Carter noted that Senior Citizen Day will be held in Chilhowie Town Park on May 21, 2015 at 10:00 am.

Mayor Helms noted the Memorial Day flags are being placed on the lawn at the Courthouse. Chapter 4 Rolling Thunder will be in town on May 21, 2015. Letters from Home will be at the Lincoln Theatre on Sunday afternoon. Senator Kaine has been invited to the Memorial Day celebration. The Town & County Dinner will be held June 18, 2015 at the Holston Hills Community Golf Course. Mr. Heath spoke in South Hill by request of the Governor. The Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County will hold a Business and Industry Appreciation Luncheon at Holston Hills Community Golf Course on June 18, 2015. Mayor Helms traveled to Alexandria for a VML Executive Board meeting last week.

Mr. Fenyk noted receipt of a letter from Appalachian Power requesting two rate increases. Discussion ensued. It was recommended to contact Mark Flynn and see what other agencies are doing.

Mayor Helms read the Resolution Recognizing May 18-24 as National EMS Week. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was accepted.

Ms. Stanley reviewed the Statement of Economic Interest forms and reported they are due by June 15, 2015 for the period of November 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015.

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 \$694,188.27.

Chief Hamm noted there were 112 combined calls last month. The twelve hour shift coverage is working very well. Some recreational items and better sleeping quarters are being implemented to improve the twelve hour shifts. A couple of trucks are currently out of service. He also noted the firefighters that are dually trained as EMT's are helping out tremendously with EMS calls. A matching Forestry Grant has been awarded in the amount of \$1,603. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the 50/50 matching Forestry Grant in the amount of \$1,603 was accepted.

Chief Anders thanked Chief Hamm for the great job he has been doing with the merger. Franklin and Chestnut Streets were closed today due to a gas leak and intersections were blocked with the help of the Fire Department and Town Crews. He also thanked Tony Muncy and Billy Stevens for helping Saturday with the Police 5 K Run. Chief Anders also thanked Mrs. McDonald and Officer Horne for organizing the 5 K Run.

Mrs. McDonald noted the new banners are being placed now and the Emory banners will go back up in the fall. The Chili Cook Off will be Friday, July 17, 2015. The Marion Downtown 20th Anniversary will be July 18, 2015. She thanked Chief Anders for his help with the 5 K Run and she is also thankful for the many volunteers.

Ms. Poole reported that some furnishing will be moved into the Schoolhouse starting this week. The soft opening for the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts will be May 29, 2015 at 6:00 pm with the first event. A weaving loom and spinning wheel were acquired on May 7, 2015. A Community Sparkplug mini grant has been awarded in the amount of \$1,000. The canning and preserving kitchen will offer lots of other Appalachian Heritage components. Mr. Rush noted that Mr. Hicks is working on developing a paving and parking plan for the Schoolhouse.

Mr. Heath noted the Civic Innovation Institute at Emory & Henry will be on June 4-5, 2015. The Dollar Tree Grand Opening will be at 9:00 am on June 6, 2015. There will be a meeting tomorrow about District III bus stop designations. June 3, 2015 will be the Chamber of Commerce networking breakfast. Mrs. McDonald has received her Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice.

Mr. Hicks presented council with the paving list. Bids will be received on May 27, 2015. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the paving list was accepted as presented including paving, milling and hauling. There were three bids received on Wilden Street Water Line Replacement Project. He recommends awarding to the low bidder at \$89,250. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Teaters Trucking was awarded the Wilden Street Water Line Replacement Project in the amount of \$89,250 contingent on Health Department approval.

Mr. Rush noted any suggested changes to the budget be presented in the next week and if no changes the budget can be adopted at the June 1, 2015 meeting. Youth Government Day last week went very well with some exercises to engage the students. Kevin Testerman is seeking nomination for Sheriff.

Mayor Helms drew for the Free Garbage Raffle for Relay for Life. The winner is Wanda Owens.

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

Mayor

Clerk