

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 4, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Jim Barker, Larry Carter, Bill Weaver and Suzanne Jennings Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Lieutenant Andrew Moss; Police Officer Uriah Farris; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald; Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer and Dr. Jim Gates.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Bob Lincoln, Michael Wright, Brian Reynolds, Ethan Smith, Farrell Jones, Zack Jones, Becky Reynolds, J-Me Bzaig, Michael Overbey, Jay Overbey, Laurinda Sturgill, Lauren Kopp, J Howard Burton, Robbie Doyle, Tom Johnson, Jim Obrien, David Mitzel, Rob Sharrer, Sarah Parker-Clever, Darrin Sparkey, Brett Wolfe, Sandip Patel, Ashley and Lance Yates, Pam Testerman, Ryan Boone, Christie Moss, Brandon Johnson and Steve Rossita.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 20, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of two closed sessions for Personnel Matters and Public Funds.

Mayor Helms introduced some visitors from Ohio, including Tom Johnson the Mayor of Summerset Ohio. Mr. Johnson addressed council and introduced other members of his group. He also thanked the Town of Marion for hosting them.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Lauren Kopp, 12235 Deerfield Lane, Glade Spring, VA, representative for the 4-H Extension Office, requested the use of the Town's shooting range on behalf of the 4-H members. The range would be used for rifles, muzzleloaders, archery, pistols and shotguns. Farrell Jones, 1903 Redstone Road, Chilhowie, VA, noted the certified instructors for the 4-H group have extensive training, including 24 hours in each Shooting Sport discipline. Zach Jones, 1903 Redstone Road, Chilhowie, VA, also spoke in regards to the great positive influence the 4-H group has been in his life. Ms. Kopp provided a certificate of insurance to council. Mr. Rush provided information gathered from the Town's insurance carrier, Virginia Municipal League Insurance Program, which would require a Town certified officer to be present when the group is using the range. Discussion ensued. Robbie Doyle, 204 Rolling Hills Drive, Marion, VA, noted the program mimics the criteria established by the NRA, National Rifle Association. He also noted the NRA has \$25,000 available for matching grants to build such ranges. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was continued until the next meeting at which time Mr. Rush will present more information from the Town's insurance carrier.

Mr. Rush noted the budget committee has balanced the proposed 2015-2016 budget and it is ready for Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, a public hearing on the proposed 2015-2016 budget will be set for May 18, 2015 at 5:30 pm.

Mrs. Jennings noted the show From Gettysburg to Mayberry will be presented at the Lincoln Theatre on May 9, 2015. Tickets will be \$15.

Mayor Helms noted May is Business Appreciation Month. Mrs. McDonald read the Business Appreciation Month 2015 Proclamation. She also noted that Wolfe's BBQ had been recognized as one of 30 businesses in Virginia to be invited to the Governor's Dinner. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the Business Appreciation Month 2015 Proclamation

was accepted. Mr. Heath recognized the small businesses present. Brett Wolfe spoke on behalf of Wolfe's BBQ and noted it was an honor to be invited by the Governor to the dinner. He noted the Governor and his staff was very knowledgeable of the Town of Marion and very complementary of Mr. Heath.

Mayor Helms noted the volunteers from the Southwest VA Beautiful group did a great job Saturday with the cleanup of the Old Ice Plant Dam area. The Farmers Market opened Saturday. The Blue Line 5K Run and the March of Dimes Walk will be held this Saturday, May 9, 2015. The Memorial Day Parade will be May 25, 2015. There are over 800 Memorial Day flags to be on the courthouse lawn this year. May 14, 2015 will be Youth Government Day. A Luncheon will be held on May 18, 2015 at the Smyth County Community Hospital by James Tyler.

Mr. Carter noted that Older Americans Day will be held in Chilhowie on May 21, 2015 at 10:00 am.

Ms. Stanley thanked council and staff for the opportunity to attend the 2015 Annual VMCA Clerk's conference. She also noted the Statement of Economic Interest will be due again the month of June.

Mr. Jennings reviewed the activities for the Recreation Department. Both pools are being prepared for opening day Memorial weekend. He noted staff will assist with Older Americans Day in Chilhowie. The Town of Chilhowie has requested a Town Official be present.

Mr. Perry reported almost 4 tons of trash removed from the river area Saturday by the volunteers. The town mowing crew is in full swing under the direction of Tony Muncy and the newly established crew is doing a great job.

Lieutenant Moss recognized Officer Uriah Farris, as he has completed his training at the Police Academy. He presented Officer Farris with his Certificate. He reported that the case with the pharmacy break-ins has been resolved.

Mrs. McDonald noted the Farmers Market opened Saturday with 10 vendors participating and reported there was lots of foot traffic. She reported a \$1,500 matching grant has been awarded for a LOVE Mural with a Virginia is for Lovers theme. The artist for this mural is Jack Taylor. The 8<sup>th</sup> round of Pop Up classes will begin tomorrow night with 17 participants registered. The Blue Line 5K Race will be held this Saturday with over 100 expected to attend.

Bob Lincoln, General Manager for the General Francis Marion Hotel, 27 Lions and the Black Rooster, attended several tourism events with Mr. Thomason. He distributed information with the demographics on these events. He has booked 10 groups that have rented the entire hotel over the upcoming summer. He thanked the Town of Marion for all their Tourism support.

Ms. Poole reported on the Schoolhouse progress. The tentative soft opening for the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts will be May 29, 2015 at 7:00 pm. The Grand Opening will be June 19, 2015.

Mr. Heath will be traveling to Southside Virginia by invitation of the Governor to present Marion's Story. A public informational meeting on the Gateway Exit 45 Project will be scheduled soon.

Mayor Helms noted a VFW Project that will be revealed on the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday events. A flag made out of colored stone and other material donated by area businesses will be placed on the hillside east of the Marion Elementary School.

Mr. Hicks distributed a proposed paving list. The condition of the utilities will be considered prior to paving the approved streets. The paving bids will be opened on May 28, 2015. Staff is considering utilizing a process known as double seal. A layer of liquid asphalt would be place down with gravel on top, repeated then rolled. There is a pre bid meeting tomorrow at 10:00 am on Wilden Street Water Line Replacement Project. Brian Reed with Mt Rogers Planning District Commission has assisted in a grant for the Zone Meter Replacement Project in the amount of \$68,300. Mr. Hicks reported that the Special Use Permit application from Karen White has been withdrawn.

Mr. Rush clarified the process for the double sealing the streets, noting it is not like the old process of tar and gravel, but is a good substantial product. He will not be attending the Managers meeting this

June. The Comcast/Time Warner merger is not progressing. The Town and County Quarterly meeting will be June 18, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Golf Course.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-2) and (A-6) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 4 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 4 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Barker and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Mayor

---

Clerk