

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 June 1, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice-Mayor 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; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Economic Development Director Assistant Samantha White; Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole; Recreation Director Jamie Hall and Public Works Director Jackie Perry.

ABSENT: Mayor Helms and Tricia Spencer.

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

VISITORS: Michael Edwards, Avery Cornett, Bob Lincoln, Scott Schumaker, Angie Mucha and Jimmy Reed.

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 May 18, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter and Jennings voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Scott Schumaker, Appalachian Mountain Spirits owner, spoke as a concerned citizen and as a former board member for the Lincoln Theatre. Mr. Schumaker requested the Town of Marion not invest any more funds to the Song of the Mountains and Lincoln Theatre until an audit is produced. He expressed his concerns about the future of the Song of the Mountains and the Lincoln Theatre. Discussion ensued.

Bob Lincoln, General Francis Marion Hotel Manager, addressed the 2015-2016 proposed budget, as he was unable to attend the Public Hearing at the last Council meeting. Mr. Lincoln's concerns are the Golf Course is expected to lose money and has been for some time. He ask that the proposed budget be re-evaluated. Mr. Rush addressed his concerns.

Mr. Edwards, Collins House Inn owner, expressed his concern also about the Song of the Mountains possibly not continuing as he already feels the effects with visitors cancelling their reservation at his Bed and Breakfast.

Mr. Carter noted that he attended the District III Board of Governors meeting and all 8 members were present.

Mr. Barker reported last Wednesday was Arbor Day and the Town of Marion received the designation of Tree City USA again.

Dr. Gates noted the Memorial Day Parade went well and the VFW did a great job.

Mr. Rush reported for Mayor Helms reminding everyone of the Town & County Dinner June 18, 2015 at the Holston Hills Community Golf Course at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Fenyk reported that a Public Hearing needs to be set for a new ordinance regarding e-tickets for the Police Department. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing will be held on June 15, 2015 at 5:30 pm for the proposal of a new ordinance regarding e-tickets.

Ms. Stanley reviewed the Resolution to increase the Member Contribution in the Virginia Retirement System. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES,

Council elected to increase the member contribution by 1% for fiscal year 2016, with an offsetting salary increase effective July 1, 2015.

Mr. Hall reported Women's softball program will be 2 nights per week. Free tennis lessons will be provided by Nicole Albano. A soccer camp will be held mid June with a VA Tech soccer coach teaching. The Town pool opened last weekend with a great turnout, taking in \$5,000 in 5 days.

Mr. Perry noted his department has a few equipment breakdowns at this time, including the sewer vactor. The public works department is preparing for the upcoming paving schedule.

Chief Anders noted the Memorial Day weekend went very well and Tony Muncy and Billy Stevens did a great job that weekend.

Mr. Heath reported for Mrs. McDonald. The Farmers Market has received some grant funding for the EBT Program. The Summer Concert Series will begin June 12, 2015 with 49 Winchester. The Chili Cook-off will be July 17, 2015. A Freedom 5K Run will be held July 4, 2015. Mr. Heath continued with his report. The Crescent/Palmer CDBG Housing project is ahead of schedule. Ms. Poole will attend the Civic Innovation Institute at Emory & Henry College on June 4-5, 2015. The VML Achievement Award Application is in the packet for submission in October 2015. The Mountains of Music Homecoming is June 12-20, 2015. A Chamber Networking Breakfast will be held at the Riverfront in Chilhowie on Wednesday, June 3, 2015. The District III bus stops will add a new route to include Hungry Mother State Park. District III has a proposal to add a second route to bring people from Hungry Mother State Park to Marion Downtown area for approximately \$4,000. Mr. Rush noted this may be something the County would partner with us on. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was tabled until the second meeting in December 2015 at which time Mr. Heath will present a recommendation.

Ms. Poole noted that Senator Kaine and his wife spent an extended period of time at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts while they were here for the Memorial Day Parade. Ms. Poole distributed invitations to the Open House June 19, 2015 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. The Appalachian Spirit Gallery is bringing Art Work to be displayed. Approximately 75 people attended the construction tour on Friday. The Virginia Intermont supplies and equipment will be coming Wednesday.

Mrs. White noted the Summit Lease has been signed and they are set to come in on July 1, 2015. They will occupy the second floor. The Certificate of Occupancy is expected this week as we near the end of construction. The Federal investors, Carter Bank, will be here tomorrow for a tour of the Schoolhouse.

Mr. Hicks reviewed the paving bid, which we received one bid from W-L Construction and Paving for \$217,936.40. Mr. Hicks has added Mountain View Drive to the paving list to make the new total \$238,500.00. Approximately \$154,000 will come out of the budget for the 2014-2015 year and the remaining to come from next year's budget. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the W-L paving bid for this year was accepted. Mt Rogers Planning District Commission may have some grant funds available for infrastructure.

Mr. Rush reviewed the parking design for the Schoolhouse which will add 2 additional handicapped spots along with 12 regular parking spots. This will be graveled to begin with and in the spring after the freeze/thaw season it will be re-evaluated for the possibility of paving. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the funds were allocated not to exceed \$12,000 for grading and gravel for additional parking at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts per Mr. Hicks design. Mr. Rush noted the proposed budget for 2015-2016 is presented for consideration. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the proposed 2015-2016 budget is adopted as advertised. Mr. Rush reviewed a request for a Public Hearing for a Bond Issuance for the Currin Valley Spring Watershed thru Virginia Resource Authority in the amount of \$127,300.00. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing will be held at 5:30 pm on June 15, 2015 for public comment on a bond issuance for the Currin Valley Spring Watershed.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (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 the 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 Dr. Gates, Weaver, Carter, Barker and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Mrs. Jennings is to carry the concerns of the Council to the Lincoln Theatre Board regarding the viability of the Song of the Mountains and the Lincoln Theatre.

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

Mayor

Clerk