

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 July 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 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 and Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

A moment of silence was observed for the Marines killed in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

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

VISITORS: Michael & Susan Edwards, Jeff Spickard, Kristen Untiedt-Barnett, Charles Hayden, Bob Lincoln, Allyson Whitt, Sam Russell, Gilda Powers, Bill Powers, Joe Ellis, Jason Von Kundra, Dana Chamberlain and Laura & Michael Wright.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held July 7, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mayor Helms recognized Allyson Whitt. A graduate of Chilhowie High School. She will be attending James Madison University this fall to pursue a law degree.

Kristen Untiedt-Barnett, Executive Director of the Lincoln Theatre, read a letter on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Lincoln Theatre noting the transfer of ownership of Song of the Mountains. The letter also requested the full disbursement for the month of July 2015 be paid to the Lincoln Theatre and a 50/50 split with Appalachian Music Heritage to begin in August 2015.

Sam Russell gave a brief statement on behalf of the Appalachian Music Heritage group to express their appreciation to everyone involved in resolving this issue. Appalachian Music Heritage group will assume Song of the Mountain productions. Tim White will return with the September 5, 2015 show. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the funding for July 2015 will be disbursed to the Lincoln Theatre in the amount of \$ 8,333.33 and the funding will be split 50/50 between the Lincoln Theatre and Appalachian Music Heritage beginning in August 2015. Mayor Helms noted he is glad this issue is resolved and he looks forward to working with both groups in the future.

Mr. Barker noted the town had a very busy and successful weekend. He also thanked Appalachian Music Heritage and the Lincoln Theatre for resolving the issue with the Song of the Mountains.

Dr. Gates thanked the town crew for their help this weekend and noted how great the town looked.

Mrs. Jennings thanked Mrs. McDonald and all the Merchants for staying open late this weekend.

Mr. Carter also noted a very successful weekend and reported that he and Mr. Rush tried to take a rough estimation of attendance and reported approximately six to seven thousand people there Friday night for the Chili Cook Off.

Mrs. McDonald was very appreciative of all the positive comments about the weekend. She appreciated the businesses for participating and staying open late. She thanked the town crew for all their hard work all weekend long. She introduced the Farmers Market Manager Jason Von Kundra.

Mayor Helms noted what a great example of everyone working together this weekend for the Chili Cook Off and Downtown Celebration with town crews, store owners and volunteers working together. He reported the Collins House Inn had visitors from France. He also reported lots of positive feedback from

citizens that the Song of the Mountains and the Lincoln Theatre have worked out the issues and hopefully will be more successful than before. (Mrs. McDonald left). The railroad crossing at the old Train Station will be closed August 4th thru the 6th for repairs. The VFW is already working on the "Spirit of '45" program for August 9, 2015 to be held at the Court House.

Mr. Fenyk reported that the Restriction Agreement has been submitted to the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for review in reference to the IRF Grant for the Schoolhouse and Facade Improvements. DHCD has requested the town restrict the Schoolhouse for use for Public Purposes.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$385,693.37. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Dr. Gates and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Chief Hamm reported that insurance payments for the Ambulance calls are beginning to come in from medicare and some secondary insurances. The EMS station had approximately 75% coverage for the month of June 2015. The department has been very busy. Mrs. Jennings asked Mr. Hamm to tell everyone how much they are appreciated.

Chief Anders noted the Fire, Police and EMS departments are jointly working together more and it is working very well. He also noted how hard Mrs. McDonald worked this weekend.

Mr. Heath gave congratulations to Mrs. McDonald and the Downtown group for the tremendous crowds participating in the events this weekend. He noted Emory & Henry classes will begin in August at the Marion campus and housing should not be a problem this year but next year may present some housing issues. Mr. Heath reported a grant for a new state program for \$60,000 for startup businesses is available. He also noted a Super Bowl Program for previous of Popup class participants will allow businesses to be eligible for a \$25,000 grant. Lunch time bus stops will begin for college students to be able to come downtown for lunch. Mr. Heath gave condolences for Samantha White's family, as her grandmother has passed away.

Mr. Hicks noted a storm drain and sewer line are being repaired this week so that Highway 16 paving can be ready for proceeding with the paving grant. Wilden Street and Town Street will be paved in conjunction with Highway 16. Mr. Heath noted that Mr. Hicks will need to coordinate with him to review the Master Plan before paving Highway 16 begins. Town Street sewer line is complete.

Jeff Spickard, The Lane Group, gave an update on the Capital Infrastructure Replacement Plan (CIRP). He noted the water portion of the design matrix has been completed and the sewer portion is still in design phase. The Environmental Review is completed and approved.

Mr. Hicks noted the 6" main water line on Wilden Street is complete and has been tested. Zoning on the new Boundary Adjustment properties will carry the same zoning as the County had in place. The Town luncheon will be August 7, 2015 at noon at the River Bend Park Shelter.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) 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 consideration of the acquisition of real property. 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 Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Council empowers Mr. Rush and Mr. Heath working with Mr. Fenyk to look into the purchase of real property and to work out some financial terms for review and action at the earliest possible date with request for proposals to be submitted.

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

---

Mayor

---

Clerk