

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 August 3, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor 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; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; Public Works Director Jackie Perry and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mrs. Porter-Nichols rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Michael Edwards, Bob Lincoln, Charles Hayden, Ed & Karen Fouts, Jeff Spickard and Hunter Shields.

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 20, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Dr. Gates and Jennings 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Hunter Shields, 440 1/2 North Main Street, representative for Marion Electric, expressed his concerns about the town supporting "Shop Local" by allowing his company to bid electric repairs for the Water and Sewer Treatment plants.

Mr. Long will address council and staff on an individual basis rather than requesting a donation from the town for support of St Jude's 5K Run.

Mr. Barker noted Marion Police Department did a good job patrolling over the weekend.

Dr. Gates was appreciative of the mulching and cleaning up of the town streets.

Mrs. Jennings received calls from Wassona Circle citizens and they expressed their appreciation for the mowing.

Mr. Weaver thanked Mr. Heath and everyone that helped with the wedding this past weekend.

Mr. Carter addressed the issue of property maintenance and substandard housing and the possibility of implementing a property maintenance code. Mr. Rush noted this had been discussed at the VML Conference last year. Dr. Gates expressed his concerns as the court system has not been very supportive of this in the past and he has concerns hiring an inspector. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush and staff are to work on exploring property maintenance code and report back at the September 21st meeting.

Mayor Helms noted a great weekend with National publicity on the wedding. Song of the Mountains had a huge, almost sold out crowd. A family reunion from Martinsville was held in Marion this weekend. A couple from Connecticut was attending Song of the Mountains for the third time. A reminder that the railroad crossing at the train station will be closed for three days beginning Tuesday, August 4, 2015 until Thursday, August 6, 2015. The VML Conference will be held in Richmond, October 4-6, 2015. Please respond to Ms. Stanley. Sunday "Spirit of '45" will be held at the Courthouse at 3:00 pm. August 27, 2015 the County will host the Town and Country BBQ in Chilhowie, again respond to Ms. Stanley. A Local Government Breakfast Forum with Morgan Griffith will be held August 18, 2015. Mayor Helms asked Mr. Rush to follow up on Mr. Shield's concerns.

Mr. Jennings reviewed the programs at the Golf Course, Recreation Department and Senior Center. He noted Delegate Griffith Golf Tournament will be held this Friday, August 7, 2015 at 9:30 am. His department will be doing more training and education on concussions this year.

Mrs. McDonald is preparing for the fall events and her maternity leave. There will be a ribbon cutting for Matt's Tech Shop tomorrow at noon. The 9th round of Pop Up classes will begin in November. The Virginia is for Lovers Mural is in the redesign phase.

Mr. Perry noted water and sewer lines on Commerce Street are being repaired in preparation for the paving of that street next month. Right of Way work will begin this fall.

Chief Anders reported the Police Department is helping with the street closures and the detours. They will also assist with the traffic for General Dynamics over the next few days.

Mr. Heath reviewed attending the Southeast Economic Development Council. He continues to work with Emory & Henry on the interstate sign issue. There will be an Outdoor Festival on September 12, 2015 at Heartwood in Abingdon and Marion will be participating.

Mr. Rush reviewed the paving schedule for Wilden Street and Campbell Avenue. Holston Hills water line replacement will begin August 17, 2015 before paving, which will happen in conjunction with the Commerce Street paving. The Zone Meter Project will be the next CIRP project that will take place and this will be 50/50 Grant/Loan. Mr. Barker and Planning Commission will review the local sign ordinance. Mr. Rush noted that Ben Reedy is willing to serve another term on the Marion Planning Commission. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Ben Reedy is reappointed to another term on the Marion Planning Commission. Mr. Rush reviewed a letter to Holston Hills Lane residents (15) regarding paving and the possibility of residents contracting with W-L if they choose to have their driveways paved. Mr. Rush reviewed Boundary Adjustment Survey "C" for the Industrial Road area. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Linzee-Mac Surveyors LLC was awarded this contract not to exceed \$2,850 for this survey. Mr. Spickard noted the application for the 2016 Sewer Projects on Chatham Hill Road area was submitted Friday, July 24, 2015.

Mayor Helms presented a Resolution in Support of the Rural Area Medical Clinic. He noted Mr. Howe is applying for a grant from the Tobacco Commission to assist with this program. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Support of the RAM Clinic was accepted.

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

Mayor

Clerk