

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 17, 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; Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald (left early) and Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm.

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, Bob Lincoln, Avery Cornett, Ed & Karen Fouts and Brian Reed.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held August 3, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Jeff Spickard, representative for The Lane Group, reported that the engineering company is moving its office to Abingdon, VA.

Mayor Helms noted that next Sunday August 23, 2015 at 3:00 pm the Franklin Street Baptist Church will hold its 150th Anniversary Celebration. Reminder of the VML Conference October 4-6, 2015 in Richmond. The Town of Marion will be receiving an Achievement Award this year. The Local Government Breakfast Forum with Morgan Griffith will be tomorrow morning at the Higher Ed Center in Abingdon at 8:00 am. The first week of November will be Extra Mile Week. Save our Town Summit will be September 10, 2015 in Abingdon. The Town & Country BBQ will be August 27, 2015 at 6:30 pm in Chilhowie at the W-L Hanger. The 2015 Southwest Virginia Creative Economy Conference will be September 20 & 21, 2015 at the Heartwood in Abingdon. Mayor Helms attended the VML Executive Committee meeting in Charlottesville last week. There was an annual business update on the VML Insurance Programs. The "Spirit of '45 Day" was last Sunday and there were 18 WWII Veterans in attendance. There was a great crowd at the Lincoln Theatre Saturday for the Ralph Stanley Show.

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 \$852,043.77. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Dr. Gates and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Mrs. McDonald reported the Tomato Fest at the Farmers Market this past weekend went very well. October will be the Harvest Festival at the Farmers Market. Next Monday August 24, 2015 at 4:00 pm the Kidz at Play Therapy will have its Grand Opening. Mrs. McDonald is working on a Downtown Improvement Grant for \$30,000 for another Loan Pool Program. Mrs. McDonald left.

Ms. Poole reported on the events at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. The website has been updated to reflect classes and workshops. The Painting Parties are a big hit. The School is averaging 25 visitors per day. A program called Rhythm and Views will be held October 23, 2015. The cost will be \$15 per submission with up to 3 works per artist. There will be a \$1,000 prize for Best of Show. The JAM Program will begin meeting September 9, 2015 from 4-6 pm. This program is grant funded.

Chief Hamm reported that there has been 6-7 potential applicants for the Fire/EMS department. A process has been established for interviewing and hiring potential candidates.

Chief Anders reminded everyone county schools open Wednesday. His department is working with the Henderson School on security.

Mr. Heath noted the final documents have been received on the Gateway Revitalization Project. The dedication for the Summit Center was held last week. The 9-11 Program will be Friday evening September 11, 2015 at the Fire Station. There will be a free concert after the program featuring Wilson Fairchild. An application for RBEG Loan #6 has been submitted by Downtown Outfitters, owners are Julius and Kayla Winebarger. The application has been approved by the USDA. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, RBEG Loan # 6 for \$15,000 for 5 years at 2% interest for Downtown Outfitters was approved. The Downtown Centre Building owners, the Graham family, have all the requirements in place for a CDBG Proposal for \$200,000 Community Improvement Grant. No Local match is required. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the town will apply for the \$200,000 Community Improvement Grant for the Downtown Centre Building and advertise for the required Public Hearings which can include the necessary Public Hearings for the Gateway Project.

Mr. Hicks reported Town Street paving has been completed. Wilden Street water line and paving has been completed. The water accountability report is the lowest in a very long time. An extremely large leak was found and repaired on Commerce Street. Water accountability should be improving next month. Holston Hills Lane water line project began today. Copies of the Boundary Adjustment areas were distributed for comparison to the County zoning. The first area in question is the Commercial General area on Highway 16, there is no need for a Public Hearing because the zoning will not change. The second area is the Golf Course. The County zoning is currently Agricultural. A Public Hearing will be required to change the zoning from Agricultural to R-2. The third area is Exit 47. The Planning Commission recommends the property north of the railroad be zoned as Commercial General and south of the railroad be zoned Industrial. The County zoning on all this area is currently Industrial. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, at the appropriate time the Town will advertise for a Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission for consideration of the proposed zoning changes. The Town Picnic will be August 28, 2015 at noon at the RiverBend Park. Mt Rogers Planning District Commission representative, Brian Reed, reported that Mt Rogers PDC can pay engineering and half of the force account work on the Zone Meter Project.

Mr. Rush reported that the Department of Environmental Quality application for the 2016 sewer projects has been submitted. Funding agencies are providing guidelines for the Plan Matrix Design on water, sewer, storm water and paving. The operational guidelines have been formatted and will be presented at the next meeting. Discussion is still ongoing with the Clerk and Auditors on the financial process. The Land Lease at the Sewer Treatment Plant expired June 30, 2015. The Town Manager recommends not to re-advertise. The Army Reserve has approached the Town with a proposal to reconstruct the Riverwalk Bridge. The Town will provide the materials and they will provide the labor. The County sent a notification that the tipping fees for the landfill have increased by \$4 per ton.

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

Mayor

Clerk