

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 October 19, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms (left early), 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 (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, Charles Hayden, Brian Tibbs, Kristen Untiedt-Barnett, Dr. Dean Sprinkle, Heather Trail, Debbie Trail and Arnold Trail.

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 October 8, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Dr. Dean Sprinkle, President of Wytheville Community College, announced that the Summit Center will be having a ribbon cutting on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 3:30 pm. Dr. Sprinkle reviewed his educational background and also shared that the accreditation staff will be onsite at the Summit Center October 26-29, 2015.

Heather Trail, 635 Henry Street, shared her concerns with council in regards to her neighbor at 633 Henry Street and issues with boundary lines and property markers. She distributed photos to council. The neighbor has called the Police three times on her. She is also concerned for her safety as well as the safety of the neighborhood. Mr. Fenyk confirmed that it is a criminal offense to remove a town monument. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager and Town Attorney are directed to help resolve/correct this matter and report at the next council meeting.

Kristen Untiedt-Barnett, Executive Director of the Lincoln Theatre, introduced the new Box Office/Business Office Manager, Brian Tibbs. Mr. Tibbs noted that he was appreciative of this opportunity and looks forward to working with the community.

Bob Lincoln, General Francis Marion Hotel Manager, noted his disappointment with the Board of Supervisors lack of concern about tourism. He reviewed the past weekend's events involving a Porche group that was staying in town.

Mr. Barker noted that the Planning Commission had reviewed the request for rezoning of the Old Francis Brothers Building. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission will be set for November 16, 2015 for this rezoning issue.

Dr. Gates thanked the town for the flowers and visits during his father's death.

Mrs. Jennings reported that she will not be at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Helms distributed the Extra Mile Nomination forms. These will be due October 28, 2015. The Nominees will be recognized at the November 2, 2015 meeting. The VML Regional Supper will be held October 28, 2015 at Heartwood in Abingdon at 6:00 pm. There will be a Conflict of Interest Workshop at 3:30 prior to the supper.

Mayor Helms left and Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates presided over the rest of the meeting.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$882,094.90. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Dr. Gates, and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Ms. Stanley distributed the Conflict of Interest forms and noted the due date is December 15, 2015.

Chief Hamm reviewed the Fire/EMS report. There were 110 EMS calls and 35 Fire calls the month of September. There were 7 new hires for this department the month of September, including 2 very experienced Paramedics. Mr. Hamm thanked Mr. Heath for the nice 9-11 Patriots Program. The United Way adopted this as one of their projects and 15 kids came to help clean the Fire Station for this event.

Chief Anders reminded everyone of the Halloween Madness event this Saturday Downtown.

Mr. Heath also noted, as did Mr. Lincoln, the importance of tourism for our area. The Virginia Tourism Association travel writers visit Marion at least once per month. The Drive Virginia comprehensive tourism training program, one of only 24 in the state, will be held at the General Francis Marion Hotel tomorrow with the end result being a possible \$10,000 grant. Mr. Heath will host visitors from Pembroke and Narrows on Wednesday. The Marion Senior High School multi-year reunion, 1970-1979, will be held Friday at Hungry Mother State Park. The next round of Pop Up classes starts Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

Mr. Hicks reported paving of Highway 16 is scheduled to begin next week according to W-L Construction. Warranty work is being completed on the Co-Gen Project at the Sewer Treatment Plant. Water accountability is at 50%. Mr. Spickard reviewed the force account concept and noted the CIRP Project is ready for the next step. The Categorical Exclusion comment period will be up this week. The town will need to advertise for bids for the materials. Bids will be received mid November and hopefully be ready to begin construction December or January.

Mr. Rush noted he is appreciative of the VML Awards and Mr. Heath is doing a great job. There are approximately 120 projects on the CIRP Program plan.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) 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 a personnel matter. 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 Barker, Weaver, Carter, Dr. Gates and Jennings voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 4 AYES and 1 NO (Carter), Town Manager, Mr. Rush received a very satisfactory annual evaluation and his salary is to be increased to \$90,000.

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

Mayor

Clerk