

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 November 2, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver and Tricia Spencer 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; Public Works Director Jackie Perry, Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole (left early), Economic Development Director Assistant Samantha White(left early), Economic Development Director Ken Heath (left early) and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings and Larry Carter.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Bob Lincoln, Avery Cornett, Charles Hayden, Pat Racine, Holly Thomas, Sue Thompson, Heather Trail, Debbie Trail and Arnold Trail.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held October 19, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Spencer and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mayor Helms recognized Sue Thompson as an Extra Mile recipient and presented her with a certificate. Mrs. Thompson is the Chairperson for the Salvation Army. She has been with the Salvation Army for 15 years and will be retiring after this year. Mrs. Thompson thanked Council for the recognition and noted there are about 30 people in the organization and it takes about 300 people during the bell ringing season.

Holly Thomas, Herb House, distributed handouts to Council members. She addressed her concerns about competition regarding art classes held at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. She noted that some of the classes on the fall schedule at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts are also offered at the Herb House.

Heather Trail, 635 Henry Street, noted that she was here to follow up from the last meeting regarding her concerns. Chief Anders reported that he is personally working with the Commonwealth Attorney on her concerns. She repeated her concerns from last meeting about the safety of parking on the street. Mr. Rush noted the Town is working through these issues in order of importance.

Pat Racine, 816 Henry Street, expressed her concern regarding the speed of the traffic on Henry Street and noted there are small children in the area. She also shared her concerns about the leash law and dog owners being responsible for collecting and disposing of their dog's waste. Mr. Rush took Mrs. Racine's phone number and will follow up with her.

Dr. Gates referred the concerns about dog waste to Mr. Fenyk. Mr. Fenyk reported that there is a law in place requiring owners to remove their dog waste. This will be posted on the website and Mr. Heath noted that he has a grant for some waste receptacles that can be placed in the area. Dr. Gates also requested that research, possibly contact VDOT, be done concerning parking on one side of the street.

Mayor Helms reported that Smyth County has been featured in Wildlife Magazine for fly fishing and the writers want to come back to do other articles on our area. The VML Regional Supper was well attended. Celebrity Bagging Day will be held on Tuesday, November 24, 2015 from 2:00 until 4:00 at Food City. The SWVA Legislative Breakfast will be November 16, 2015 at the Bristol Holiday Inn, please RSVP to Samantha White. The VFW Dinner will be November 10, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the VFW. The Chamber of Commerce Dinner will be November 19, 2015 from 6:30 until 8:00 pm at River Front in Chilhowie, please RSVP to Ms. Stanley. Halloween Madness was very well attended and organized. The visitors from Pembroke and Narrows sent a Thank you letter. Mayor Helms thanked staff for all their continued hard

work. Mayor Helms noted the need for a Public Hearing on the Charter. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing will be set for December 7, 2015 for a Charter Change regarding Police and Planning Ordinances.

Mr. Jennings noted the football program through the Recreation department is finishing tonight. The Parks and Playgrounds are being winterized this week.

Mr. Perry reported that the snowplows and spreaders are ready for the winter. The leaf pickup schedule is going well. Mr. Perry will be updating his Pesticide Certification on November 10, 2015.

Chief Anders noted that his department is continuing to train the Job Corps on the Active Shooter Program. There will be lockdown drills provided this month as well. There was a great turnout for Halloween Madness and staff did a great job. Chief Anders attended the Emory & Henry Fundraiser Saturday night. Adam Bolling will graduate from the Academy in December.

Mr. Heath thanked Council for their support of all his programs. Ms. Poole gave an update on the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. The JAM Program, directed by Jim Lloyd, had 35 children apply from across the county. Instruments will be available for the students to take home and practice. Work continues on the lutherie and woodshop. Mrs. White thanked Council for the Scarecrow Lane project for the Girls Scouts. Halloween Madness was a huge success. She thanked Police, Fire and EMS for their participation. Part 3 of the Historic Tax Credits has been filed. A site visit will be scheduled in the next couple weeks. Round 9 of the Small Business Pop Up class starts tomorrow. The Christmas Parade will be November 22, 2015 at 3:00 pm. Mr. Heath reviewed other Economic Development projects.

Mr. Hicks reported paving of Highway 16 is scheduled to begin Wednesday. The first Quarter VDOT Maintenance report was reviewed. The Digester roof at the Sewer Treatment Plant will be repaired Thursday. The Zone Meter project has been approved by the Health Department for the use of Force account work. A Public Hearing has been set for November 16, 2015 for the rezoning of the Old Francis Brothers building.

Mr. Rush noted that Department of Environmental Quality has noted there will be funds available in January 2016 which will accelerate the CIRP program. Mr. Rush and Mr. Weaver will meet with Virginia Resource Authority in the next 30 days regarding a proposed 1.5% interest loan for the CIRP program. The Summit ribbon cutting will be November 5, 2015 at 3:30 pm.

Dr. Gates requested that staff respond to Holly Thomas's concerns and do what we can to help her business to thrive in Marion.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

---

Mayor

---

Clerk