

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 December 7, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, Avery Cornett, Suzanne Jennings and Tricia Spencer Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Assistant Samantha White, Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: None.

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

Mayor Helms welcomed newly elected Council member Avery Cornett.

VISITORS: Emma and Herbert Johnson, Brad and Marlene Starkey, Jeff Spickard, Pat Racine, Heather Trail, Debra Trail, Arnold Trail, Lakyn Atwood, Kirsten Lefler, Hannah Yarber, Sarah Oakes, Brittany Stiefel, Margaret Wagner, Abbie Jennings, Samantha Keyser, Susan Francis, Brian Stiefel, Casandra Coppola, Brandon Phillips, Robert Francis, Sarah Gillespie, Kelly Parnell, Logan Atwood, Amanda Hanshew, Matt Hannah and Darrel Oakes.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held November 16, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett, Jennings, Spencer and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the Public Hearing being cancelled due to not being advertised.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mayor Helms welcomed the Marion Lady Canes Volleyball Team and recognized their accomplishments going to the State Championship game. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Honor of the 2015 Lady Canes Volleyball Team was accepted. Mayor Helms read the Resolution and presented it to the team.

Mr. Weaver presented Brad Starkey, retiring Plant Manager for Utility Trailer, with the Extra Mile Nomination and Certificate. Mr. Weaver noted that Mr. Starkey has done an outstanding job as Plant Manager and is responsible for approximately 1,300 employees. Mrs. Jennings also noted Mr. Starkey is very worthy of this recognition. Commander Johnson with the VFW Post recognized Mr. Starkey for his contributions to the VFW and presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation in Support of the Memorial Day Celebration.

Sarah Gillespie, Director of the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce, gave a year end recap of the Chamber's activities. The Chamber held two Small Business Boot Camps this year which created new businesses and jobs in Smyth County. She reviewed the Workforce Development Program. She invited Council and staff to the Quarterly County meeting on December 17, 2015 at 5:30 pm at the Smyth Career and Technology Center in Seven Mile Ford.

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, staff is to proceed with the Christmas bonuses as they have been done in the past. Mr. Barker reviewed the proposed Real Estate donation on page 66 and 67. Upon motion of Mrs. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush is to proceed with the Real Estate donation for tax map #189-94-83.

Mayor Helms reported that January 27, 2016 will be VML Legislative Day in Richmond. Please RSVP to Ken Heath if you are attending. Mayor Helms reviewed some thank you notes from citizens and Mr. Rush noted we get many thank you notes from the citizens.

Mr. Fenyk reported there is time to advertise for the Public Hearing to be held at the next council meeting, December 21, 2015, for consideration of changes to the administrative control.

Mr. Jennings reviewed the activities at the Recreation Department. New soccer federation regulations will be implemented this upcoming soccer season. There were 350 kids in the soccer program last year. Mr. Rush reviewed the beer and wine license and the mixed drink license for the Golf Course. He noted the mixed drink license will be inactive for the winter season.

Chief Anders noted the Gobbler Gallop and the Christmas Parade went well. He is waiting on a court date for 633 Henry Street for charges on BPOL and Zoning. Chief Anders reported that a grant application has been filed for a Paws for a Cause Grant. The Mutual Aid agreement with Smyth County has been reviewed by the Town Attorney and Smyth County's, Attorney Michelle Clayton, is acquiring the necessary signatures on the final document. Officer Bolling will be graduating from the Academy at 10:00 am on December 10, 2015. Dr. Gates requested Mr. Hicks to contact VDOT to get a traffic study completed on Henry Street.

Mrs. McDonald gave an update on the Merry Main Street event last Thursday. She also noted two new businesses will be holding their grand openings soon, Downtown Outfitters and Downtown Barber Shop. The noon Rotary Club will be hosting a Breakfast with Santa from 8:00 am until 10:30 am on December 12, 2015 at the Hungry Mother State Park Restaurant. Mrs. McDonald announced the winners for the Downtown Business Christmas decorating event, first place Rosewood Florist, second place Marion Flower Shop and third place Smyth County Museum.

Mrs. White invited everyone to the ribbon cutting for the New Happy's Restaurant on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 12 noon. She also thanked everyone for their support of the volleyball team. She reported the 9th round of Popup Classes has been completed. She thanked everyone for their help with the Christmas Parade.

Mr. Hicks reported that the striping of Highway 16 will be held up a short time due to the weather. The repairs to the Digester roof at the Sewer Treatment Plant has been completed. The material list for the Zone Meter Project has been bid out and HD Supply was the apparent low bidder last Thursday. The project is set to get underway in January. Mr. Hicks made a recommendation to council for a new member on Planning Commission to fill the term of Avery Cornett, who has been elected to Council. His recommendation is Trey White. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Trey White has been appointed by Council to fill the unexpired term of Avery Cornett on Planning Commission. The Christmas Dinner for the employees and retirees will be held Friday, December 11, 2015 at 12 noon at the Senior Citizen Center.

Mr. Rush reviewed the E911 agreement, noting it expires this year. The Town will commit the E911 portion of Communications tax to the County to help fund the system. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the E911 Agreement was adopted. Mr. Rush and Mr. Weaver met with the Virginia Resource Authority and their Bond Counsel in Richmond. They are very pleased with the CIRP Plan and the vision for a locality of our size. A Clerk of the Works for the CIRPL Plan will be in place soon to oversee inspections, inventory and supervise the crew.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk

