

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 21, 2015 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Larry Carter, Bill Weaver, Avery Cornett and Tricia Spencer Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Mona Barr; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Officer James Adam Bolling; Police Chief Rex Anders and Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings.

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

VISITORS: Karen and Ed Fouts .

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 7, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Spencer, Cornett and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed with one addition under closed session for legal.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Chief Anders reported that Officer Bolling completed the Academy and also received the Top Fire Arms Award. Officer Bolling thanked the Town for the second opportunity to work for the Police Department.

PUBLIC HEARING POLICE & PLANNING ORDINANCE ADMINISTRATION CHANGE: Mayor Helms reviewed this request which is to move the administrative control of the Police Department and the Planning Commission from the Mayor to the Town Manager. Mayor Helms opened the public hearing for comments and questions. With no further comments Mayor Helms closed the public hearing. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the proposed ordinance amendment was adopted to move the administrative control of the Police Department and the Planning Commission from the Mayor to the Town Manager, effective January 1, 2016.

Dr. Gates reported that Mavis Williams wants to donate an old (1960's?) Main Street Globe along with an old concrete pole. This donation was accepted and will be placed in front of the Town Hall with a memorial bench.

Mr. Cornett noted he recently interacted with one of the new Town Officers, James Yonts, and reported exceptional professionalism from the officer. He commended Chief Anders on training his officers.

Mayor Helms reported that a Virginia Community Business Grant in the amount of \$60,000 has been awarded to the Town. He noted he is very pleased with Mr. Heath and his staff. VML Legislative Day is January 26, 27 and 28, 2016 in Richmond at the Library of Virginia.

Mr. Fenyk reviewed the survey for the parcel of land, Atkins Spring, that went to Smyth County in the Boundary Adjustment noting the original survey was for 4+/- acres. The parcel has been resurveyed to state 4 acres. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the new survey was accepted reaffirming 4 acres.

Ms. Stanley noted that Deputy Clerk Ms. Barr is embracing her duties very well and is now progressing to learning the meeting process.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$699,525.61. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett, Spencer and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Chief Hamm reviewed the Fire/EMS report noting that November had been a very slow month for the fire department. There will be an EMS Summit January 9 & 10, 2016 at the Marion Senior High School. This is a fully funded 2 day seminar with 250 confirmed participants. The EMS inspection was today and

a new license was granted for two years. Ms. Barr was instrumental in preparing for the original license and had all paperwork in order for this inspection. Mayor Helms reported that he met Ron Kendrick, the EMS licensing personnel, and he was very complimentary of Mr. Hamm and the EMS department and Ms. Barr.

Chief Anders reminded everyone to be mindful of Holiday safety, such as locking your doors and cars when shopping. A court date has been set for January 14, 2016 at 1:30 pm for 633 Henry Street.

Mr. Hicks reported that paving and striping on Highway 16 has been completed. A meeting has been scheduled for tomorrow with Steve Bustin with VDOT regarding a traffic study on Henry Street. The Senior Citizens Christmas luncheon is tomorrow at 11:30 am.

Mr. Rush reported that Davenport & Company Bond Council was here last Friday and met with Mr. Rush and Ms. Stanley. There will be another progress meeting late January and then they will do a presentation for Council in February 2016.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-7) upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Dr. Gates and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose discussion of a legal matter. Mr. Barker 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Carter, Dr. Gates, Cornett and Spencer voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk