

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 January 21, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Larry Carter 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; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Lieutenant Rex Anders; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Recreation Director Sam Wagner; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arriving late).

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Dr. Dave Haney, Jeff Spickard, Greg Vannoy, Susan & Mike Edwards and Dr. Mike Robinson.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 6, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Owens, Dr. Gates, Carter, Spencer, Jennings and Barker voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved with the item under Ms. Spencer moved to Mrs. Jennings.

APPOINTMENT: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Police Lieutenant Rex Anders was appointed as Chief of Police.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Dr. Dave Haney, Emory & Henry College, updated Council on the setback for the DPT Program. At this time there is only an anticipated six month delay. He expressed his thanks for the Town of Marion Grant. Emory & Henry College now owns the former Smyth County Community Hospital and will be able to apply for Historic Tax Credits. Emory & Henry and the Smyth County Schools have formed a partnership for a Lab School. The first phase of the Lab School will be hosted at the new Oak Point School beginning with the kindergarten class. Dr. Haney noted many other agencies willing to partner with the college.

Mr. Owens asked about the progress of integrating the Senior Citizen Center with the Golf Course. Mr. Rush noted this is moving forward and more activities will be scheduled at the Gold Course as weather permits.

Mrs. Jennings reported from the Lincoln Theatre and Song of the Mountains meeting that the Board is hiring a new Producer and hopes to be in place by the March show.

Mr. Carter attended a District III Senior Citizen meeting and reported the annual audit was reviewed.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone that the VML Legislative event is February 5th and 6th. He reported that the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive raised over \$52,000 this season, 90% of which stays in Smyth County. The program at the Lincoln Theatre Saturday night was a group of small children from South Korea. There was a compliance review for the Spruce/Matson CDBG Project on January 14, 2014. David Adams with the Department of Housing and Community Development noted there were no significant sightings and Ms. Stanley had all the financial records in order. The Southwest VA Mental Health Institute has conducted an Active Shooter Drill.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$816,271.24.

Mr. Jennings noted the revenues for the Golf Course for December were good and the grill is open for breakfast. There are several bookings for the Ballroom for the upcoming season, including three local Proms. A Valentine's Day event is scheduled. He noted he is pleased about the Senior Citizen staff being integrated with the Golf Course. Mr. Rush noted the issue with burst water lines has been fixed. An appraiser from VML has been onsite to take a report and drying efforts are still ongoing.

Mr. Perry reported the Public Works Department is currently doing monthly preventative maintenance on sewer lines.

Mr. Wagner reported 140 kids have signed up for basketball season. All football uniforms have been turned in. He will have a year-end report from the pool at the next meeting.

Ms. Hall thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the Appalachian Communities Conference. She read a thank you note from the team.

Lieutenant Anders thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as Chief of Police. The Police Department participated in an emergency operations management drill at Southwest VA Mental Health Institute.

Mr. Heath reported the demolition at the Wayne Henderson School of Appalachian Arts is moving along well. He noted the Statewide Tornado Drill is scheduled for March 11, 2014 at 9:45am. The Town has been awarded the feasibility study grant in the amount of \$30,000 for the Centre Building. The StormReady Project is almost complete. Delegate O'Quinn sent information regarding the CPV Power Generation Project.

Mr. Hicks noted the Generator for the Co Gen Project is scheduled to be started this week. Mr. Spickard noted the Edwynne Water Line Project was completed in early December and the final inspection is scheduled for mid January. Project funds are going to cover the change order costs. Mr. Hicks has contacted Brian Blankenship, with the Health Department, for assistance with leak study and meter replacement grants.

Mr. Rush noted 5 key staff members are meeting every Wednesday identifying infrastructure and getting this institutional knowledge on paper for the next generation. The Comcast Franchise Contract letter was received today. A consultant was hired last time to assist with this Franchise renewal. A compliance review was done last week with no significant sightings. Ms. Stanley was commended for maintaining good financial records.

Mr. Vannoy with the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission reported on the Crescent/Palmer Housing Rehab Project. The first phase of this project will include 10 homes with a budget/grant of \$400,000 and the second phase will cover 9 homes with a budget/grant of \$214,000. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Fair Housing Certification, the Anti-Displacement Plan and the Management Team was approved for the Crescent/Palmer Housing Rehab Project. Mr. Vannoy also noted the compliance review for Spruce/Matson Housing Rehab Project went very well.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (A-3) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose. 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. Owens and carried by a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Barker, Dr. Gates, Owens, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, for the protection of the water shed recharge area upstream of the Town's main water source, Mr. Barker and Mayor Helms shall negotiate a 180 day option for a due diligence period to investigate the purchase of property adjoining the Town Spring.

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

Mayor

Clerk

