

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 February 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Jim Barker, 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 (left early); Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Jim Owens.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Susan & Mike Edwards, Ryan Boone, David Thomas, Ron Thomason, Karen Glaeser, Bob Lincoln, Lyn Thompson, Howard Burton, Charles Wassum, Lindy Burchette and Tom Griffin.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 21, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Carter, Spencer, Jennings and Barker voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Tom Griffin, the Program Coordinator with Virginia Green, gave a brief overview of the Virginia Green Program. He also recognized the Collins House Inn as a participant with Virginia Green and presented them with a flag and a plaque.

Ron Thomason spoke on behalf of the Tourism Center and introduced a group of female motorcyclist called the Thundering Beauties. Charolette Ammons, the President of Thundering Beauties, noted that she is planning a four day rally to be held this summer and is considering Hungry Mother State Park for the location. She is asking for Council's support for this event and approximately 200 participants have already registered.

Mrs. Jennings noted that Dancing with the Stars will be held at the Lincoln Theatre Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 7 pm.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the VML Legislative Day Thursday, February 6, 2014 in Richmond. He reported that the Memorial Day VFW Program and Parade will hold a planning session on February 13, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the VFW. Mayor Helms noted that an invitation to the Ambassadors Luncheon is included in the packet. This will be held at the Riverfront Restaurant in Chilhowie on Wednesday, February 5, 2014 at 11:45 am.

Chief Anders noted the Police Department assisted with several school drills and the department is working jointly with the Sheriff's office to do walk-thrus at the new Oak Point school along with Atkins Elementary and Sugar Grove School. Chief Anders requested a committee meeting to consider closing the Parks earlier. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Heath noted there will be a Gateway Enhancement Project meeting here next Tuesday at 10 am. He reported that proposed legislation pertaining to the CPV Power Generation Project was rejected in subcommittee in Richmond Thursday, however it will be going back to committee tomorrow for further review. Their goal is to sell Virginia power to Virginia customers. The next Pop Up class begins tomorrow night with about 25 participants. The Wedding Showcase will be on February 22, 2014 at the General Francis Marion Hotel from 11 am until 1 pm. Summit Bottling is operational and signing contracts. Scott Schumaker received his license today to sell his products at his shop Downtown and he will be moving his distillery to town.

Mr. Hicks noted the Generator for the Co Gen Project start up has begun. The Baughman Avenue Bridge Project is expected to start after June 15, 2014 and be completed by October 15, 2014.

Mr. Rush commended Mr. Long for his exemplary work on the Comcast Project. The budget process will begin over the next couple of weeks. We will be meeting with each department to help prioritize their requests. The Federal Work Study Program with Virginia Highlands Community College and Wytheville Community College would like to do some outreach programs in Marion. The United Way has asked Mr. Rush to join their Government Cabinet.

Mayor Helms noted the owner of Waddle Apartments called and complimented the Water Crew for their work on the water leak at Waddle Apartments. The Garden Club complimented the Garbage Crew on their work.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of 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. Weaver and carried by a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Barker, Dr. Gates, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Fenyk is to do the necessary work to enter into an option on the piece of property previously discussed.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush is to enter into negotiations on a distressed property located in Town and bring back a package for Council's review.

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

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Mayor

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Clerk