

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 18, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Jim Barker, Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer (arriving late), 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 Chief Rex Anders; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall.

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, Lyn Thompson, Charles Wassum and Christy Moss.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 3, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Jennings, Barker and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved with the addition of a closed session 2.2-3711 (A-1).

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mayor Helms read a Resolution recognizing February 2014 as Black History Month. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was accepted.

Mike & Susan Edwards complimented the Town on the snow removal efforts. They also expressed their concern regarding the recent automobile accidents at signal light number 1. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush will contact the Virginia Department of Transportation and request a traffic study be conducted at this intersection.

Mr. Barker noted that Saturday, April 5, 2014 the second annual Trout Unlimited Day will be held at the Entrance to the Golf Course. A tree pruning class will be held next Tuesday February 25, 2014 at the Town Shop at 9 am. Kevin Sigmon with Appalachian Power will be the instructor.

Mrs. Jennings reported the new Song of the Mountains Producer is with Force Archer Productions.

Mr. Weaver complimented the Town employees on their recent snow removal efforts.

Mayor Helms reported the Legislative Day meeting in Richmond was productive and they met with representatives of the agencies that fund some Town Grants. He read a Thank You Note from Mr. Sam Burkett's family. The Memorial Day VFW Program and Parade will hold a planning session on February 20, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the VFW. This meeting was originally scheduled for February 13th, but was moved back a week due to the recent bad weather.

Mr. Fenyk reported that he has received a copy of an Application from Atmos Energy Corporation for an expedited rate increase of 7.9%. The last rate increase was in 2009. Dr. Gates would like additional information before making a recommendation. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$672,036.05.

Chief Anders thanked the citizens for the use of their parking facilities for Mr. Wagner's funeral.

Mr. Heath noted demolition for the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts is on schedule. There will be a Compliance Review on this project tomorrow. There will be a Gateway Enhancement Project meeting here Friday at 9 am. The Wells Fargo Partnership is presenting an opportunity for Senator Mark Warner to conduct a Small Business Summit here on March 28, 2014 from 9 am until 4 pm. There will be a tour of the General Francis Marion Hotel and then to Wolfe's BBQ for dinner. Approximately 75 to 100 people are planning to attend this event.

Ms. Hall noted she will be traveling to Richmond on March 19, 2014 to accept a Virginia Main Street Milestone Achievement Award for 20,000 accumulative volunteer hours for Marion Downtown Association.

Mr. Hicks noted the Generator for the Co Gen Project start up is still delayed. Ms. Spencer arrived. He gave an update on the water/sewer renovation plan. The water portion is complete, they are currently working on the sewer portion and then will move on to the storm drain section. The New River Insulation Company will be submitting a proposal for some solutions to help with the heat loss and water line issues at the Golf Course. Mr. Hicks reported that the Planning Commission is still working on the Zoning Ordinance Revision. He noted that Doug Covington is willing to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Council recommends Mr. Covington to be appointed by the Judge to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Rush asked Mr. Long to give an update on the Comcast Project. Mr. Long noted there has been more cable installed at the Town Hall to resolve the issue with signal strength and the project has about 60 days left to be completed. The budget process has begun with a meeting of the supervisors. They were asked to submit their top 5 requests by Wednesday, February 26, 2014. Mr. Rush submitted a proposal for new brush removal guidelines. If approved the operational change will take effect April 1, 2014. Mr. Fenyk noted the ordinance states that this can be set by the Town Manager. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the new brush removal guidelines for 2014 were approved with review at the end of the season. National Day of Service will be April 12, 2014. The Highlands Fellowship Church has contacted Mr. Rush to partner with the Town of Marion on this event. The church will send volunteers to help with Town of Marion projects. Mr. Rush noted the planning sessions for the integration of the Fire/EMS services are going well.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) 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 personnel matters. 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, Jennings, Spencer and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk