

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 November 2, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Deputy Director Alex Veatch.

**ABSENT:** None.

**VISITORS:** Joe Naff, CB Gwyn, Carolyn Cooper, Charles Wassum and Kris Ratliff.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Chief Clair rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held October 19, 2020 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett 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.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** None.

Mrs. Jennings distributed a letter from the Lincoln Theatre that will be sent out next week.

Mr. Cornett was appreciative of the Police presence downtown Saturday.

Mayor Helms reminded council to get their Extra Mile Day nominations to Mr. Heath. Mayor Helms also noted we are following VML's suggestions on events.

Mr. Fenyk informed the Council that tax liens on property maintenance performed by the town would be filed prior to the tax sale.

Chief Clair noted preparations are being made for election day tomorrow. He also noted the issue on qualified immunity will be revisited at next council meeting and more information will be available.

Mr. Heath reviewed a list of 26 more businesses that applied for Cares Act Grants. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the list of Cares Act Grants presented for 26 businesses, except line numbers 58, 59 and 72, for \$2,500 each was approved. Mrs. Veatch noted the Henderson School is allowing workshops for individual sessions. The second guitar workshop of this year will accommodate 7 participants. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Farmers Market will be held Saturday, November 21, 2020 from 9 a.m. – Noon. Then the following Saturday will be the first of four (Mini) Christmas Markets that will go from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. every Saturday between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mr. Rush gave an update on the Cares Act Projects noting renovations for Town Hall may begin in about two weeks. A water leak was discovered going into a cave into a creek. This leak indicates approximately 3 ½ million gallons are being lost per month. The Sewer Ordinance Revision has been approved by DEQ. A Public Hearing on this item will be November 16, 2020. The Prater Pump Station generator is on order. The VDOT Paving information is in the packet. The only bidder was W-L Construction and Paving. The bid tabulation is in the packet. The bid will be effective for one year, tied to the liquid asphalt index, until January 2022. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the W-L Construction and Paving bid was awarded as presented. Mr. Rush reviewed the Park Blvd Sidewalk/Drainage Project noting VDOT has assigned UPC-112205 and UPC-116497 and divided this into two separate projects. Mr. Rush noted he has confirmation on the Callan Drive Recreation Park project and it is cleared for exercising the option. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, approval was granted to exercise the purchase option for 60+ acres from Marion EDA to be eligible for the DRC grant.

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

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk