

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 April 7, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Larry Carter and Bill Weaver 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; Economic Development Director Ken Heath, Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Recreation Program Coordinator Jamie Hall; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings and Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall.

ABSENT: Mayor David Helms.

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

VISITORS: Mike and Susan Edwards, Bob Lincoln, Charles Wassum, Chris Wassum, Dave Thomas, and Lori Hester.

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 March 17, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Owens, Jennings, Barker, Spencer and Carter voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as written.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. Heath read a Resolution in Congratulations to the 2014 State Champion Lady Warriors Basketball Team. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was approved.

Bob Lincoln, General Manager of the General Francis Marion Hotel, as a follow up from last Council meeting, again expressed his concerns about the food and beverage service at the Community Golf Course Banquet Facility.

Mrs. Jennings reported a citizen complaint in regards to the deer problem in Wassona Park. She also reported that 319 Sprinkle Avenue needs attention again.

Mr. Barker noted that an Arbor Day meeting will be held this Thursday. The brush pile burn schedule has not been finalized.

Vice-Mayor Gates reported Youth Government Day will be May 22, 2014. He also noted that the 140th Marion College Reunion will be May 16-18, 2014.

Mr. Jennings noted that 768 rounds of golf was played in March. There were approximately 70 participants at the Fish-On Event. Work is continuing on the fee structure and the approved caterer list to be presented to the Budget Committee. It was noted that an insurance settlement was received on the water damage, which covered the repairs and some insulation and carpet.

Mr. Perry had no formal report, however he was available for questions. Mr. Barker commended the public works staff on the Downtown tree trimming.

Mr. Hall noted that the boys basketball program has finished and there were 345 participants to sign up for soccer. He also noted that the pool cover will be removed tomorrow and maintenance will take place over the next few weeks.

Ms. Hall noted that on March 19, 2014 staff and the Mayor traveled to Richmond to accept a Virginia Main Street Award. Ms. Hall also noted the Fireworks is the biggest and most costly summer event and Merchants are being asked for suggestions for alternative ideas. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6AYES and 0 NOES, staff will bring a recommendation to the next meeting regarding the Fireworks event.

Mr. Heath introduced Lori Hester, the Economic Development Director for Smyth County. She noted her office is on the fourth floor of the County Building and everyone is welcome to come by with any suggestions.

Chief Anders reported that notification of the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant was just received in the amount of \$7,391 with a cash match of \$821. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this grant was approved with the cash match of \$821. Chief Anders requested an Ordinance Committee meeting to discuss park hours. Mr. Rush noted he will schedule this before the next Council meeting.

Mr. Hicks reported the Town has received for the third consecutive year the Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance Award. Mr. Henderlite will travel to Roanoke to accept this award. Mr. Hicks reviewed the results of a recent Virginia Department of Transportation meeting. Representatives agreed with the three second all stop time at the stop light at the intersection of Sheffey and Main Streets. Richardson and Wayland will submit a cost estimate for renovations of this signal light. Representatives did not recommend a four way stop at the intersection of Town and Park Streets. There may be a need for a turn lane at the intersection of North Main Street and Park Boulevard.

Mr. Rush noted that he will have a Comcast update at the next meeting. He reported the Commission on Local Governments will be here for a Public Hearing on May 13, 2014. The term has expired for the Town's designated representative on the Airport Commission Scott Freeman. Mike Edwards, Owner of the Collins House Inn has expressed interest in serving on the board. Mr. Rush recommends appointment of Mr. Edwards. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mike Edwards is appointed to serve on the Airport Commission as the Town's representative. Mr. Rush reported that the first draft of the 2014 - 2015 Budget process is available on the iPads. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the 2014 - 2015 Budget process is referred to the Finance Committee with the first meeting scheduled for Friday, April 11, 2014. Mr. Rush reviewed a guardrail request from a citizen on Matson Drive. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this request will be referred to the Street Committee. Mr. Rush addressed the deer issue with the only suggested option being to allow a controlled harvest. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the deer issue was referred to the Ordinance Committee.

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 or consideration of 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 Owens voted affirmatively.

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, Jennings, Spencer and Owens voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk

