

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 March 17, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings 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 and Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Larry Carter.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation. VFW Post 4667 Commander Herbert Johnson led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Johnson, Jeff Spickard, Mike Edwards, Bob Lincoln, Charles Wassum and Ronald Null.

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 3, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Owens, Jennings, Barker, Spencer and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved with the addition of scrap sales under the Town Manager Report.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Bob Lincoln, General Manager of the General Francis Marion Hotel, expressed his concerns about the food and beverage service at the Community Golf Course Banquet Facility. His concern is the meals tax and business license of caterers outside the Town of Marion. He would like for Council to consider compiling a list of approved Downtown Businesses for the Community Golf Course Banquet Facility to use for catering. Mr. Edwards, owner of the Collins House Inn, also expressed a loss of business to the Community Golf Course.

Mayor Helms read a Resolution in Recognition of Vietnam Veterans Day 29 March 2014. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was adopted.

Mr. Barker noted that Marion has received the designation as Tree City USA again this year. The Arbor Day Celebration will be May 9, 2014. The Fishing Heritage Day is April 5, 2014.

Mr. Owens thanked everyone for their calls and visits during his recent surgery.

Dr. Gates noted three individuals have agreed to serve again on the Recreation Committee. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Steven Dimit, Buck Sawyer and Phil Gaver were reappointed to the Recreation Committee.

Mrs. Jennings asked about the Emory & Henry banners for Downtown. Mr. Heath noted the banners will cover the Main Street Block first. Mrs. Jennings noted that Ralph Stanley will be at the Lincoln Theatre on April 5, 2014.

Mayor Helms reported Youth Government Day will be May 22, 2014. He noted that the Rolling Thunder will also be in Town that day and will do a Presentation at the Courthouse. Mayor Helms invited the public and anyone interested to attend the planning meeting for the Memorial Day Celebration. This meeting will be April 8, 2014 at 6pm at the VFW Post.

Mr. Fenyk noted that in regards to the Old Holston Harwood Building, he is waiting for a closing date to be set with the property owners. Mr. Fenyk has prepared a deed and submitted to the entities Attorney for review. Mr. Fenyk received a request to contact in writing the Town auditor and to which he replied accordingly.

Ms. Stanley reported that more vendors are requiring auto debits as means of payment so in the future we will be moving toward writing less checks. Mr. Rush also noted that we are moving forward with requiring direct deposit for payroll.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$713,943.78.

Mr. Hamm gave an update on the Fire and Rescue merger. The Marion Life Saving Crew membership voted to merge with the Fire Department. Mr. Hamm noted this will be a slow process as we will have legal aspects to process. He also noted there will be personnel issues to process. Hopefully this process will be in place for the 2014 -2015 budget.

Chief Anders reported that 16 applications have been received for the Police Officer Position. The two Positions for Lieutenant and Sergeant were posted today. There is a Street Light report spreadsheet on page 20 of the packet. Mr. Rush commended Lee Ann Hamm for implementing this spreadsheet.

Mr. Heath noted the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Construction Phase has been advertised for Re-Bid. He will report on the Director position at the next meeting. The Marion Music Heritage Mural Grant application has been submitted.

Mr. Hicks reported that the Planning Commission is still working on the Zoning Ordinance Revision. He also reported the generator for the Sewer Treatment Plant is still not working properly. Mr. Hicks reviewed the Edwynne Water Line Project Closeout including a change order. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, change order number 2 in the amount of \$6,406.11 was approved. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, pay request number 4 in the amount of \$5,282.82 was approved for payment, this includes retainage and is the final payment.

Mr. Spickard identified three projects to submit for funding from the Virginia Department of Health. The first project is Wilden Street which was not successful last year. The second project is residential meter replacements. The third project is a comprehensive water study. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution for Wilden Street Water Line Replacement was approved, a Resolution for Zone Meters/Isolation Valves/Meter Replacement was approved and a Resolution for Comprehensive Water Systems Study was approved.

Mr. Rush referred the IT Gateway project update to Todd Long. He noted the Salesman had not given the Notice to Proceed to the installers. Mr. Rush noted the Commission on Local Governments will be here for a Public Hearing on May 13, 2014. Mr. Rush reviewed a Resolution request from Delegate Campbell on the budget. Mr. Rush recommends approval except the paragraph of Medicaid Expansion under the Affordable Care Act. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 4 AYES and 3 NOES (Mayor Helms voted due to tie vote), no action will be taken at this time. The term has expired for the Town's designated representative on the Airport Commission Scott Freeman. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush will report on this at the next Council meeting. Mr. Rush reported that he hopes to begin meeting with the Budget Committee near the end of March on the 2014 - 2015 budget. Mr. Rush received a citizen request regarding the four way stop intersection at South Park Street and West Town Street. The Virginia Department of Transportation will assess this intersection Thursday morning and Mr. Rush will bring a recommendation to Council. Mr. Rush has been contacted by Appalachian Power notifying him that they had failed to bill the Town for the Christmas Lights since 2010. This is approximately \$2,300 per year. The Town will be receiving a bill for approximately \$6,900. Mr. Rush noted there are various locations/departments with scrap metal, such as old parking meters, that needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Rush is asking for authorization to maximize the best price for these items, since there is a collectors market for such items. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is to initiate the orderly disposal of scrap metal located at various town locations in an effort to clean up those locations and authorize the old parking meters and old traffic lights to be marketed and sold by the Marion Downtown organization and the proceeds be accumulated and used to promote a future event at the discretion of the Council.

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

Mayor

Clerk

