

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 21, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, 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; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Mike and Susan Edwards, Bob Lincoln, Charles Wassum, Dave Thomas, Rhonda Cox, Lyn Thompson, Bill Huber, Christy Moss, Brian Reed and Jeff Spickard.

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 April 7, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Owens, Jennings, Barker, Spencer and Carter voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved with one addition for a closed session on Real Estate.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: David Thomas, 221 Wassona Circle, made a suggestion to place park benches in the Downtown area.

Charles Wassum, 200 Larch Street, noted some additional dead vegetation at the exit 47 entrance to Town that needs to be cleaned up. Mr. Wassum also noted that he is not in favor of Liquor by the Drink at the Golf Course if the Boundary Adjustment is finalized.

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.

Rhonda Cox, Four Seasons Bakery, was in agreement with Bob Lincoln and noted Shop local/Spend local.

Mr. Barker noted that Arbor Day is May 9, 2014. The brush pile is still not ready to burn.

Dr. Gates reported the Budget Committee will have the budget ready to present to Council soon.

Mrs. Jennings noted the Ordinance Committee had met in regards to hours for the local parks. It is the Committees recommendation to close the parks 30 minutes after sunset. Discussion Ensued. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, staff will schedule a Public Hearing regarding the hours of operation for the local parks.

Mr. Weaver reported that the Street Committee met and is still working on the Guardrail Request. He also noted that the Street Committee is compiling a list of streets for the paving schedule.

Mr. Carter attended a District III Senior meeting and like other agencies they also are working with funding issues.

Mayor Helms noted that Youth Government Day will be May 22, 2014. The Rolling Thunder will also be in Town that day. Marion College Reunion will be May 16-18, 2014. The VML Executive Committee will also be holding meetings here that weekend. Mayor Helms also noted the VML Policy Committee Nominations had been distributed to Council members. Please submit any nominations to Ms. Stanley before May 2, 2014. There were 66 volunteers that helped with the Day of Service.

Ms. Stanley gave a brief update from the 37th Annual Clerk's Conference held in Norfolk. Clerk of the year was presented to Pamela Foshee, Deputy Clerk of Newport News. Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk of Abingdon, was sworn in as the new VMCA President. The International Conference will be held in Norfolk in 2018.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$895,713.52.

Chief Anders reported Roy Evans request for funds has been approved in the amount of \$120,709.

Mr. Hamm reviewed the Fire/EMS report for March. He also noted the merger with the Life Saving Crew is continuing with individual profiles being built and the tracking methods for payroll.

Ms. Hall noted that she will be working closely with Youth Government Day. She noted that the Virginia Main Street Program requires logging of volunteer hours and the Day of Service volunteers equaled to the value of \$5,000. The Summer Concert Series will begin on June 13, 2014. The National Main Street Representative, Todd Barman, did an assessment of the Downtown area. Ms. Hall is working on developing a Marketing Plan and a Mission Statement for Marion Downtown. The Farmers Market will open on May 3, 2014.

Mr. Heath reviewed the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts project. Mr. Huber distributed the bid tabulations to the Council members. Branson Construction was the low bidder on both projects. Discussion ensued. State and Federal tax credits are involved. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Contract 1 was awarded to Branson Construction in the amount of \$767,879 along with Notice to Proceed. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Contract 2 was awarded to Branson Construction in the amount of \$341,250 along with Notice to Proceed. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the contract with Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, tax credit experts, was approved not to exceed \$144,000. The position for the Director has been re-advertised. Mr. Heath asked for direction from Council on how to proceed with the Fireworks program. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 1 NO (Weaver), there will be a Downtown Festival on July 4, 2014 instead of Fireworks. He also reviewed a Housing Market Study that is going to take place in

our region. Mr. Rush noted these are usually expensive studies and is a very good recruitment tool. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this Housing Market Study was approved with the shared cost with the County not to exceed \$2,000.

Mr. Hicks reported that a manufacturer representative from Germany will be here next week to try to determine the shortfall with the Generator at the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Mr. Rush noted that the Comcast system is being installed. He reported the Commission on Local Governments will be here for a Public Hearing on May 13, 2014 at 7 pm at the Lincoln Theatre. He also noted the 2014-2015 Anthem Renewal Policy has a 4.2% increase. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the current health insurance policy will be renewed to include a 4.2% increase. Barbara Kahana, owner of 628 Orchard Street, wants to donate this property to the Town. Mr. Rush reviewed some possibilities for this property being incorporated into housing rehab projects. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush is to enter into negotiations for the property donation located at 628 Orchard Street.

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 7 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 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Carter, Barker, Jennings, Spencer and Owens voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk