

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 May 5, 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; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Mike and Susan Edwards, Bob Lincoln, Charles Wassum, Dave Thomas, Lyn Thompson, Christy Moss, Bill and Gilda Powers, Joey Fagan, John Graham, Gary Peacock, Dave Haney, Tariq Zaidi, Jeff Spickard and Geoff Hall.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 21, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Owens, Jennings, Barker, Spencer and Carter voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings 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: Mr. Heath introduced Dr. Dave Haney, Vice-President of Academic Affairs at Emory & Henry College. Dr. Haney gave an update on the application process for the Physical Therapy School. Mr. Zaidi, Representative of Southwest Virginia School of Medicine, reviewed the partnership model between Emory & Henry College, the University of VA and Southwest Virginia School of Medicine. Dr. Gates thanked everyone for their hard work on bringing this partnership together.

Geoff Hall, Representative from Hungry Mother State Park, reviewed some information regarding a proposed overlook on Walker's Mountain. He is asking for Council's support on this project. He also reviewed a proposal for a Sports Complex located at the Industrial Park in Chilhowie. He is asking for Council's support on this project as well, for the betterment of Smyth County.

Mr. Barker noted that Arbor Day is May 9, 2014. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proclamation Declaring May 9, 2014 as Arbor Day was accepted.

Mayor Helms noted that Youth Government Day will be May 22, 2014. Staff will meet the students at 9 am at the Lincoln Theatre. 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.

Mr. Fenyk noted he has prepared the Proposed Ordinance for changing the Park Hours. He has also prepared a Resolution in anticipation of the Fire/EMS merger in regards to the 1965 Dodge Powerwagon currently owned by the Marion Life Saving Crew. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was adopted contingent on the Fire/EMS merger. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing on the Proposed Ordinance to change the Park Hours will be held at the next Town Council meeting on May 19, 2014. Mr. Fenyk reported that the Town of Marion now has ownership of two new properties, acquired through donations.

Ms. Stanley noted the new Contribution Rates for the Virginia Retirement System are 15.92% for Retirement and 1.32% for Group Life Insurance. She also noted that the member contribution percentage must be set for fiscal year 2015. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the member contribution will be increased by 1%.

Mr. Jennings gave a brief update on the Golf Course, noting that both the Town Swimming pool and the Golf Course Swimming pool will be opening on May 24, 2014. Due to the large demand for pool parties at the Town pool, swimming lessons will be taught at the Golf Course pool this year.

Mr. Perry reported the brush and junk pick up was behind schedule due to the breakdown of the garbage truck.

Mr. Anders noted that the interviews for the Police Officer position will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday. Testing will be conducted on Friday for the internal promotions for Lieutenant and Sergeant.

Ms. Hall noted that she is planning a 5k for the Fourth of July and would like the proceeds to go to the VFW. The Farmers Market opened Saturday and had twelve vendors participating. Ann Hull has a proposal for a Totem Pole for the Town of Marion. The cost would be approximately \$3,000 and she has agreed to raise the money to cover this cost. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Street will be closed on July 4, 2014 for the 5K Run.

Mr. Heath noted the resumes for the Director position for the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts are due May 30, 2014. Volunteers are needed for Memorial weekend. Mrs. Jennings thanked Mr. Heath for all his work with Emory & Henry College. The VFW fed the Wounded Warriors Saturday afternoon.

Mr. Hicks noted the water accountability is currently in the 49% range. The Baughman Avenue Bridge Project is still scheduled to start June 1, 2014. Mr. Hicks presented the Paving Schedule. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Paving Schedule was accepted as two separate contracts, \$175,000 in 2013-2014 budget and \$50,000 in 2014-2015 budget.

Mr. Rush noted that the Comcast system has been implemented and is about 95% functional at this time. 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. Mr. Edwards spoke as the new Airport Representative and

requested to join the American Association of Airport Executives. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Edwards has approval to join this Association for a one-time fee of \$325 to be paid by the Town of Marion. The final draft and synopsis of the 2014-2015 budget has been prepared and is ready to be set for Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Public Hearing for the 2014-2015 proposed budget will be held at the next Council meeting on May 19, 2014. Mr. Rush reviewed a proposal for debt refinancing. Discussion ensued with regards to different companies available for this service. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is to enter into a financing agreement with Davenport and Company for debt refinancing.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (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 personnel matters and 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 of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Council chooses to exercise the option for the purchase of property adjoining the Town Spring and Town Manager to negotiate financing.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, for the study of geology prepared by the hydrologist, submitted at no charge, Council authorizes a proffer to be made to this gentleman in the amount of \$500.

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

Mayor

Clerk

