

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 19, 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 Deputy Clerk Anita Catron.

ABSENT: None.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Reverend John Graham 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, Shane Davis, Kristin Untiedt-Barnett, Trevor Cassell, Robin Rush, Kay Clawson, Pam Hall, John Graham, Jeff Spickard and Jane Hale.

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 May 5, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Owens, Jennings, Barker, Spencer and Carter 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 with one addition for a VRS Resolution.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. John Graham, Clerk of the Court, swore in the re-elected Council Members, Jennings, Spencer, Owens and Barker. Mr. Graham noted he would provide a copy of the signed Oath to the Town Clerk when completed.

Mr. Barker thanked those in attendance of Arbor Day.

Mrs. Jennings noted that this month was the 10th Anniversary of the newly remodeled Lincoln Theatre. She also noted that Kristin Untiedt-Barnett, the Director, is doing a wonderful job.

Mr. Carter noted that he attended a Luncheon at the Job Corps and in the future they hope to have as many as 192 students.

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 was held this past weekend. The VML Executive Committee also held a meeting here that weekend. The Regional VML meeting will be held in Marion on June 25, 2014. This will include elected officials and Town staff and dinner at the General Francis Marion Hotel. Chapter 4 Rolling Thunder will be here Thursday. There are 775 flags at the Courthouse this year for Memorial Day.

PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED ORDINANCE CHANGE FOR PARK HOURS: Mayor Helms asked Mr. Rush to review the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Rush read the proposed Ordinance Section 46-20 Paragraph (e) as it relates to the hours the Public Parks of the Town of Marion shall be closed. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing for comments. There were no public comments. Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the proposed Ordinance change relating to Public Parks hours was accepted.

Mr. Fenyk noted the flags at the Courthouse had blown down last Friday and he commended Mrs. Catron for her prompt attention to see that the proper personnel was notified. He also noted the need to schedule a meeting with elected officials and staff to cover Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Rush is to work with Mr. Fenyk to schedule this after July 1, 2014.

Ms. Stanley reported receipt of a Resolution needing to be submitted to Virginia Retirement System no later than July 1, 2014 to elect the Employer Retirement Contribution Rate. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Employer Retirement Contribution Rate Election Resolution will be continued until the next Council meeting.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$697,927.94.

PUBLIC HEARING 2014 - 2015 BUDGET: Mayor Helms asked Mr. Rush to review the budget process. Mr. Rush gave a brief overview of the budget noting the only rate increase was for garbage collection which is currently \$13.00 per month and is proposed to increase to \$15.00 per month. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing for comments. 1) Kristin Untiedt-Barnett spoke on behalf of the Lincoln Theatre. She noted the appreciation for the Town's financial support. Ms. Untiedt-Barnett gave an overview of the programming and noted increased hours of operation for the box office. She asked that the Town of Marion consider funding as requested. 2) Trevor Cassell and Pam Hall representing Brain Injury Services of SWVA, thanked the Town of Marion for their past support. They reviewed the services provided by their agency to help individuals with brain injuries to re-establish their day to day lives. They asked for the Town of Marion's continued support. Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Mr. Rush noted the budget can be adopted 7 days after this Public Hearing. This item will be on the Agenda for June 2, 2014 Council meeting.

Mr. Anders thanked all departments for helping with the Memorial Day Weekend festivities.

Mr. Hamm reported the Fire Department has been awarded the Matching Forestry Grant for hydration and back packs. He noted this is a 50% matching grant. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this 50% matching Forestry Grant was accepted.

Mr. Heath noted that Ms. Hall was in Detroit attending a Main Street Conference. The Farmers Market is off to a good start with 12 vendors the first weekend. The Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts construction phase has given the contractor Notice to Proceed. Branson Construction will begin tomorrow. Mr. Heath reviewed the Appalachian Trail/Memorial Day program.

Mr. Hicks noted the Co-Gen project generator ran at 60% capacity for approximately 12 hours this week. The Baughman Avenue Bridge Project is still scheduled to start June 1, 2014. The Paving bids are due Thursday, May 22, 2014 at 1:00 pm.

Mr. Rush thanked Ernie Sullins for allowing the Town to use his property as a staging area for the Baughman Avenue Bridge Project. He reported the Commission on Local Governments was here for the Public Hearing on May 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Lincoln Theatre. Mr. Rush asked for a two month extension for technical issues with the submittal on the Boundary Adjustment. He also noted there is a job opening at the Sewer Treatment Plant and one at the Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Rush plans to implement a cross training program that will allow employees to be trained to work at either facility. He thanked Council for the opportunity to attend the VML Insurance Conference and noted that it was very informative.

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

Mayor

Clerk

