

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 October 5, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Avery Cornett, and Larry Carter Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Deputy Clerk Samantha White; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Police Chief John Clair and Senior Police Officer Amber Eades; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Joe Naff, Cathy Cooper, CB Gwyn.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held September 21, 2020 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, and Carter voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with an addition of Closed Session for Personnel.

**PUBLIC HEARING RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT REQUEST:** Mr. Rush reviewed the Resolution of Support for the police vehicle equipment grant. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution of Support for the Rural Development Grant for police vehicle equipment was adopted.

Mr. Barker noted the Planning Commission would continue review of the special use permit request from Emmaus Medical at the meeting on October 12, 2020. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings, and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Council Meeting and Joint Public Hearing for the Emmaus Medical Special Use Permit on October 19, 2020 will be held at the Scott Center to allow room for more attendees and following of social-distancing guidelines.

Mrs. Jennings reported The Lincoln Theatre received a \$10,000 Rebuild Virginia grant.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the VML Conference that will be held virtually this year on October 7 and 8. There will be no garbage pickup in Town on Monday, October 12, due to Columbus Day holiday; pickup has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 13.

Chief Clair reviewed Senate Bill 5029 that awaits Governor Northam's review. Senior Police Officer Amber Eades provided an update on the Police Department accreditation process.

Mr. Heath provided an update on the Covid-19 business grants application and guidelines funded by the Town through the Cares Act. They have received the first application and expect several more soon.

Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Charlie Berg, owner of Hungry Brothers BBQ restaurant, was approved for a \$15,000 RBEG small business loan. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Becky Bowman, owner of A&B Printing, was approved for a \$2,500 Cares Act grant. There are currently 15 participants in this round of Marion Pop-up. The Henderson School received a \$10,000 Smyth County Strong grant. Fall event planning continues to move forward.

Mr. Rush provided an update on Cares Act funding and purchases. Prater Pump Station upgrades continue and are within budget. Fall paving will be done near Thanksgiving and will include a range of CIRP streets. CIRP Phase V Water will close on October 20, 2020. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity Application form for taxi services was approved.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and Section 2.2-3711 (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 discussion of Personnel and Real Estate. 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 Deputy Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk