

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 July 21, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Suzanne Jennings, Tricia Spencer, 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; Police Lieutenant Rusty Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Bob Lincoln, Charles Wassum, Chris Wassum, Charles Hayden, Nicole Vachon-Hanlon, Carol Doss and Jeff Spickard.

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

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved with the addition of USDA Forms Authorization and VML Conference under Town Manager Report.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. Bob Lincoln, General Francis Marion Hotel, thanked the Town for the use of the golf cart for the events this past weekend.

Mr. Carter attended the District III meeting and reported funding issues are ongoing.

Mr. Weaver noted the Town had a super weekend with all the events related to the Chili Cook Off.

Mrs. Jennings attended the Lincoln Theatre Board meeting and reported things are going well. She also noted a deer issue. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Jennings reminded members of the ongoing issues with the Sprinkle house. Mr. Rush noted this will hopefully be resolved when the updated Zoning Ordinance is implemented.

Mr. Owens reported citizen concerns about the deer issue also and he noted Ms. Hall did another great job with the Chili Cook Off this weekend.

Dr. Gates thanked Mr. Wassum for cleaning and mowing Wassona Circle.

Mr. Rush inquired as to how Council wishes to address the deer issue. Discussion ensued. He noted the primary land owner has no interest to allow a controlled harvest. Mr. Barker and Mr. Owens recommended to continue to study this issue.

Mayor Helms attended a meeting last Tuesday with the Emory & Henry Physical Therapy Program. This was a very positive meeting regarding accreditation. There are currently 32 students signed up for the first class. There was good participation at the Chili Cook Off despite the weather. The Senior Citizen Picnic was also well attended. Thomas Bridge Water Corporation sent a thank you note for all the Town's assistance during their recent major water outage near Hall Addition. The Spirit of 45 Day will be August 10, 2014 at the Court House. The local Reserve Unit is home. The Town & Country BBQ will be held August 21, 2014 at 6:30pm at the W-L Hanger in Chilhowie. Notify Ms. Stanley if you plan to attend, also let her know if you plan to attend the VML Conference.

Mr. Fenyk noted that two deeds have been prepared to proceed with the Music Mural on the Sweetwater Mercantile Store. An easement is needed from the property owners to allow the Town to paint the Mural on the exterior of the building. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Mayor, Town Manager, Town Attorney and Town Clerk have authorization to sign agreements to proceed with the Music Mural.

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 \$399,605.47.

Lieutenant Hamm noted the new schedule has been implemented and there is a steady call volume with no problems noted at this time.

Mr. Hamm noted the Fire/EMS Resolution will be going before the Smyth County Board of Supervisors Thursday night. Once this Resolution is accepted by the County and the new DERA, Designated Emergency Response Area, is set by the County the Town will be ready to proceed with obtaining the necessary licenses to complete the merger.

Ms. Hall noted 14 teams participated in the Chili Cook Off. The band was moved to the Farmers Market due to the rain. She thanked Council, the Police Department and everyone for their assistance with the weekend's events. The Farmers Market is going strong with new vendors attending. A recording studio will be opening Downtown soon. Ms. Hall will be hosting another photo contest where individuals can submit photographs for competition. This is an event to gather more photos for the Town of Marion. A Downtown investment Grant is available through Virginia Main Street. Ms. Hall plans on applying for this grant to purchase benches for the downtown area.

Mr. Heath introduced Nicole Vachon-Hanlon, a representative with Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, to give an update on the Ice Plant Project. She reviewed the plans for the proposed demolition and restructure of the Ice Plant. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rush noted the need for all government agencies to give the proper authorizations. There will be a meeting tomorrow at 2:30 pm at the site if anyone would like to attend. Mr. Heath continued with an update on Emory & Henry Physical Therapy Program noting that the first class with 32 students registered will begin in January 2015. The Thundering Beauties will be in town this weekend with approximately 60 participants. The construction at the Schoolhouse is moving along very well. The Town has won another Pop Up Program Award for the Southeast United States Region from the Southeast Economic Development Council. This will be presented in Memphis, Tennessee.

Mr. Hicks finally has some positive news on the generator for the Co-Gen Project. A German Engineer has been onsite and the generator is working correctly. Mr. Hicks has requested an extended warranty due to all the issues that have surfaced with this process. Baughman Avenue Bridge Project should be completed and the road opened in about one month.

Mr. Rush reported that both OSHA, Occupational Safety Health Association, issues have been corrected. He also reported that the GPS, Global Positioning System, has been received and is ready for vehicle installation. Mr. Rush thanked Todd Long for his assistance in obtaining a VML Grant for this equipment. The Request for Proposals for Engineering Services for a planning grant has been advertised as required and the deadline for submittals is August 15, 2014. Staff will review them and make a recommendation at the September 1st meeting. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager has been authorized to sign the necessary documents for the Predevelopment Planning Grant in the amount of \$22,500. After much review the proposal for the debt refinancing and restructure will not be beneficial for the Town at this time. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town will not refinance the \$700,000 with the Bank of Marion at this time. Mr. Rush reminded those wishing to attend the VML Conference to submit their request to Ms. Stanley.

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

Mayor

Clerk