

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 20, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Suzanne Jennings, Larry Carter and Bill Weaver Council Members; Bob Ramsey, Dan Surface, Avery Cornett, Ben Reedy, Jim Barker and Alice Freeman (arrived late) Planning Commission 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 Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath (arrived late); Deputy Town Clerk Anita Catron (left early); Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald; and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Jim Owens and Tricia Spencer.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Bob Lincoln, Marlene Henderson, Harold Slem, Karren Bennett, Rita Copenhaver, Robert Johnson, Nellie Bland and Cameron Wolfe.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held October 9, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Barker, Carter and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as presented.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Rita Copenhaver, Smyth Bland Regional Library Representative, thanked the Town of Marion on behalf of the Out Reach Services. Ken Heath arrived. She gave a brief overview of the Library services offered offsite at locations such as the Senior Citizen Center. Alice Freeman arrived.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH MARION PLANNING COMMISSION: Mayor Helms turned the meeting over to Vice-Chairman Ramsey of the Planning Commission. Vice-Chairman Ramsey asked Mr. Hicks to review the rezoning request for 410 East Main Street. Mr. Hicks noted the property owner, Mrs. Charles Chambers, is requesting the property be rezoned from R-1 (Residential) to MA (Medical Arts). It was noted that the property has been for sale for approximately two years. All adjacent property owners have been notified as required. Vice-Chairman Ramsey opened the public hearing for comment. One adjacent property owner noted he has no objection and the privacy issue could be resolved with a fence or such. With no other comments, the public hearing was closed. Upon motion of Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Marion Planning Commission makes the recommendation for Council to approve this request for rezoning 410 East Main Street from R-1 to MA. Vice-Chairman Ramsey turned the meeting back over to Mayor Helms. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, 410 East Main Street will be rezoned from R-1 (Residential) to MA (Medical Arts).

Mayor Helms noted that the Extra Mile Nominations need to be turned into Mr. Heath by October 28, 2014. These will be presented at the next Council meeting. Legislative Day is January 28, 2015. The next VML Regional Supper is October 29, 2014 in Wytheville. The VHCC/WCC Golf Tournament was a big success and has already been scheduled for next year. The USAR 760th Homecoming will be Friday, October 24, 2014 at 10:30 am at the Town Hall.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,198,088.78.

Chief Anders noted the Town and County had a joint operational bomb threat at the Court House last week.

Mr. Hamm reviewed the number of fire calls for September and October. The family of Donald Ray sent a thank you note for our expression of sympathy. Mr. Hamm invited Council members to attend the first official dinner for the Fire/EMS personnel. This will be Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Fire Station. He also noted the fingerprinting has been completed and after reviewing a few policies to complete the merger, we will be ready to apply for a license.

Mrs. McDonald noted that a Wells Fargo film crew was here last week to video Round 7 of the Pop Up Class. The Christmas Market will be November 21-23, 2014. Shop Small Saturday will be November 29, 2014. Marion has been selected as one of ten National Semifinalist for the Main Street America Award.

Mr. Heath noted the work on the Marion Mural is going well. The Storm Ready signs are in place. He reviewed a Resolution in support of a grant application for DHCD IRF Funds for the Holston Harwood Building in the amount of \$600,000 for revitalization. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was approved. The Streetscape Project will be accepting recommendations from the Tree Board and then will be submitted to VDOT for review. Hopefully this will be set as a spring project. Mr. Heath reviewed the necessary documentation to proceed with the tax credits for the Schoolhouse Project. This will be an estimated net of \$557,263 back to the Town. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the State and Federal Document, as well as the establishment of a Economic Development Authority document were approved for signatures to proceed with the Historic Tax Credits for the Schoolhouse Project.

Mr. Hicks reported that the CO-Gen Project is almost complete. There will be a meeting the first week of November to sign the substantial completion contract. Leaf pickup will begin next week.

Mr. Rush noted the public hearings for the Boundary Adjustment are complete. He also reported that the results from a public hearing held in Richmond noted that the Town of Marion has made the list for a DEQ grant to assist with the purchase of land for Water Shed purposes in the amount of \$123,100. Mr. Rush reviewed a request for allocation of funds to be transferred to cover a shortfall of payments for a VRA loan. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this transfer in the amount of \$260,000 was approved.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk