

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 December 1, 2014 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Jim Owens, Larry Carter, Suzanne Jennings 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; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arriving late); Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald and Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Poole.

ABSENT: 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, Lyn Thompson, Bob Shultz (arriving late), Margie Naff, Amy McNeil and Clayborne Gwyn.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held November 17, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Barker, Carter, Owens and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved with the addition of a closed session for legal justification and the Town Manager's report was moved up.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, A Resolution in Appreciation for the Gwyn Family & Gwyn Distribution Company for 80 Years of Service to Our Town was approved. Terry Jennings arrived. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to the Gwyn family.

Mrs. Jennings nominated Mr. Bob Shultz as an Extra Mile Recipient and presented him with an Extra Mile Certificate.

PUBLIC HEARING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Heath reviewed the documents for creating the Economic Development Authority and the Resolution appointing the Board members. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the document for an Ordinance creating the Economic Development Authority of the Town of Marion was approved. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution appointing the members of the Economic Development Authority was approved. Mr. Rush noted the next step is to hold a Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing will be set for December 15, 2014 to continue with the process for creating the Economic Development Authority if necessary.

Mr. Rush gave an update on the Boundary Adjustment. It will be scheduled through the Court system and then will be reviewed by a three judge panel. Mr. Rush asked for the ability to float the Christmas Holiday depending upon which day of the week it fell each year. Mr. Hicks noted the Virginia Department of Health grant applications have received favorable reports and information. Mr. Spickard reported that the State needs to know by December 12 if the Town wants to participate in the funding for these projects. Mr. Rush noted that as our water accountability increases the probability for grants will decrease. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town will continue to participate in the Virginia Department of Health projects and grants.

Mrs. Jennings reminded everyone of the truck raffle for the Lincoln Theatre. The truck is to be raffled on December 20, 2014.

Mayor Helms noted the Saltville Christmas Parade will be next Sunday at 3:00 pm. There will be one more recognition ceremony for the Extra Mile Program. The Mel Leaman Christmas Benefit will be

December 6, 2014 at 7:00 pm. The Town of Marion employee Christmas Lunch will be December 12, 2014 at noon at the Senior Citizens building. There will be a Mural Dedication on December 13, 2014 at 12:00 noon. The Marion Life Saving Crew Christmas Dinner will be December 13, 2014 at 7:00 pm. There will be a Luncheon on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 12:00 noon at the Smyth County Community Hospital to introduce the new CEO for the hospital, James Tyler.

Mr. Fenyk noted there will be a sale of property on the Courthouse steps the same time as the Town Employee Christmas Lunch.

Ms. Stanley reminded everyone that the Statement of Economic Interest forms are due by the next Council meeting.

Mr. Jennings reported that the Senior Citizens will be traveling to the Speedway in Lights on December 11, 2014. He thanked those that helped serve the Thanksgiving meal to the Seniors. The Seniors will be repairing the football uniform pants for the Recreation Department. A Youth Basketball Tournament is planned for February 20-22, 2015. There will be a New Year's Eve party at the Holston Hills Community Ballroom featuring the Travelers Revision and the cost will be \$40 per person.

Chief Anders enjoyed serving the meal for the Seniors and bagging groceries.

Mrs. McDonald noted that Merry Main Street will be held December 4, 2014 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. A Tree Lighting Ceremony will be December 4, 2014 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall. There will also be two grand openings on December 4, 2014 for new Downtown Businesses. The Marion Downtown Christmas Dinner will be held on December 18, 2014 at James McNeil's home.

Ms. Poole reported that channel 5 was here today and interviewed Mrs. McDonald about the Totem Pole and Ms. Poole on the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. She also noted former Virginia Intermont College still has lots of equipment and supplies available and she is working to see if some might be available to the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. Ms. Poole met with the USDA regarding a matching grant application for Heritage Food Lab. Ms. Poole displayed tee shirts for sale representing the new branding logo.

Mr. Heath noted the tee shirts may become a promotional product for downtown businesses. The Summit Center for Higher Education is bringing two local community colleges to the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts.

Mr. Hicks reminded everyone about the Public Hearing for a Special Use Permit at 137 Keller Lane for a Home based occupation for the next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-7) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of legal consultation. 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Jennings, Carter, Barker and Owens voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is to schedule an Ordinance Committee meeting.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk

