

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 15, 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; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall McDonald.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Helms introduced Police Officer Uriah Farris, who has just completed his training at the Police Academy. Officer Uriah Farris rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Bob Lincoln, Lyn Thompson, Kelsey Parks and Bruce Stockburger.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 1, 2014 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Barker, Carter, Owens and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: None.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Mr. Heath reviewed the creation of the economic development authority and the historical tax credits. Gentry Lock representative, Mr. Stockburger reviewed the draft resolution for the development of the economic development authority. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens, and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the resolution was approved and clerk of council, Ms. Stanley, signed the resolution.

PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL USE PERMIT: Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Hicks reviewed the special use permit request for 137 Keller Lane. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the special use permit for 137 Keller Lane for a home occupation was approved.

Mr. Barker noted the draft copy of the zoning ordinance had been distributed to council.

Mr. Owens reported the Williams Berry Foundation is behind on processing requests.

Dr. Gates noted Mr. Rush is preparing a document for the budget purposes.

Mrs. Jennings distributed Tim White's annual report.

Mayor Helms noted there is another Extra Mile Award to be presented at a later time. VML Legislative Day will be on January 28, 2015 in Richmond. Blue Ridge Job Corps luncheon will be tomorrow at 11:30

am. The Senior Citizen lunch will be December 23, 2014 at 11:30 am. Mayor Helms attended the Marion Lifesaving Crew dinner Saturday night, and the members were very appreciative of the bonus and are looking forward to the merger. Due to the holiday schedule, the town offices will be closed on Christmas Eve, December 24, and Christmas Day, December 25, 2014.

Mr. Fenyk noted the pawn shop ordinance is not ready to be presented due to waiting on background check.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$842,130.71.

Chief Anders was appreciative of Mayor Helms and the council members that attended Officer Uriah Farris's graduation from the academy.

Mr. Hamm reported the fire department will not have a Christmas dinner this year, however there will be an awards banquet some time in January. He also noted that the EMS licensure for the merger was received today. This is one of the major accomplishments for this merger to take place. A court date is set for Thursday to apply for the transfer of assets. The operational manual is in progress. Mr. Fenyk noted council needs to reaffirm an earlier decision allowing the Town of Marion to receive the assets and liabilities from the Marion Lifesaving Crew. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver, and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, council reaffirms its earlier decision to move forward with receipt of the Marion Lifesaving Crew assets and liabilities. Mayor Helms or Vice Mayor Gates will need to be present Thursday at 3:30 pm for the hearing. Mr. Rush noted his appreciation for the staff's hard work on this endeavor.

Mrs. McDonald reported press releases are included in the packet. Virginia Main Street was here last Wednesday and did some video productions. There will be an Appalachian Trail 2015 event meeting tomorrow.

Mr. Heath referred the housing rehab updates to Mr. Rush. Mr. Rush noted on the Spruce/Matson project there will be a request for a change of funds due to the lack of qualifying homes. The Crescent/Palmer project is moving forward very well. Mr. Heath notes the Mountains of Music festival will be in June of next year. There will be a music mural dedication Saturday at noon. The exit 45 gateway project is still moving forward.

Mr. Hicks reported on page 34 of the packet is a copy of the letter sent to the Virginia Department of Health for continued consideration of meter grants. The meter replacement project is progressing.

Mr. Rush noted the boundary line adjustment is ready for submission to the court system. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Owens, and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, council reaffirms their decision from December 16, 2013 on approval of the resolution of the boundary line adjustment.

There will be a planning meeting tomorrow in regards to the E-911 agreement that is up for renewal.

Mayor Helms thanked the council for their dedication and support this year.

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

Mayor

Clerk