

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 March 4, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Larry Carter, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Jim Barker, Jim Owens and Dr. Jim Gates Council Members; Town Manager John E. B. Clark, Jr.; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Lieutenant Rex Anders; Police Chief Mike Roberts; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchett; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Assistant Town Engineer Todd Long; Chris King; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings

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

VISITORS: Charles Wassum, Charles Hayden, Greg Vannoy, Chris Gilley, Scott Schriefer, Ron Thomason Robbie Jones, Lyn Thompson and Scott Schumaker .

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 19, 2013 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Owens, Carter, Barker, Spencer and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. Heath introduce Mr. Scott Schumaker of Appalachian Spirits Distillery.

PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL USE PERMIT AT MT. ZION TEMPLE 412 IRON STREET: Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this Public Hearing was continued.

REPORT ON REVISED SOUTH CHURCH STREET DRAINAGE PROJECT: Mr. Hicks noted there were nine citizens in attendance. The citizens like the new plan. Mr. Weaver stated VDOT needs to begin working on this new plan. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the new plan was approved and is to be submitted to VDOT.

UPDATE ON BIOGAS PROJECT: Mr. Clark noted the contractor may need to consider another vendor to secure the generator. Mr. Clark noted the need to move forward. Mr. Clark also noted that last week the Sewer Treatment Plant made use of the methane gas. The methane gas to heat the digester should be online in about two weeks. There will be a progress meeting March 14, 2013. Discussion ensued. The need to move forward was emphasized.

RECOMMENDATION ON NEW WEBMASTER/WEBSITE: Mr. Long requested four local proposals. Smythnet did not want to submit a proposal. The only quote provided was from Those Geeks. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, it was approved to employee Those Geeks to re-design the Town's website.

UPDATE ON COURTHOUSE CONSTRUCTION: Mr. Hicks has met with the contractor that will be laying the water and sewer lines. There has been strategic talks about how to handle traffic during construction. Two way traffic flow must be maintained. There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday at 10:00 am at the Town Hall.

REPORT ON SCHEDULED TRIP TO SCHOOL OF MUSIC IN GALAX: Mr. Heath noted this trip is scheduled for next Wednesday March 13, 2013 at 5:00 pm.

REQUEST FROM MR. RON THOMASON REGARDING TOURISM CENTER: Mr. Thomason noted the state of tourism in Smyth County is very positive. He stated the new Distillery would be a very good asset. He thanked Council for the appropriation.

UPDATE FROM MR. SCOTT SCHRIEFER ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEAD PROGRAM: Mr. Schriefer updated the progress of the LEAD program on promoting volunteerism. Mr. Schriefer's group of nine people are trying to educate the citizens of Smyth County about Smyth County tourism and capitalize on ways to advertise local events. He will update Council once more before the project ends.

REPORT ON POSSIBLE INCLUSION ON "COMMUNITIES OF DISTINCTION" TV PROGRAM: Mr. Heath received a call from a TV producer promoting a Terry Bradshaw Production. After a phone conference, it

was determined the cost of several five minute segments to be \$24,800. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this project was not approved.

UPDATE ON 2013-2014 BUDGET FORMULATION: Mr. Clark stated the staff had met several times to begin work on the budget. He also noted we are a couple weeks ahead of schedule. Ms. Stanley stated the budget books will be ready for committee members and staff by the end of the week.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TO ACQUIRE HOUSING FUNDING THROUGH FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK OF ATLANTA: Ms. Gilley reviewed the possible uses for the extra funding. She also briefly reviewed the guidelines. Crescent and Palmer CDBG Project will have a payback amount. The Town will have a small match in this project. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this Resolution was accepted. April 8, 2013 is the deadline for the application. DHCD wants title opinions conducted on these projects.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VIRGINIA TORNADO AWARENESS DAY: Mr. Heath stated March 12, 2013 is Tornado Awareness Day. Nixle alert will be activated at 9:45 am March 12, 2013. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this Resolution was accepted.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE ON INCREASED ACCIDENT BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS: Mr. Barker noted the policy will increase by \$911 annually to increase the benefits from \$100 per week to \$700 per week. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the disability benefits for volunteer fire fighters will be increased from \$100 per week to \$700 per week.

BUILDING COMMITTEE ON SHELIVING AT OLD SCHOOLHOUSE: Mr. Owens stated that a few items in the Old Schoolhouse are useable by some Town departments. The departments were asked to remove them, with the remainder of items being given to Project Glade. Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the two departments receiving the items have until Friday to remove them and turnover the remaining items to Project Glade. .

Mayor Helms noted the ribbon cutting for the Herb House had great attendance. The Rondell's offered something other than Bluegrass. The wedding showcase was very successful. Saturday night Song of the Mountains attendance was low. Mr. Heath noted the credit for the success of the Wedding Showcase goes to Olivia Hall who organized the event.

Mr. Heath noted the VDOT North Iron Street Project was originally bid as an additive alternate to the current phase. He recommends approval to award this addition without re-bidding. Everything is in place for this project. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, approves issuance of a Change Order in the amount not to exceed the remaining grant funds, for the purpose of completing the current phase of the Downtown Streetscape Project under the current contract.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) (A-7) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of personnel matters and legal consultation. Dr. Gates 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 Ms. Spencer and carried by vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Owens, Weaver, Carter, Dr. Gates, Barker and Ms. Spencer voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Personnel Committee, minus Mrs. Jennings, is empowered to present a contract and offer employment to an individual dependent on a successful background check.

Mayor Helms noted Mr. Clark's retirement dinner will be Monday night March 25, 2013 at the General Francis Marion Hotel at 6:30 pm.

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

Mayor

Clerk