

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 June 3, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Jim Barker, Jim Owens and Larry Carter Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Mike Roberts; Police Lieutenant Rex Anders (arriving late); Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: David Thomas, Bob Lincoln, Scott Freeman, Brian Reed and Ron Thomason.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 20, 2013 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Owens, Carter, Jennings, Spencer and Barker 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: David Thomas informed Council the water fountain at RiverBend Park had been vandalized. Mr. Rush noted the fountain was being repaired and the issue of the vandalism is being addressed. Mr. Thomas thanked him.

Bob Lincoln noted the huge success of the Back of the Dragon event held in Tazewell. He would like to see our Town promoted more during this event. He proposed using Marion as a starting point.

Ron Thomason Director of Smyth County Tourism Association would also like to use the Back of the Dragon to bring in more people to Smyth County during this event. Mr. Rush had spoken to Tazewell Town Manager, Todd Day, today and he estimated there were 2,700 bikes and 7,000 people participated in the Back of the Dragon event in Tazewell Saturday. Mr. Thomason passed around a photo of 18 bikers from Chicago that participated in the event. Mr. Thomason suggested the Town of Marion donate \$5,000 toward the next Back of the Dragon event which is scheduled for October 5, 2013. Police Lieutenant Rex Anders arrived.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR 2013 - 2014 PROPOSED BUDGET: Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. Bob Lincoln presented a suggestion of raising lodging taxes as a means to increase revenue, as this tax does not affect Town residents. Mr. Carter made a motion to increase lodging tax by 1% and designating it for tourism. Discussion ensued. Mr. Cater withdrew his motion. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, lodging tax will be increased by 2% and designating 1% of that increase for "Special Events". Mayor Helms closed the Public hearing.

SALE OF SURPLUS PROPERTY ON CRESCENT: One bid was received for \$1,000. Mr. Rush noted the possibility of donating surplus property to Crossroads for housing. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the bid of \$1,000 for this property was accepted.

RESOLUTION HONORING DELEGATE JOSEPH P. JOHNSON, JR. FOR SERVICE IN HOUSE OF DELEGATES: Upon motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was continued.

AIRPORT COMMISSION - SCOTT FREEMAN: Mr. Freeman gave an update on the Airport Terminal. He also noted the vote for Wythe County withdrawing from the Airport was a tie vote 3 to 3. This will be addressed again at another meeting.

WAYNE HENDERSON SCHOOL OF MUSIC: Mr. Heath noted the bids for this project was over budget. There will be some efforts made to strengthen the board and to work on a business plan at the Direction of DHCD. Ken will update at the next Council meeting.

BUSINESS APPRECIATION WEEK 2013: Mr. Heath read the Proclamation in Recognition of Virginia Business Appreciation Week June 3-7, 2013. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proclamation was accepted.

REQUEST BY CITIZEN FOR DONATION TO THE SOUND OF AMERICA HONOR BAND: Mr. Rush reviewed this request from a Marion Senior High School student who will be traveling overseas to participate in this honor band. Mrs. Jennings suggested we do a Resolution for Support. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 1 NOES, this request was not funded. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, it was referred to the Finance Committee to draft a policy to address these types of requests.

VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM'S (VRS) VIRGINIA LOCAL DISABILITY PROGRAM: Ms. Stanley reviewed the policy noting this will only affect new hires after January 1, 2014. A comparable employer paid disability program must be provided if locality opts out of the VRS plan. Mr. Rush recommended not opting out of this program. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item will be continued until the second Council meeting in July.

Mr. Barker suggested the pool at the Golf Course should be open to the public. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 4 AYES and 3 NOES, the Golf Course Pool will be managed the same as the Golf Course, allowing the public to pay a daily fee or purchase a membership, with the daily rate being set at \$6 per person for the Golf Course Pool and \$4 for the Town Pool.

Mrs. Jennings thanked Mr. Rush for doing a nice job. A Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday June 5, 2013 at noon. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a \$5,000 appropriation will be given to the Tourism Center to help support the Back of the Dragon event on October 5, 2013.

Mr. Carter noted the Rolling Thunder and the Memorial Day Celebration was an excellent event.

Ms. Stanley reviewed the VML Insurance Renewal and noted the premiums decreased by \$3,144.

Mr. Heath noted the SBA Awards will be presented in Richmond on June 24, 2013 and there will be a local celebration on Iron Street June 28th from 5 - 9 pm.

Mr. Rush noted Appalachian Power has some lights they are willing to donate for the Iron Street Mall Project. This will allow for the \$4,400 for the lights to be applied to the crosswalk costs. Discussion ensued in regards to the crosswalk. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the crosswalk will be paved and stamped to match the Alley Way and Iron Street Mall, also Mr. Rush and Mr. Hicks are authorized to negotiate the details for the crosswalk.

Chief Roberts informed Council that the vandalism issues at the Riverbend Park are being addressed.

Mr. Hicks noted Mr. Ramsey withdrew his nomination to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals, filling the vacant seat of Mr. Carter, due to the Code of Virginia only allowing one Planning Commissioner to serve on this Board. Mr. Hicks reviewed the bids for Paving. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the paving bid from W-L Construction was accepted in the amount of \$165,539.83. Sludge disposal with the City of Bristol landfill will begin Wednesday or Thursday of this week. It was noted the Golf Course road is in need of repairs.

Mr. Rush noted the Town took over the operations of the Grill Saturday June 1, 2013. He also noted the ABC License application has been submitted. Mr. Rush attended the VML Town Section meeting in Pulaski. The electric service process for the RiverBend Amphitheatre has been started and Appalachian Power will provide the wire for the service and the Town employees will assist with the installation. Mr. Rush noted he will be moving forward with the process of ISO 9000 rating for the Fire Department. This

will help identified any weakness within the Town, but it is also hard to obtain a high enough rating to allow for a decrease in home owners insurance.

Mr. Lincoln questioned the meals tax being collected at the Golf Course grill. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is to research the issue to levy meals tax at the Golf Course Grill and not to impose meals tax until a legal opinion is obtained.

Mr. Long asked Council to review the new Website and noted the Council Members picture for the Website will be taken immediately before the next Council meeting.

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

Mayor

Clerk