

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 November 18, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, 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; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Lieutenant Rex Anders; Police Lieutenant Andrew Moss; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Economic Development Director Assistant Olivia Hall; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation. Mr. Herbert Johnson, VFW Post 4667 Commander, led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Charles Wassum, Jeff Spickard, David Thomas, Ronald Null, Emma Johnson, Herbert Johnson, Susan Edwards and Mike Edwards.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held November 4, 2013 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Owens, Carter, Spencer and Barker voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. Owens presented an Extra Mile Nomination to Mr. Johnson, VFW Post 4667 Commander. Mr. Johnson thanked Council and accepted this award on behalf of all Veterans.

Mayor Helms thanked all the visitors to the Council meeting for their attendance. Mayor Helms noted that he attended the Veterans Day Program at the VFW and reported that 33 post members have passed away since Veterans Day last year. Mayor Helms attended the National League of Cities Conference in Seattle. There were 20 representatives from Virginia in attendance. Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner Thursday night at 6:30 pm at the General Francis Marion Hotel.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$667,746.92.

INVESTMENTS: Mr. Rush noted the investments were bid out and a better interest rate has been acquired with a local bank, therefore the investments have been moved. Mr. Rush also noted that Ms. Stanley was instrumental in negotiating a significantly higher rate of return with a superior investment vehicle and thanked her for her efforts. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the investment report was accepted.

Mr. Heath noted the application is in development for the Gateway Workshop. Ms. Hall reviewed the Holiday schedule noting this weekend is the 5th Annual Christmas Market with 45 vendors registered. The Grand Parade will be Sunday at 3:00 pm.

Lieutenant Anders reported that he is working on a list of items totaling \$123,000 to be considered for an Asset Forfeiture Funds Grant.

Mr. Hicks noted the Co Gen Project is still delayed due to the generator needing to be tested by the manufacturer. Edwynne Drive Water Line Project is complete by all pipe being installed in the ground. Staff will begin weekly meetings for development of a comprehensive, long term plan for water/sewer projects. Mr. Hicks also noted the Scratch Gravel Water Project will begin soon. He noted that the residents in this area do not have much volume. He proposed the Town upgrade this water line from a 3/4 inch to a 2 inch during this project. Mr. Rush noted this upgrade will cost the Town approximately \$4,190. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this upgrade from a 3/4 inch line to a 2 inch line in the amount of approximately \$4,190 was approved. Mr. Hicks advised Council that Billy Buchanan is willing to serve another term on the Board of Zoning

Appeals. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, it is recommended that the Judge reappoint Billy Buchanan to serve another term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Jennings noted the parking lot patch paving at the Golf Course has been completed. There has been 2 quotes received to install railing, \$1,850 and \$1,224, plus \$75 for painting. The specifications are for 1 7/8 inch steel tubing primed and painted. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the bid shall be awarded to Powers Fence Company in the amount of \$1,300. Mr. Jennings noted the grill hours have changed to 8 - 4 daily. Mr. Rush noted the cost for the Port-a-Johns located at the Golf Course is \$195 per month. He has ask Mr. Hicks to design a standalone restroom for a cost of \$2,500 to \$3,000. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Golf Committee, with quotes to be submitted.

Mr. Rush noted in regards to the Gateway IT Project, the backup system would be more conducive to be located at the Police Department rather than the Senior Citizen Center. The Asset Forfeiture Funds Mr. Anders referred to can be used to help fund this project. The CDA Boundary Adjustment Submittals are almost ready. A final draft will be presented to Council hopefully by the next meeting. Mrs. Edwards asked for a progress report on the recycle initiative. The Town does not have the capability to sort the recyclables as required. The Town is considering placing recycle receptacles at the Town Shop, to potentially accept newspaper, glass and some metals. Mr. Johnson noted the VFW accepts aluminum cans to be recycled to help pay for flags. Mr. Rush noted there is the possibility of Railroad Passenger Service being extended to service areas south of Roanoke with the use of Bus Lines. Mr. Carter has received a complaint from a local business regarding the length of time the trains are stopped at crossings. Dr. Gates asked Mr. Rush to please research these regulations. Thanksgiving Dinner for the Senior Citizens will be served on November 26, 2013 at the Senior Citizen Center.

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

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush will sit in for Mrs. Jennings at the Song of the Mountains Committee Meeting tomorrow night.

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

Mayor

Clerk