

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 2, 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; Town Engineer Assistant Todd Long; Police Lieutenant Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Economic Development Director Assistant Olivia Hall; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Recreation Department Director Sam Wagner; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Water Treatment Plant Superintendent; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Charles Wassum, Jeff Spickard, Mike and Susan Edwards, Lewis Mann, Bob Lincoln, Scott Freeman and Sandip Patel.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held November 18, 2013 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Owens, Carter, Spencer, Jennings and Barker voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Agenda was approved.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Scott Freeman with the Smyth Wythe Airport Commission gave an update on Airport Projects. The new terminal is complete. The FAA has scheduled to pave the runway in 2020. Three land owners have received payment in the land acquisition.

Bob Lincoln with the General Francis Marion Hotel and Conference Center would like Council to consider having a business representative on the Golf Course Advisory Committee.

Mr. Edwards with the Collins House Inn would also like to be included in the decisions effecting the Golf Course Grill and Banquet Center.

Mr. Barker received positive feedback in regards to the Gobbler Gallop.

Mrs. Jennings thanked everyone for keeping her informed during her absence.

Mayor Helms noted there was a Thank You note in the packet from Lieutenant Anders for the Town recognizing his father passing. The Marion Fire Department Christmas Dinner will be on December 6, 2013 at 6 pm. Please RSVP to Mr. Heath. The Marion Life Saving Crew Christmas Dinner will be on December 14, 2013 at 6 pm. The Town Employee Christmas Dinner will be on December 13, 2013 at 12 noon at the Senior Citizens Center. The Town of Chilhowie will have a Centennial Reception on December 7, 2013 at 2 pm. Ms. Hall noted the Marion Downtown Christmas Dinner will be on December 14, 2013 at 6 pm at James McNeil's Home. Please RSVP to Ms. Hall. Mayor Helms noted the Shop Locally went very well and local merchants were pleased with the amount of shoppers Saturday. The Annual Warren Dinner served approximately 400 meals. Mayor thanked everyone for attending the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner.

Ms. Stanley reminded Council and staff that the Disclosure Forms are due on January 15, 2014.

Mr. Perry reviewed the November report for Public Works. He noted during bad weather there are two shifts working snow removal from 7 am to 7 pm. The sewer vactor is in the shop for repairs. Chilhowie, Wytheville and Abingdon have helped out during this time. The meter replacement project will continue as weather allows. Mr. Rush noted a large velocity going through the system, with the recent Holiday and large amounts of rain, is a major contributing factor for the sewer problems. Once the sewer vactor is back in service, scheduled maintenance of these trouble spots will begin. Mayor Helms has received positive comments about the snow removal. Mrs. Jennings complimented the garbage removal crew.

Mr. Wagner noted the girls basketball program had 139 participants. Boys basketball will begin December 16, 2013. The football program had 219 participants. Council would like Mr. Wagner to provide the number of Town participants verses County participants. He feels this is quite one sided, possibly as much as three to one. Participants this year came as far as Bristol.

Lieutenant Anders noted the Police Department assisted with several special events in November.

Mr. Heath noted the interviews for the Director of the Wayne Henderson School of Appalachian Arts are scheduled for next Monday. The Gateway Enhancement project narrative is written. Mr. Heath thanked the Police Department and the Public Works Department for their help with the Parade.

Mr. Mann noted the generator for the Co-Gen Project is scheduled for startup on December 16, 2013 and the manufacturer will be here all week.

Mr. Spickard noted all service lines are connected on Edwynne Water Line Replacement Project. The contractor will be patch paving later this week, also the substantial completion inspection will happen later this week. The contractor has submitted all pay requests except the retainage and that pay request will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Rush noted the CDA Boundary Adjustment Submittals are almost complete. There is no change on the Recycle Initiative. Mr. Rush has determined that the Railroad Crossings are not allowed to hold up traffic any longer than 5 minutes.

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

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, with the application and interview process completed, offer for employment for the Marion Downtown Executive Director has been offered to Olivia Hall with the effective date of December 9, 2013.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Owens and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush is to send a letter to the two existing Golf Course Advisory Committee members that have a large time conflict and thank them for their service effective 2013.

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

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Mayor

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Clerk