

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 19, 2012 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Jane Hale, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Jim Barker 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 ; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm; Deputy Clerk Anita Catron; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley.

ABSENT: Dr. Jim Gates and Jim Owens.

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

VISITORS: Dr. Charles Wassum, Anna Wassum, Jeff Spickard, Erwin Rowland, Betty Jo Keith, Nancy Bales, Mavis Williams, Mary Waak, Phyllis Robinson, Peter Doty, Howard Burton, Joel Hampton, Jeff Richardson, Karen Richardson, Betty Campbell, Anne Hull, Barbara Boardwine, Donna Landel, Angie Wright, April Duncan, Wendy Gullion, William Osborne, Matt Woodlee, Tom Martin, Connie Martin, Jo Viars, Molly Hester, Kim Byrd, Pat Porter, Darlene Dean, Rhea Lawrence, Phyllis Griffith, Nancy Smith, Lyn Thompson, Delter Cullop, Missy Jones, Susan Young, Kim Woodlee, Marty Doyle, Donna Untiedt, Patton Graham, Evelyn Widener, Leona Altizer, Dave Woodrum, Debbie Hodges, Dawn Grady, Richard Hamm, Teri Herron, Jane Tate, Justin Bradley, Debra Ellis, Angie Don, Debbie Selecman, Missi Jackson, KJ Holbrock, Kathy Cressel, Ruth Cox, Patty McAndrews, Tony Graham, Diannah Pennington, Victoria Tagarelli, Lisa Moore, Ron Blevins, Richie Pack, Frank Dowell and Robbie Jones,

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held March 5, 2012 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Ms. Spencer, Mrs. Jennings and Mrs. Hale voted affirmatively.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Rhea Lawrence Mt Rogers Mental Health for Mt Rogers Community Services Board supports getting buildings in Smyth County for the people needing these services.

Phyllis Griffith as a board member of Mt Rogers Community Services Board believes this will benefit the Town and County.

Lisa Moore Executive Director of Mt Rogers Community Services Board spoke to provide clarification. The office hours will be 8:30 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Ms. Moore believes the lack of understanding has generated fears. The facility does not prescribe or dispense methadone. There are plans in place to improve the interior and exterior of the property.

Ruth Cox supporting Mt Rogers Community Services Board yielded her time to Anne Hull.

Anne Hull spoke as a neighbor. Anne has worked in the past as a Mt Rogers Community Service Board employee out of the Garzon Clinic, where she served as the personnel director, with no negative outcomes from the patients.

Dr. Wassum, 200 Larch Street, stated he empathizes with the Mt Rogers Community Services Board employees. He feels they do good for the community. Dr. Wassum stated the zoning issue is the only problem he has with the location.

Peter Doty, 127 Ewrin's Lane, questioned the proceedings of approval of Mt Rogers request.

Lyn Thompson lives approximately 100 yards from Culbert Drive. She stated she sees no difference in the Garzon Clinic seeing mental health patients and the people that would be seen by Mt Rogers Community Services.

Erwin Rowland, 739 Park Boulevard, appreciates what Mt Rogers does, she just does not like the location.

Betty Keith believes the zoning ordinance in question is not clearly defined.

Tony Graham, 215 Althea Street, appreciates everyone's opinions. The location sometimes keeps patients from seeking assistance.

APPROVAL OF PAY REQUEST #7 AND UPDATE ON PHASE 1 SEWER TREATMENT PLANT PROJECT: Mr. Spickard noted the contractor is working on the second UV channel and the influent pump station has been placed into service and limits are being met. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, pay request #7 was approved in the amount of \$32,230.73. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Mrs. Hale and Mr. Barker were given authority to make a decision on the supplementary work before the next council meeting.

APPROVAL OF PAY REQUEST #4 ON SEWER TREATMENT PLANT DIGESTER PROJECT: Mr. Clark noted work on the Digester Project should begin soon and there may be a need for an extension of the contract. The Digester could not be emptied until the UV project was complete. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, pay request #4 was approved in the amount of \$24,518.80.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 16 DATE FOR JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH PLANNING COMMISSION FOR PROPOSED REZONING OF OLD HARWOOD PROPERTY ON MATSON DRIVE AND FORMER 612 AND 616 ON SHOP STREET: Mr. Hicks reviewed the requests with Council. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Joint Public Hearing is to be set for April 16, 2012.

PROPOSED DONATION OF OLD RADIO EQUIPMENT TO SMYTH COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD: Chief Roberts noted these donations would be used for the school buses. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the equipment will be donated to the Smyth County School Board.

SUBMITTAL OF BUDGET PACKAGE TO FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BEGINNING OF PROCESS: Ms. Stanley noted the proposed 2012 – 2013 Budget Books are ready for the workshops to begin on Friday March 23, 2012.

PROPOSED FORMATION OF GOLF COURSE ADVISORY BOARD/COURSE RENAMING AND OTHER UPDATES: Mr. Clark noted one of the terms of the loan agreement from the Smyth County Foundation was for there to be an Advisory Board established. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the new name for the Golf Course is Holston Hills Community Golf Course. A Manager has been selected and can begin as soon as the Town owns the Golf Course.

UPDATE ON EMORY AND HENRY HEALTH SCIENCES PROJECT: Mayor Helms noted the accreditation process is more lengthy than expected. The proposed start date for the Physical Therapy Program is now January 2013.

RECEIPT OF NEW HEALTH INSURANCE RATES FROM ANTHEM LOCAL CHOICE: Mr. Clark noted this is the first increase in premium rates in two years at 12.5%. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this was referred to the Insurance Committee.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$995,073.66.

INVESTMENTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the investment report was accepted.

DEDICATED 50 FOOT RIGHT OF WAY BAUGHMAN AVENUE: Mr. Hicks noted he had been contacted by the Virginia Department of Transportation and there is a need for a dedicated 50 foot right of way between Baughman Avenue Bridge and Country Club Road for the Bridge project to continue. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town will dedicate a 50 foot right of way on Baughman Avenue.

FINANCE COMMITTEE ON LIGHTNING PROTECTION ON SALLY'S CRYING TREE AND 911 MEMORIAL: Mr. Barker noted that Ms. Evelyn Lawrence wishes to make a presentation to Council about the Crying Tree. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, this was continued until Mrs. Laurence can give a presentation. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the VA Tech design study for the 911 Memorial in the amount of \$3,040 was approved.

RECREATION COMMITTEE ON ERIC ALBANO SOCCER FIELD: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 4 AYES and 1 NOE (Mr. Weaver), Mr. Clark was given the authority to make a decision regarding this request.

Mrs. Jennings thanked the staff for their efforts in holding down the expenses on the budget process.

Mr. Weaver reminded everyone to be taking notes on which streets need paving this spring.

Mr. Barker read an excerpt from the minutes of December 19, 2012 Town Council meeting on the update from Marion Planning Commission meeting as to when the Council and public was notified of the Residential Parking decision.

Mayor Helms and Ken Heath attended a Main Street meeting in Richmond Friday morning. Bill Shelton, Director of Housing and Community Development, notified Mayor Helms at the meeting that the Town of Marion would be receiving a grant for \$338,000 for the Wayne Henderson School of Appalachian Music and Arts. Ken Heath was recognized by the State as an outstanding Main Street Leader and he will be receiving a scholarship for a trip to Baltimore to make a presentation about the improvements in Marion. This will take place in April. Johnny Wood has received the Silver Circle Award. Mr. Heath prepared and read a Resolution in Appreciation of Johnny Wood. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution was accepted.

Mr. Fenyk noted there was a water line break on Strother Street due to work being done on the Parking Garage. The contractors are bonded by the County and not the Town. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town of Marion will make all necessary repairs and then bill the Contractor for a portion.

Mr. Heath noted that tomorrow at 9:45 am the Town will participate in the State wide Tornado Drill. Virginia Main Street will hold workshops on April 4 & 5 at the General Francis Hotel on how to reshape your business in the new economy. The Marion Historic District has been extended.

Chief Roberts noted the issue with Mr. Patel has been resolved. There were two conditional offers for employment made today for officers.

Mr. Hicks noted work is continuing on the meter replacement project.

Mayor Helms noted the Town of Marion has a Relay for Life team. The team is proposing the sale of raffle tickets for Free Residential Garbage Pickup for a year. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES the Town team will do a Relay for Life Raffle.

Upon motion, duly seconded and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk