

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 April 18, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms; Jane Hale, Jim Owens, Dr. Jim Gates (arriving late), Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Jim Barker, Council Members; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Town Manager John E. B. Clark, Jr.; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Community and Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Police Chief Mike Roberts; Police Lieutenant Rex Anders; Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Susan Clark.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Cecil Hicks rendered the invocation. Eagle Scouts Andrew & Kyle Richardson led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Charles Wassum, III, Ric Richardson, DDS, Marianne Richardson, Andrew Richardson, Kyle Richardson, Sylvia Richardson, Emmett Richardson, Jr., Ron Thomason, Rusty Hamm

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 4, 2011 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Owens, Weaver, Ms. Spencer, Mrs. Jennings and Mrs. Hale voted affirmatively.

RESOLUTIONS ON ACHIEVING EAGLE SCOUT STATUS-ANDREW RICHARDSON AND KYLE RICHARDSON: Mayor Helms read the resolutions and presented them to Eagle Scouts Andrew and Kyle Richardson.

REQUEST FROM RALPH PRICE ON SEWER LINE AT 239 PARK BLVD: Mr. Hicks explained that Mr. Price would like the Town to extend the town sewer line approximately three hundred (300) feet so that it may service an office building that Mr. Price is erecting. Mr. Price will be responsible for all cost associated with installing the sewer line. This line will be in the Town's right of way. Mr. Price will maintain the pump station which will be on his property. Mrs. Jennings moved that Council approve installation of the sewer line in the town right of way, not to include the pump station, with a five (5) year warranty (the town will not be responsible for repairs during the warranty period). Mrs. Jennings amended her motion to have the warranty for one (1) year instead of five (5) years. Council approved Mr. Price installing the sewer line with a one (1) year warranty by a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings, and vote of 5 AYES, 0 NOES and 1 ABSTENTION (Spencer), the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$813,740.41. Messrs Owens, Weaver and Barker, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Jennings voted affirmatively.

INVESTMENTS: Mr. Weaver moved that the Investment Report be approved as presented. Mrs. Jennings seconded the motion. Council approved the same unanimously. Messrs Owens, Weaver and Barker, Ms. Spencer, Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Jennings voted affirmatively.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT REQUEST-PAUL WILLIAMS-608 CATRON STREET: Mr. Hicks explained that Mr. Williams would like to erect a garage on his property to store tools and small equipment for his general contracting business. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was set for Public Hearing on May 16, 2011.

Dr. Gates arrived.

SMYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS-STAGE STREET EXTENSION AND COST PARTICIPATION: Mr. Clark informed Council that he had received a letter from the Smyth County School Board requesting that the town participate in the cost of this project and approve the re-alignment. The cost is estimated to be approximately \$350,000. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Finance and Street Committees.

SHUGART BRIDGE RE-DECKING: Mr. Hicks stated that money is in the Public Works budget for this project. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Street Committee for direction on the project.

ELECTRIC VALVE REPLACEMENT: Mr. Hicks informed Council that \$21,000 has been budgeted for the valve replacement; however, he estimates the cost to be approximately \$18,529.

VML TOWN SECTION MEETING: Mayor Helms informed Council that the VML Town Section Meeting will be held Thursday, April 28, 2011 in Pulaski, Va. If you plan to attend, please let Ms. Clark know.

RADIO HILL ROAD PUMP STATION: This item was referred to the Water Committee.

TOWN OF MARION AND SMYTH COUNTY WATER CONTRACT: This item was referred to the Water Committee.

REQUEST TO RENT TOWN PARKING LOT ON NORTH MAIN STREET NEXT TO HAPPYS: Mr. Clark stated that he had received a letter from Mrs. Amanda Slempt Smartt requesting to rent for a seasonal business. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Council denied the request.

MARION VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT MEMORIAL: Chief Rusty Hamm informed Council that a memorial will be erected in the front of the Marion Volunteer Fire Department dedicated to the memory of Charles K. Snider, who served on the MVFD for sixty (60) years. The memorial will have room to add names of other qualifying members. This memorial will be at no cost to the Town. Chief Hamm has already submitted proposal requests and presented Council with an outline of the memorial. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Council approved accepting proposals and moving forward with the project.

RIVERWALK: Mr. Barker stated that he walks the Riverwalk daily and the river has large amounts of trash in it. Mr. Barker will provide partners to work with the town crew to clean up the river.

SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mrs. Jennings reported that the advisory committee is now meeting on a regular basis and is accessing the costs for repairs of the building. Dr. Gates added that a large amount of seniors live in Smyth County and the Town is requesting funding from the County for the help with the repairs to the building.

2011-2012 BUDGET: Dr. Gates stated that the Finance Committee and Staff are progressing with balancing the new budget.

WASSONA CIRCLE: Mr. Owens informed Council that several trees have fallen in the Wassona Circle area and need to be removed. Town staff will access the problem and contact a tree service, if needed. Mrs. Hale added that a tree has fallen across power lines in the Iron Street area.

VML EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Mayor Helms attended the meetings last week. VML is forming a Political Action Committee. This is in the first stages of formation.

VML ANNUAL MEETING: Mayor Helms informed Council that the VML Annual Meeting will be held the week of October 2, 2011 in Henrico County.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION WALK: This will be at the Riverwalk April 30, 2011.

MARCH OF DIMES WALK: The March of Dimes Walk will be May 7, 2011.

POLICE-LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT: Chief Roberts informed Council that he had received information of the grant. The amount of the grant is \$10,291, with the town 10% portion being \$1,029. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Council approved the grant.

H L BONHAM TOURISM CENTER: Mr. Ron Thomason presented a video and presentation on the Tourism Center and informed Council of the representation from several states and countries that have visited the Center. He added that Smyth County's new economy is tourism.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 A-2, 3 & 4) and 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 discussing personnel matters and acquisition of real property. Mrs. Jennings moved that Town Council return to Open Session and identified it to 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 Owens, Weaver and Barker, Dr. Gates, Ms. Spencer, Mrs. Jennings and Mrs. Hale voted affirmatively.

PURCHASE PROPERTY AT 405 PEARL AVENUE: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Hale and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Council approved purchasing property at 405 Pearl Avenue by using the required matching funds for the Pearl/Buchanan CDBG Grant.

UPDATE OF PERSONNEL POLICY: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was continued.

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

Mayor

Clerk