

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 February 4, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Larry Carter.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Joe Naff, Linda Burchette, Mike Edwards, Diane Hayes and William A Fields.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 22, 2019 were approved with two corrections, add “to remove Jane Hale as council member listed on document” and clarify Mr. Barker left “the meeting”. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with two additions, Resolution Black History Month and a closed session for legal.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution for Black History Month 2019 was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. William A Fields and Diane Hayes, as representatives of the Mt. Pleasant Museum. Mr. Fields shared some background on article from the Smyth County News on January 9, 2019. Mr. Fields noted Emory & Henry College will be facilitating a program for the Mt Pleasant Museum April 13.

Mike Edwards, Smyth Wythe Airport Representative, gave an update on the operations of the Airport. There is a BBC You Tube video about the RAM Clinic held at the Airport. The tree removal project is almost complete. Mr. Edwards attended an Appalachian Trail meeting in Abingdon Friday. Mr. Edwards would like to suggest the Recreation Committee research the possibilities of reaching out to the Appalachian Trail hikers to benefit the future of tourism.

Mrs. Jennings noted the Lincoln Theatre will be 90 years old this year. The Theatre has hired a box office manager.

Mr. Weaver attended VML Legislative Day and reported this was a very rewarding experience.

Mr. Cornett also noted attendees of VML Legislative Day worked very hard and good contacts were made.

Mayor Helms noted there will be two public hearing at the next council meeting, VDH CIRP III & IV bond and Blight Project language revisions. Mayor Helms noted the VML Legislative Day was one of the most rewarding he has attended.

Ms. Stanley reported staff is beginning a records management purge of older documents. Items will be disposed of following the records retention schedule of the Library of Virginia. A centralized location will be established for all items that must be kept.

Mr. Jennings reported 8 teams have signed up for Women’s volleyball. There are 16 teams signed up for next weekend’s basketball tournament. Co-ed soccer will begin March 18.

Chief Clair noted the draft copy of the language revision of Chapter 38 of the Town Code book will go to public hearing at the next council meeting. Marion is approaching its 170th anniversary. Chief Clair hopes to generate some interest in the community to encourage citizens to donate historical items. There is now an AEP website link available for reporting pole outages. This will be shared with the community. Lieutenant Hamm is at the VFW tonight making selections for Officer of the Year awards.

Mr. Fenyk reported the tax sale deeds have been signed and returned. The Taxing Authority will have these recorded.

Mr. Heath noted James Tyler, CEO for Smyth County Community Hospital, will be at the next council meeting to give a report. Interviews for the Assistant Director of Economic Development will be held Wednesday. Tim White will host a Hee Haw Reunion show at the Lincoln Theatre on May 4. Mr. Heath is working on consideration for 3 historic marker locations in town.

Mr. Rush reported the need for a new correlator, which is a leak detection device, to help with water accountability studies. The cost of this piece of equipment would be approximately \$25,000. The Smartscale Chatham Hill Intersection application was unsuccessful. The CIRP Phase 3 & 4 Water loan closing will be February 26. Mr. Rush reviewed the need to have daily offsite backups of the AS400. We do daily onsite backups and quarterly offsite backups. Mr. Rush reviewed a quote to have daily offsite backups for \$75 per month. Mr. Rush thanked those that attended the VML Legislative Day. Mr. Rush noted the elevator was repaired this week. He also reviewed the possibilities of purchasing a piece of equipment for painting the water tanks.

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

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a new position will be created to hire a CIRP Engineer for between \$60,000 - \$65,000 plus benefits.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Mayor

Clerk