

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 January 7, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter 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; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Joe Naff, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord and Charles Hayden.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 17, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mike Edwards, Smyth Wythe Airport Representative, gave an update on the operations of the Airport. The tree removal project is 49% complete. Night time landings will resume once this is complete.

Mayor Helms noted the next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 22, 2019 due to the Martin Luther King Holiday. VML Legislative Day will be January 23 - 25, 2019 in Richmond. The Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive collected over \$42,000.

Mr. Fenyk noted the deed for the Quarry is now titled to the Town of Marion, with the exception of the Meek property.

Ms. Stanley distributed the Statement of Economic Interest forms, noting they are due back to her by February 1, 2019.

Mr. Jennings reported there were 145 boys signed up for basketball. The annual basketball tournament will be held February 16, 2019. Signs have been ordered for the playgrounds. December play at the Golf Course was down due to weather.

Chief Clair will present a detailed Police Department report at the next meeting. The VFW has agreed to sponsor an "Officer of the Year Award" to local agencies that choose to participate. Chief Clair invited council to attend an Opioid Epidemic Seminar at the Police Department on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 12:30 pm. Chief Clair will present recommended code changes on property maintenance at the next meeting.

Mr. Heath noted WCYB TV was here today. They will be featuring Marion for one week by visiting local businesses. Save Our Town's group will be here January 15, 2019. Applications are being accepted for Deputy Director of Economic Development. Marion Senior High School is working on a 20 Under 20 class.

Mr. Hicks reported on water accountability, noting staff meets on Wednesdays to continue to strengthen the leak study program. Soil and water samples were taken last week for the Church Street Drainage Project. This is pre-emptive testing on the area in question. VDOT State of Good Repair grant has been awarded for two sections of highway. The first is Highway 11 from Greenway Avenue to Washington Avenue estimated at \$243,430. The second section is Highway 11 from East Main Street to Brunswick Lane estimated at \$276,013. There are two other VDOT State of Good Repair applications that have been submitted; one for Highway 11 from College Street to Greenway Avenue and one for Highway 11 from Brunswick Lane to Berkley Drive. An application for the replacement of East Chilhowie Street Bridge has been submitted to VDOT. It is estimated at 3.57 million dollars to replace.

Mr. Rush noted Phase III & IV Water will be closing the financials late January. Planning Commission will meet next Monday evening. The tentative draft schedule for Fiscal 2019-2020 Committee meetings was distributed.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Mayor

Clerk