

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 1, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David P. Helms; Dr. James Gates, Jane Hale, Mel Leaman, Buford Cregger, Suzanne Jennings, Eugene Hendrick and Bill Weaver, Council Members; Town Manager John E. B. Clark, Jr.; Town Engineer/Assistant Town Manager Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Michael Roberts, Police Sergeant Steve Widner; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Community & Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Susan Clark.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Cecil Hicks rendered the invocation. Eagle Scout Addison Ratliff led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Teresa Ratliff, Kris Ratliff, Addison Ratliff, Bailey Ratliff, Jim Delinger, Anne Hull, Rusty Hamm, David McGhee, BreAnna McGhee, Suzy Suple, Frank Detweiler, Frances Detweiler, Donna Confere

MINUTES: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 16, 2010 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Hendrick, Cregger, Leaman, Mrs. Hale, Mrs. Jennings and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

RESOLUTION-CONGRATULATIONS FOR ADDISON STEWART RATLIFF ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings, and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the following Resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION OF CONGRATULATIONS FOR ADDISON STEWART RATLIFF

ON THE OCCASION OF HIS EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

WHEREAS, Addison Stewart Ratliff is a member of Boy Scout Troop 93 in Marion, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Addison Stewart Ratliff has recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank which may be obtained by a Scout; and

WHEREAS, in earning the rank of Eagle Scout, Addison Stewart Ratliff has demonstrated the ability to work toward future goals, has developed a wide variety of skills, and demonstrated a devotion to God and Country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of Marion, Virginia, that Addison Stewart Ratliff be congratulated for his accomplishments as a Boy Scout.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Council extend best wishes for continued success to Addison Stewart Ratliff.

RESOLVED, this 1st day of March, 2010.

David P. Helms, Mayor

Susan H. Clark, Town Clerk

Mr. Ratliff explained that his Eagle Scout project was to construct twelve (12) major league baseball benches using composite wood materials for long life. The benches are in the Marion Senior High School Baseball Dugouts and can be removed if renovations need to be made to the dugouts.

FIRE DEPARTMENT-REQUEST FOR ORDINANCE AND FIRE COMMITTEE MEETINGS-RUSTY HAMM, FIRE CHIEF: Mr. Hamm requested a meeting of the Ordinance and Fire Committees to discuss collection of funds from DUI accidents. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Council approved the request from Mr. Hamm for the committee meetings.

EAST CHILHOWIE STREET BRIDGE-NOTICE OF INSURANCE AMOUNT FOR INSURED THAT DAMAGED BRIDGE-TOWN MANAGER: Mr. Clark explained that the estimated cost to repair the bridge is \$200,000. The insured's policy covers up to \$100,000, leaving the Town to incur the cost for the additional \$100,000. The Town would then have to seek restitution from the insured to collect the additional funds.

FARMER'S MARKET-COMMUNITY/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR-KEN HEATH: Mr. Heath reported that he has applied for a Tobacco Commission Grant to build restrooms in time for the 2011 season at the Farmer's Market. He has also budgeted for four (4) special event weekends. Mr. Heath proposes to make Town employee, Jim Burkett, as Market Manager and pay him at his overtime rate for the twenty-four (24) market weeks. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and vote 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Town Uplift Committee for study and recommendation.

APPALACHIAN SPIRIT GALLERY-ANNE HULL: Ms. Hull informed Council that the three (3) year contract for use of the building located at 144 W. Main Street between the Town and the Gallery will expire soon. Ms. Hull stated that the Appalachian Spirit Gallery is grateful to the Town for the use of the building and added that funding for the Gallery is easier to acquire with a long term lease for the building. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Leaman and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Building & Grounds Committee for recommendation.

NEW HEALTH INSURANCE RATES-TOWN MANAGER: Mr. Clark reported that the Town is in receipt of the new insurance rates for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 from Anthem Local Choice of Virginia. A proposed increase of 6.4% will be effective July 1, 2010. This rate increase will impact the Town employees by an average of \$4.00 per pay period. Dr. Gates asked that the Renewal Analysis page be checked for accuracy.

PENDING PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT-TOWN ENGINEER: Mr. Hicks gave an update on the current projects. During construction on the S. Main Street water line, the soil was disturbed around the storm drain causing the drain to be damaged. The drain should be replaced at the S. Poston Street crossover. It should take approximately eight (8) days, Town personnel will do the work and the cost of materials will be approximately \$5,000. An excavator should be rented for this project, to decrease time for completion of the project, as S. Main Street has excessive traffic. The drain is approximately fifty (50) years old.

Marion Corrections purchased a meter and planned to lay an eighty (80) foot line and tie in to their own line. To date, the new line has not been laid and the Town is still maintaining the current line. Marion Corrections should be maintaining their own line at this time.

DOWNTOWN HOUSING BOARD APPOINTMENT: By motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mrs. Hale and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Weaver was appointed to the Downtown Housing Board to fill the un-expired term, for 2009-2010, of Mr. Warren.

RECREATION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Mrs. Clark informed Council that three (3) terms expire 3-1-2010 and the Recreation Director is currently interviewing persons to serve on the committee. Upon motion of Mr. Leaman, seconded by Dr. Gates, and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was continued.

NORFOLK & SOUTHERN RAILROAD: Mr. Frank Detweiler stated his concerns about the wires dangling from the railroad poles on Chatham Hill Road and other areas of the Town. The wires are an eyesore and should be removed. Mr. Clark will contact Norfolk & Southern and state the concerns.

RETIREMENT DINNER FOR DIXIE SHEETS: Mrs. Jennings thanked Mrs. Clark for organizing the dinner for Ms. Sheets and added that it was well attended and very nice.

SNOW EVENT: Mrs. Jennings expressed her thanks and gratitude to the Town employees who helped those citizens that couldn't get their trash to the curb for pick up.

MARCH OF DIMES WALK: Mayor Helms stated that the March of Dimes walk is scheduled for May 1, 2010 beginning at the River Bend Park.

VFW MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Mayor Helms informed Council that the Memorial Day event plans are well under way.

SCHOOL HOUSE PROJECT: Mr. Heath stated that the contractor, Improvements Unlimited, began work on the school house.

NEWSLETTER: Mr. Heath informed Council that the Town Newsletter should be mailed this week.

NEW POLICE OFFICER: Chief Roberts reported that the Police Committee interviewed the applicants and offered the job to an applicant that is certified contingent upon results of a background check.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (4) and upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Leaman, and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Council entered into Closed Session to discuss personnel matters. Mrs. Jennings moved that Town Council return to Open Session and that it be known that only those matters legally exempted from Open Session and identified in the motion were discussed during the Closed Session. Mrs. Hale seconded the motion. Council approved the motion by a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. Mrs. Jennings, Mrs. Hale, Messrs Weaver, Leaman, Cregger, Hendrick, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk