

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 4, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, 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 Cecil Hicks and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Joe Naff, Linda Burchette, Charles Hayden, Michael Pennington, Wayne and Linda Pennington, John Clark, James Tyler, Stacy Ely, Anita Catron and CB Gwynn.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 19, 2019 were approved as distributed. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Carter, Jennings and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

Mayor Helms read a poem titled “Badges” written by local citizen Ann Jackson.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in honor of Retirement of Linda Pennington was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution and gift to Mrs. Pennington and her family. Mr. Clark spoke about his work experiences with Mrs. Pennington as previous Town manager.

James Tyler, Smyth County Community Hospital representative, gave an update on hospital operations. He distributed and reviewed a hospital performance report. The hospital has been awarded an Opioid Grant for \$747,000 over a three year period to help with substance abuse in the area. The hospital has applied to get an incinerator to dispose of drugs. Chief Clair noted the hospital has equipped all Smyth County Officers with sharps containers.

Mayor Helms noted the Committee meeting schedule for March was distributed. There will be an event Sunday, March 10 at 3:00 pm for the changing of the Command at the Army Reserve Center.

Chief Clair noted the VFW Officer of the Year awards will be announced April 4, 2019. An advertisement for Police Officer has been published. Sergeant Billings has been assigned to code enforcement.

Mr. Heath distributed the Summer Concert Series list.

Mr. Hicks reported the paving bids are due March 15, 2019. The town spring meter design is almost complete. The Water Treatment Plant has achieved the Gold Award for Excellence in Water again.

Mr. Rush reported the South Church Drainage Project will be handled by new employee Jeff Spickard. Phase III and IV Water projects loans closed last week. Mr. Rush reviewed the Mt Rogers Planning District Commission 5 year updated Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Resolution needs to be in place to be able to apply for funding, if needed. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted. The Auditor of Public Accounts letter regarding fiscal stress was followed up with a conference call to clarify several responses to the questionnaire. A letter has been received noting no fiscal stress for the Town of Marion.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Mayor

Clerk