

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 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Jim Barker (arrived late), Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Larry Carter Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk (arrived late); Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair, Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Avery Cornett and Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates.

VISITORS: Joe Naff, CB Gwyn, Richard & April Keesling, Tracy Sledd, Kennedi Sledd, Roger Tilson, Jerry Breen, Bo Surber, Joe Ellis, Tim White, Stacey Ely, Anita Perry and Billy Buchanan.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 21, 2020 were approved as written. Messrs Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of BZA Appointment under Town Manager.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Chief Richard Keesling gave a brief summary on a Cardiac Monitor Grant. This is a 50/50 grant from Virginia Office of EMS. Ballard Health is going to provide an additional grant to cover the Town's portion. Anita Perry, Ballard Health Representative, noted it was an honor to assist the Town's Fire/EMS Department with the grant. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the Ballard Health grant was accepted to assist with the purchase of Cardiac Monitors. Mr. Rush and Mayor Helms expressed their appreciation to Ballard Health. Mr. Barker arrived.

Mayor Helms presented Extra Mile Certificates to Richard Keesling, April Keesling, Tracy Sledd, Kennedi Sledd, Jerry Breen, Bo Surber and Roger Tilson, members of the Fire/EMS Department. These members arranged and participated in a tour with Santa riding the Fire Truck around Marion neighborhoods. Mayor Helms expressed his appreciation for the members initiating this since the Christmas Parade was cancelled.

Mr. Barker reviewed a request for funds from Song of the Mountains. Tim White, Song of the Mountains Representative, reported the show Saturday went well and was the first live stream. There were approximately 1,600 viewers and approximately 80 people in the theatre. Mr. White thanked council for their support. Billy Buchanan spoke requesting council to restore funding to the show and consider funding for the 2021-2022 budget. Mr. Buchanan also reviewed finances for Song of the Mountains. Joe Ellis, Executive Producer, noted the program has come a long way since 2005 and the future hopes are for 24 shows per year. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and

0 NOES, the Song of the Mountains funding will be restored to the pre fiscal 2020-2021 budget at \$4,166 monthly beginning January 2021.

Ms. Spencer reported Smyth County Tourism Center has hired a director, Amanda Livingston from Abingdon. She will begin this month.

Mayor Helms reported he received the COVID-19 vaccination today and the location site was well organized.

Mr. Fenyk reported the final 4 liens were recorded today on the property maintenance project. Michael Zumpf's term on the Board of Zoning Appeals expired on September 13, 2020. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Michael Zumpf was recommended to be reappointed by the judge for another 5-year term to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Ms. Stanley reminded all of the deadline for filing the Statement of Economic Interest forms.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts payable were approved for payment as submitted in the amount of \$1,494,701.97. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings and Carter voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair noted the new website is great and Ally White is doing a good job updating the website. Chief Clair gave an update on ECO/TDO's noting the department had 177 hours at Smyth County Community Hospital the first few days in January. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rush noted Chief Clair is spearheading the Qualified Immunity issue. Mr. Rush noted it is important to let the legislators know your feelings. He asked everyone to please respond to the action calls.

Mr. Heath is on the VML Legislative Review Committee. He encouraged council members to respond to the action call regarding moving council elections from May to November.

Mr. Rush noted the Cares Act funding deadline has been extended. VDOT Highway Maintenance quarterly report looks to be on target for December 31, 2020. The variance request for 1206 Culbert Drive was denied by the Board of Zoning Appeals at today's meeting.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Personnel. 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 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings and Carter voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, upon favorable review after 6 months as both CIRP Director and Public Works Director, Tony Muncy will have a salary increase of \$6,000 effective December 2, 2020.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Mayor

Clerk