

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 15, 2021 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, Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Allen Kelly, Greg Tucker, Bob Brandenburg, Richard Keesling, Jim Talley and Amanda Livingston.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 1, 2021 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter 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 with the addition of the audit presentation by Bostic Tucker CPA Firm under public presentation.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Ms. Spencer introduced Amanda Livingston, the new Tourism Director. Ms. Livingston spoke, noting she has been in the position for 3 weeks. She is originally from Atlanta and has worked for Abingdon tourism for 6 years. Ms. Livingston reported her primary focus will be on Economic Development and working closely with the localities.

Greg Tucker, Bostic Tucker CPA Firm representative, reviewed the June 30, 2020 audit which concluded in December. Mr. Tucker reported there were no audit exceptions and the audit has been filed with the Auditors of Public Accounting.

Mr. Barker noted Cameron Wolfe's term on the Marion Planning Commission will expire March 31, 2021. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Cameron Wolfe was reappointed to the Marion Planning Commission.

Mr. Rush noted the Fire/EMS report did not get included in the agenda packet. Mr. Talley reported on the year end numbers. There were 2,365 calls in 2020, of those 391 were fire calls. Motor vehicle accidents account for 40% of the fire calls.

Mayor Helms noted the town continues to rely on Mr. Heath for the COVID-19 updates from the Governor's office.

Mr. Fenyk reported the deed for Callan Drive Recreation Park option is ready. The Matson Drive deed has been recorded.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts payable were approved for payment as submitted in the amount of \$1,297,691.96. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair met with the VFW and submitted the Officer of the Year recommendation.

Mr. Heath reported he is working with Marion Downtown on securing contracts for summer events with Coronavirus clauses in place to cover the need for cancellation. Mr. Heath reported a business owner's concern about the need for a four way stop sign at Lee and Church Street. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the four way stop sign concern was referred to the Street Committee. Mr. Heath reviewed the quotes on Christmas decorations for Snowflakes with led lights. The option for 40' matching swags was discussed. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Heath is to purchase the snowflakes and Christmas tree and to research the potential of the matching swags if the existing utility poles can accommodate. Mr. Heath noted the Farmers Market roof needs updating. Discussion ensued. Research will continue and report will be given at next council meeting.

Mr. Rush reported no significant updates since last council meeting. Mr. Rush noted discussion needs to continue on the tax sale properties.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Mayor

Clerk