

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 June 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Larry Carter Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley, Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Police Chief John Clair, Fire Chief Richard Keesling, Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm, Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Director of the Henderson School Catherine Schrenker.

ABSENT: Avery Cornett.

VISITORS: Charles Wassum, III, Alice and James Neel, and Terri Neel-Kinder.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Chief Clair 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held June 7, 2021 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution for Alice Neel in Recognition of Five Decades of EMS Service was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Alice Neel and her family.

Mr. Barker recognized and thanked the Police, Fire and EMS crews for their work this past weekend, which was extremely busy.

2021-2022 Budget Adoption: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the proposed 2021-2022 budget was adopted.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Barker	AYE
Dr. Gates	AYE
Ms. Spencer	AYE
Mrs. Jennings	AYE
Mr. Weaver	AYE
Mr. Carter	AYE

Ms. Spencer reported the Tourism office has moved to the county building.

Mr. Weaver commended the Caring for the Community group for all their hard work on volunteer projects this week.

Mr. Carter reported District III met last week and they will be having a vehicle surplus sale.

Mayor Helms noted he attended the Mt Pleasant Juneteenth event. There were approximately 70-80 participants. Mayor Helms noted there will be a June 30, 2021 meeting to close out the year. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a special called meeting to close out the year end will be held June 30, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the first council meeting in July will be cancelled.

Mr. Fenyk reported the Matson Drive deed is in process and waiting on signatures. Mr. Fenyk is working on the title searches for the Huber and Bostic land donations.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts payable were approved for payment as submitted in the amount of \$1,403,336.60. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair noted the new marijuana legalization statutes, traffic stop prohibition statutes and FOIA changes will become effective July 1, 2021. The annual report was included in the packet; this was compiled by Officer Eades.

Chief Keesling noted the call volume is up 7.5% from last year.

Ms. Schrenker reported the guitar workshops were able to continue safely during COVID. A third guitar workshop has been added this year. There will be a fiddle workshop in August. There is a Crooked Road touch screen kiosk at the Henderson School.

Mr. Heath noted there will be live music at the food park on the 23rd. The housing study for the BAUD program has been awarded for \$15,000.

Mr. Fenyk noted the Henry Street property owner went to court on the blighted and received the maximum fine of \$200.

Mr. Rush noted the paving should be approximately 90% complete this week. Public Works has hired three part-time employees. The Callan Drive Recreation Park request for drawdown is being compiled. The adjacent property owner to the Columbia Right of Way has contacted the Town Manger and has no interest in purchasing the property. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Columbia Right of Way vacation and sale of the property to the interested party was approved.

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 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Personnel matters. 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk