

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 April 1, 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 (arrived late) 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. Heath rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag. Larry Carter arrived.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Joe Naff, Rex Anders, Donna Sawyers, Rick Bubert, John Crabtree, Claude Heath, Nate Clark, Ronald Null, Herbert & Emma Johnson, Wanda Owens, John Tanning, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Don Edwards, Becky Edwards, Mike Edwards, Michelle Eller, Robert Eller, Joey Eller and Johnny Eller.

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 March 18, 2019 were approved as distributed. Messrs Barker, 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 welcomed citizens and VFW members and thanked them for their service to our country.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in honor of the Retirement of SFC Kenneth Bradford from the Army Reserve Center was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to SFC Kenneth Bradford.

Nate Clark, Hungry Mother State Park Manager, distributed handouts with park information. He gave updates on the park regarding economic impact and park programs. He reported attendance at the park last year was approximately 290,000 visitors and approximately 77,000 overnight guests. He also reported an upcoming project of replacing the bridge to the Amphitheatre, which was built in the 1970's.

Mike Edwards, Smyth-Wythe Airport Representative, gave an airport update, noting the Virginia Airport Economic Development group has published the impact study. There are 2 new aircrafts securing spots at the airport.

Donna Sawyers, Cumberland Street, expressed her concerns about animal ordinances not being enforced. Mr. Cornett addressed her concerns for help with her issues. She noted she has resided there for 59 years and she is having issues with the neighbor's dog.

Anna Leigh DeBord reported the Smyth County Museum will be opening for the season on Sunday, April 28, 2019 between 2:00 and 4:00 pm.

Mr. Barker reported the arborist will be returning to check on Sally's Crying Tree.

Dr. Gates noted the Budget Committee has met and will continue to work on the budget process.

Mrs. Jennings congratulated Mayor Helms on his Emory & Henry Service Citation.

Mr. Weaver asked for someone to follow-up on Ms. Sawyers' issue.

Mayor Helms noted the Mt Rogers Planning District Commission Annual meeting will be Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 5:30 pm at the Holston Hill Community Golf Course. The Town of Marion will host the VML Regional meeting April 23, 2019 at 6:00 pm at the Golf Course. The VML Annual Conference will be October 6-8 in Roanoke.

Chief Clair noted the VFW Officer of the Year awards will be announced Thursday, April 4, 2019. This event will begin at 6:15 pm at the VFW Post. A new Police Officer, Tyler Hinchey, has been hired and will begin on April 3, 2019.

Mr. Heath noted there will be an opportunity at the VML Conference for the Town of Marion to setup a vendor booth. The Farmers Market opens May 4, 2019. Song of the Mountains “Hee Haw Day” will also be May 4. Mr. Heath reviewed an RBEG loan for 36 Fifty Brewing. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG Small Business Loan Application #17 for 36 Fifty Brewing was approved for \$15,000 at 2% interest for 60 months. Mr. Heath presented Mayor Helms with an Emory & Henry Service Citation.

Mr. Hicks reported leak study will begin this spring to include 4, 6, and 8 inch meters to be recalibrated. There will be a Pre-Bid April 11, 2019 for the South Church Street Drainage Project. Bids will be due April 25, 2019. Water tank inspections are underway. Interiors are in good condition, we are looking to recondition exteriors.

Mr. Rush reviewed the garbage pickup schedule change.

Mayor Helms noted there is a thank you letter in the packet from the Virginia Police Association for the Town’s donation in honor of Trooper Lucas Dowell.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Mayor

Clerk