

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 August 16, 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 left early, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley, Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair, Fire Chief Richard Keesling, and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Charles Wassum, III.

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 August 2, 2021 were approved as written. Messrs Gate, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: None.

Mr. Rush noted the list of ARPA projects submitted has been compiled. Staff will do a ranking recommendation and that will be submitted to council. Mr. Rush reviewed the BPOL date change previously voted on by council. This will require a Public Hearing with an ordinance amendment. Ms. Stanley reviewed the proposed changes to the Elderly and Disabled tax relief income limits. The town election date change and the cigarette tax rate will require public hearings. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a public hearing will be set for October 7, 2021 for the BPOL due date change, the proposed Elderly and Disabled tax relief form, the town election date change, and the cigarette tax rate change. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the first council meeting in October will be moved to Thursday, October 7, 2021 due to the VML Conference.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts payable were approved for payment as submitted in the amount of \$773,085.22. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Barker reported Brian Reed is willing to serve another term on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, it is recommended that Brian Reed be re-appointed by the judge to serve another term on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone the VDOT Public Hearing on the Pendleton Street SmartScale Project will be tomorrow from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Mayor Helms reviewed the Extra Mile

Day Program. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Extra Mile Day Program will continue. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the first meeting in September will be changed to Tuesday, September 7, 2021 due to the holiday.

Chief Clair reported National Day Out Event at the Town Pool was a big success. There were approximately 400 attendees.

Chief Keesling reported a total of 226 calls for the month of July.

Mr. Heath noted the Sorensen group will be visiting September 9, 2021. There will be a Patriots Day Program September 11, 2021 at noon. Mr. Heath reviewed the next RBEG Loan Application. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG loan for The Blade Barber Shop/Mike Mabry for \$15,000 at 2% interest from the USDA loan pool was approved. Council reaffirmed Halloween neighborhood trick or treating will occur as per calendar. Trunk or Treat/Halloween Madness is set for Saturday before Halloween.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk