

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 October 4, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley, Town Attorney Mark Fenyk, Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Lieutenant Rusty Hamm, Fire Chief Richard Keesling and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Bill Weaver.

VISITORS: Hannah Dolan, Divya Das, Michael Mueller, Ryan Cartwright, Kevin Barrett, Melanie Barrett, Rocky Sims and Dyroni dos Santos.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held September 20, 2021 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: None.

Mr. Barker reviewed a rezoning request. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a rezoning request for 1128 Snider Street from MA (Medical Arts) to R-3 (Residential Multi-Family) was referred to the Planning Commission.

Dr. Gates reviewed the bids submitted for Phase VI Sewer. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the bid for Grading Compost Treatment System Phase VI Sewer, will be awarded to the lowest bidder, Little B Enterprises for \$85,050.

Mrs. Jennings noted The Lincoln Theatre has received an additional \$39,000 in funding for operational expenses. She also distributed the latest newsletter for the theatre.

Mayor Helms reported the Red Kettle Drive will be held this year. The first meeting is Thursday at the VFW at 7:30 pm. Please submit any Extra Mile Award Nominations to Economic Development office by third week in October. These will be presented at the first November meeting. A Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be October 16, 2021 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Smyth County Administration Building.

Mr. Fenyk reviewed 4 upcoming Public Hearings: BPOL due date change to March 1 each year, a proposed amendment to the Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief form, an Election Day change ordinance and documents required for the Cigarette Tax Rate. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker

and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the four previously named public hearings will be held October 18, 2021.

Lieutenant Hamm reported there were eight applicants for current Police Officer openings and five were tested last Thursday. The Academy begins mid-January 2022. Several new Police vehicles are in the process of being equipped with funds received from a USDA grant.

Chief Keesling reported a record 24 calls in a 24-hour period occurred last Monday. All calls were covered by the department. There were 280 calls in September.

Mr. Heath reviewed upcoming events, noting the Chili Cook Off will be this weekend. The new roof for the Farmers Market will be installed soon. Mr. Heath reviewed a letter recommending review of the current code and ordinances regarding tattoo shops. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, review of the current code and ordinances regarding tattoo shops was referred to the Planning Commission.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk