

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 November 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, Economic Development Director Ken Heath Economic Development Assistant Cyndi McCloskey.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Rex Anders, Dyron dos Santos, Rocky Sims, Britt Tickle, Oaklyn Graybeil, Rose Likens, Evan Shook, Caitlin McCloud, Nick & Tessa Brown, Kevin & Melanie Barrett, Rod & Carol Brehum, Don Cornwell, Jennie Bostic, Michelle Ward, Tyler Adams, Charles Wassum, Baylen Dillow, Ethan Dillow, Jane Sims and Dean Sprinkle.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held November 1, 2021 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Helms noted Council would like to recognize Dean Sprinkle with Wytheville Community College. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Celebration of Wytheville Community College as one of the Top 150 Community Colleges in America as recognized by the Aspen Institute was accepted. Mr. Heath read and presented the resolution to Mr. Sprinkle.

Cyndi McCloskey presented certificates to the winners of Scarecrow Lane, the Collins House, Broad Street Coffee & Treats and Smyth County Recovery Court. There were 16 businesses that participated.

Rose Likens gave an update on the library noting it is fully opened now with approximately 1,500 patrons per month. The library has a pilot program with the health department to distribute home COVID test kits at no charge.

Mr. Rush reported council had conditionally granted a Special Use Permit for Mr. Sims to operate a tattoo shop. The agreement was signed by the two petitioners and the landlord. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Special Use Permits were granted for Rocky Sims and Melanie Barrett to operate a tattoo shop at 718 North Main Street. Mr. Sims thanked everyone and reported to hopefully be open by February.

Mr. Barker sends his condolences to Officer Chandler's family and the Big Stone Gap Community.

Mrs. Jennings reported there was almost 500 attendees at the Rhonda Vincent concert at the Lincoln Theatre. Lori Morgan will perform on August 20, 2022.

Mr. Carter noted he had served on the Chamber Board for 6 years. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Avery Cornett was appointed to the Chamber of Commerce Board.

Mayor Helms reviewed the upcoming holiday closures and asked council to consider closing at noon on Wednesday. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town of Marion offices will close at noon on Wednesday, November 24, 2021. The Town & County meeting is December 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at the Bonham House in Chilhowie.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, 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 \$1,179,027.69. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair reported the final step in accreditation is scheduled for March 2022.

Mr. Heath reminded everyone of the BAUD workshop on Friday. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Main Street will be closed for the Christmas Parade Friday, December 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Rush noted sewer system smoke testing will begin this week. The results should be available by the next council meeting. Paving is complete. The McIntyre water tank rehab is complete.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1 and A-3), upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of personnel and real estate. 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 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

