

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 January 3, 2022 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 Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair, Fire Chief Richard Keesling and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Avery Cornett.

VISITORS: Charles Hayden, Edwina Richardson and Rex Anders.

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 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 20, 2021 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Gates, 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: Edwina Richardson, 337 Wassona Circle, Marion Middle School Principal, expressed great appreciation on behalf of all the Marion schools for the support and investment from council.

Mr. Barker reported the Marion Police Department handled a serious situation this weekend very well.

Mayor Helms expressed his appreciation to Vice-Mayor Gates for filling in for him in his absence last meeting. The next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 18, 2022 due to the holiday. The VFW Teacher of the Year is Marion Senior High School's Jason McClure. The Red Kettle Drive collected approximately \$30,000. Mayor Helms appreciated the volunteer bell ringers. The Letters from Home ladies want to return to Marion for Memorial Weekend 2023. They will be doing a tour of the 50 states ending here in Marion.

Mr. Fenyk reported the deed has been recorded for the property purchased from BELE, LLC.

Ms. Stanley distributed the Statement of Economic Interest forms. A fillable electronic version was also distributed. These will be due back by Tuesday, February 1, 2022.

Chief Clair has spoken with Mr. Johnson about traffic concerns on Strother Street. VDOT will implement a traffic study for that area. The Police Department has submitted a grant for illuminated signs and traffic count equipment. Chief Clair is working on Mr. Hayden's urban archery concerns. There are approximately 50 towns in Virginia that offer this program. This year is the 80th Anniversary of the Marion Police Department. The Police Academy will run 3 sessions this year. The Academy sent a thank you letter for the in kind instructor hours Marion provides.

Mr. Heath mailed budget request letters to community partners.

Chief Keesling noted the Fire/EMS Department will probably reach over 2,700 calls for the year. This is 275 more than the busiest year.

Mr. Rush noted the VDH and DEQ required public hearings will be set for January 18, 2022. He reviewed the committee meetings, noting some committees with time sensitive items have been moved up to January.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk