

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 15, 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 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; Police Officers Josh Taylor and Tyler Hinchey; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath, Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch and Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Schrenker.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: CB Gwyn, Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Donna Sawyers, Emily Brittingham, Gaby Nguyen, Haley Anderson, Julia Castlebery, Ed Pietrzak and Kelly Leonhardt.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 1, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

Chief Clair recognized Officer Josh Taylor for receiving the "Officer of the Year" Award through the VFW.

Chief Clair introduced new Police Officer Tyler Hinchey, noting he served Washington County since 2012 and he is also a certified Firefighter/EMT. Mayor Helms swore in Officer Hinchey.

Mr. Barker introduced Mr. Ed Pietrzak, Friends of Mt Rogers President. Mr. Pietrzak reviewed the mission statement for Friends of Mt Rogers and the Wayne Henderson School of Appalachian Arts, noting several common goals. On behalf of the Friends of Mt Rogers, Mr. Pietrzak presented a \$1,000 check to the Henderson School.

Emily Brittingham spoke as a representative of the APTA Professional Advocacy Project through Emory & Henry College. This is a photo voice research project to gain community perspective. Of the 68 photos and 38 narratives submitted, the common theme was walkability. Another student addressed the potential of grant writing to help accomplish these goals.

Mr. Barker reported Arbor Day will be celebrated May 20, 2019 at 1:30 pm at Marion Elementary School.

Dr. Gates noted the 2019-2020 draft budget has been distributed to council members. Mr. Rush noted a few budget items will be addressed and there will be an updated version at the next council meeting. A public hearing will be set for May and adopted in June.

Mrs. Jennings noted the need to set a Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.

Mayor Helms reminded members the Town will host the VML Regional Supper on April 23, 2019 at Holston Hills Community Golf Course. The VML Annual Conference will be October 6-8, 2019 in Roanoke. Chamber of Commerce Annual Clean Up Day will be April 22, 2019 from 3:30-6:00 pm at RiverBend Park. Mayor Helms attended the Mt Pleasant Heritage event last Saturday.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,139,793.86. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair reported the Police Department is preparing to assist with summer events.

Mrs. Veatch reported the Farmers Market will open May 4, 2019 for the season. She also presented a new logo for the Farmers Market.

Ms. Schrenker attended a grant writing conference in Nashville. A Women in Lutherie Summit will be held at the Henderson School in June 2020. There will be Literary events in March 2020 to celebrate Sherwood Anderson. Jane Henderson will be teaching an Inlay Class.

Mr. Heath noted the Director of Marion, NC thanked Ken for mentoring them through the Pop Up Program. The World's largest baked potato will be in Marion May 13-15, 2019.

Mr. Hicks noted paving starts tomorrow on South Main. Church Street Drainage Project bids will be opened Thursday, April 25, 2019 at 2:00 pm. Mr. Hicks' department has completed evaluation of all 11 water tanks.

Mr. Rush presented a modified partial vehicle take home program. This program will be merit based with a 10 mile radius boundary. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Take Home Vehicle Program (Part-Time) was adopted. Mr. Rush reviewed the plans for the Dog Park to be located on the Quarry Property, on the corner of Callan Drive and Park Blvd. This can be implemented for a minimal cost other than fencing. Donations of approximately \$8,000 have been received and a tentative logo has been drafted.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Mayor

Clerk