

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 May 2, 2022 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, Assistant Town Manager Billy Hamm, Town Clerk Cindy Y Stanley, Town Attorney Mark Fenyk, Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Lieutenant Rusty Hamm and Fire Chief Richard Keesling.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Charles Hayden, Charles Wassum, Allen Kelly and Rex Anders.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mrs. Jennings 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 April 18, 2022 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed, with the addition of pool scholarships under Town Manager.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Allen Kelly, Caring for the Community representative, invited council to the First Responder dinner at Station 2 on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 between 4:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Charles Wassum noted the Town Website has the address for the Water Treatment Plant spelled incorrectly.

Mr. Barker noted one property was purchased at the tax sale held on April 29.

Ms. Spencer reminded everyone the Staley Overlook Dedication will be Friday, May 6, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Jennings gave an update on the Lincoln Theatre.

Mr. Cornett reported he had visited the Blue Ridge Discovery Center.

Mayor Helms noted work continues on the Memorial Day event. This year Rolling Thunder will move to Sunday, May 29, 2022 inside the Lincoln Theatre. He noted this is the 20th year Marion has been recognized as a Tree City USA.

Mr. Fenyk reported the Rotary Club partnered with the Blue Ridge Discovery Center on a collaborative grant. Mr. Fenyk noted the land lease for grazing rights for the Exit 47 property is about to expire. Mr. Rush noted the property needs to be maintained. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, council approved advertising for RFP's for land lease for grazing rights on property at Exit 47.

Lieutenant Hamm reported there will be a Trooper Dowell Flag Ceremony Friday, May 13, 2022 at 11:00 am at Town Hall. He also reminded everyone of the youth fishing event hosted by DWR at Riverbend Park on May 7, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Officer of the Year Award will be presented on May 12, 2022 at the VFW Post at 5:30 p.m. The Police Academy Graduation will be May 19, 2022. The in person mock accreditation assessment will be June 1.

Chief Keesling reported there were 205 calls in March and 235 calls in April. A CPR class will be offered Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Station 1.

Mr. Rush reviewed Mr. Heath's report noting there are 2 RBEG loan applications for consideration. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the loan application for Justin Booher/Automotive Connection of Marion for \$15,000 at 2% interest over 60 months was approved. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the loan application for Tammy Murray/Sweet Bee Cupcakery for \$15,000 at 2% interest over 60 months was approved. Mr. Rush reviewed 2 VML Innovation Awards Mr. Heath is working on. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, council authorized Mr. Heath to pursue these awards.

Mr. Rush thanked council for appointing Billy Hamm as Assistant Town Manager. Mr. Hamm thanked council for the confidence and the opportunity. Mr. Rush noted Mr. Heath will be presenting BAUD on a National level. The BAUD Program will be on the website soon. Mr. Rush reported Billy Buchanan is willing to serve on the Marion EDA. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Billy Buchanan was appointed to the Marion EDA. Mr. Rush reviewed the pool renovations, noting the internal deadline for completion is May 21. The Waterpark will open Saturday, May 28, 2022. He noted W-L will begin patch paving Friday with main paving to begin in June. Phase VI Sewer is closing May 14. He reviewed plans for Ogburn Park Upgrade Project. Pool Scholarships were discussed with a \$500 and \$1,000 tier. The Department of Social Services will assist with implementation of the scholarship program based on need. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the scholarship program was approved.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

