

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 16, 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 Chief John Clair, Police Officer Mason Wagoner and Fire Chief Richard Keesling.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Charles Wassum.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Chief Clair 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 May 2, 2022 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed, with the addition of a closed session for Real Estate.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. Barker noted Mason Wagoner received the VFW Officer of the Year Award. Officer Wagoner read a Resolution in Recognition of National Police Week 2022. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Recognition of National Police Week 2022 was accepted.

Mr. Barker reported the Fire/EMS Station 1 needs a generator for power outages, as it is very difficult to open these doors manually. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, it was approved for Mr. Rush to research and quote the cost of a generator to run the Station 1. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rush noted the Town Hall does not have a generator as backup power source either. Mr. Rush reported FEMA grants have assisted with other town location generators and also ARPA funds are available. Mr. Rush believes both buildings can be equipped for under \$150,000. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush is authorized to obtain generators for Town Hall and Station 1 not to exceed \$150,000 without bringing it before council.

Dr. Gates noted the proposed 2022-2023 budget is ready to be advertised. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing for the proposed 2022-2023 budget will be held June 6, 2022.

Mrs. Jennings gave an update on the Lincoln Theatre, noting there were 437 in attendance for a ballet recital from the Bristol/Abingdon area. The theatre is partnering with Mt Pleasant Preservation Center May 21, 2022 for an event in honor of Evelyn Lawrence. The theatre is partnering with Back of the

Dragon May 22, 2022 to show a motorsports movie. Mrs. Jennings distributed a request for council to consider additional funding for the Lincoln Theatre in exchange for 10 events for the town. The Buildings and Grounds Committee met and reviewed 4 bids received for the grazing rights on the Exit 47 land for 5 years. The apparent low bidder was Mark Richardson at \$8,300 annually. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the bid from Mark Richardson for \$8,300 for 5 years for grazing rights of town property at Exit 47 was accepted, subject to review and executed lease.

Mayor Helms thanked the Caring for the Community volunteer group. There will be a Memorial Day Event planning meeting Thursday night.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,256,906.50. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Carter, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair reviewed the Pedestrian Traffic Awareness & Speed Management Grant. The Police Academy Graduation will be Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. That same evening a Retirement Dinner will be held at the Police Department for Officer Perdue.

Chief Keesling reported there were 236 calls in April. Chief Keesling gave an update on the new ambulance that has been ordered, noting an extension has been granted due to supply chain issues.

Mr. Rush noted Planning Commission met and the process for updating the Comprehensive Plan is underway with a goal of less history and more vision. A leak detection study was conducted last week revealing an 800 gallon per minute loss. Park Blvd Sidewalk/Drainage project is out for bid. A paving issue at the top of Park Blvd was discussed. Mr. Rush reviewed several options, using highway maintenance funds or State of Good Repair grant.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3), upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of 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 7:18 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

