

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 June 6, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, 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, Police Chief John Clair, Senior Police Officer Amber Eades, Economic Development Director Ken Heath and IT/Engineer Assistant Flave Davis.

ABSENT: Mayor David Helms, Suzanne Jennings and Bill Weaver.

VISITORS: Charles Wassum, Tracy Thompson, Addie Baird, Tori Powers, Maggie Crutchfield, Jerry Thompson, Ellen Dobson, Megan Beale, Rachel Ramos, Retired Police Officer Johnny Perdue, Norma Perdue, Ruthie Perdue, Abigail Hickman, Kendall Varner, Stephanie Brount, Courtney Phillips, Maddie Raab, Diane Hayes, Rex Anders and Dan & Sally Warn.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 16, 2022 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Vice-Mayor Gates welcomed the Emory & Henry students. Diane Hayes, Mount Pleasant Museum representative, thanked council for the Juneteenth Proclamation. There will be a celebration at the Emory & Henry Campus in Emory, VA. Vice-Mayor Gates read the Proclamation. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proclamation in Recognition of Juneteenth was accepted.

In recognition of Senior Police Officer Johnny Perdue's retirement, Chief Clair read and presented the resolution. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Honor of Johnny Irvin Perdue III on the Occasion of his Retirement was adopted.

Mr. Heath reported Sally Moorer has requested a resolution recognizing James Rogers. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Appreciation of James Rogers was adopted.

Michael Cravits, 809 Hickory Lane, expressed his concern regarding the Appalachian Power Franchise and possible mitigation and outages. He also requested a copy of the most recent franchise agreement. Mr. Rush noted the agreement is up for renewal.

Mr. Wassum, 321 Wassona Circle, spoke in reference to the proclamation for Juneteenth and recognition of slaves everywhere.

Tracy Thompson, Executive Director of the Lincoln Theatre, thanked council for their support and gave an update on events for the summer.

PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED FISCAL 2022-2023 ANNUAL BUDGET: Mr. Rush reviewed the \$16,056,652 proposed budget. Vice-Mayor Gates opened the Public Hearing. Mr. Wassum asked if the town has plans to decrease debt service. Discussion ensued. Vice-Mayor Gates closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Barker expressed his appreciation for the great Memorial Day Weekend and Parade. Mr. Barker would like to revitalize the Marion Tree Broad. Mr. Barker requested Chief Clair to speak about the recent shootings in the news. Chief Clair reported he and Lieutenant Hamm are attending training to continue to be good leaders, administratively and tactically.

Vice-Mayor Gates reminded council and staff of the VML Regional meeting June 23, 2022 in Galax.

Mr. Fenyk noted work will begin on the Appalachian Power Franchise renewal. Doug Covington, BZA member, does not wish to continue to serve. Recommendations for his replacement will be accepted.

Chief Clair asked Officer Eades to review the mock accreditation. Officer Eades noted there were 7 assessors here last week. It is possible the final accreditation process will happen in July. Chief Clair reviewed a USDA resolution to assist with police vehicle purchases. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution of Governing Body of the Town of Marion for police vehicles was adopted.

Mr. Heath reviewed an RBEG loan for Cross Mobile Detailing. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG loan application for Kevin Cross – Cross Mobile Detailing for \$15,000 at 2% interest for 60 months was approved.

Mr. Rush reported the Water Park is 90 % complete. He noted the revenues for the first 10 days have been strong. Mr. Rush gave an update on CIRP projects. The bid process for Park Blvd drainage project has been cancelled. Mr. Barker reviewed the RiverBend Parking area, noting the parking lot will be paved next year.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

