

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 November 7, 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 (arrived late) 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 Jasmine Franks; Police Chief John Clair, Fire Chief Richard Keesling, Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Assistant Cyndi McCloskey.

**ABSENT:** None.

**VISITORS:** Rose Likins, Michael Kravitz, Marie Lord, Phillip McElraft, Boy Scout Troop 93, Brian Reed, Dr. Bruzzo, David Fulton, Jennie Bostic and Addie Baird.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mr. Heath rendered the invocation. Boy Scout Troop 93 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 October 17, 2022 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Spencer, Barker, Jennings, Weaver and Cornett 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 amended, removal of closed session for personnel, addition of Brian Reed with Mt Rogers Planning District Commission, and addition of Cyndi McCloskey to present Scarecrow Lane winners.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:** Brian Reed, Mt Rogers Planning District Commission, presented a \$100,000 grant award for CIRP Phase 8 Sewer Treatment Plant upgrade.

Dr. Bruzzo, Marion Fire/EMS OMD, distributed an information packet and gave an update on the Fire/EMS Department. Dr. Bruzzo reviewed the Scope of Practice guidelines noting this determines how personnel can practice per state code. The Southwest VA EMS Council has regional governing protocols. Copies of these manuals and policies are stored at Town Hall in the safe. He reviewed the different levels of certification. He covered uses and administration of Narcan. Mr. Carter arrived. Dr. Bruzzo noted quality assurance is required by state code and he completes every quarter. As of January 1, 2022 all 911 agencies must be Enhanced Emergency Medical Dispatch systems. Dr. Bruzzo noted this department handles a very busy workload and it continues to increase. He discussed recruiting and retention. He recommends a minimum of 4 staff 24/7. He also discussed non-emergency calls and hopes to begin addressing this issue at the beginning of the year with the new 911 Dispatch Manager.

Ms. McCloskey distributed a Christmas poster of events. She announced Scarecrow Lane winners.

Mayor Helms presented a Resolution for Recovery Month 2022 to a member of the Recovery Court that was present.

Rose Likins, Smyth County Public Library, gave an update on the library noting she is working closely with the school librarians helping students get signed up for online library cards. A new exterior sign will be installed soon.

Phillip McElraft spoke about recruiting for parades and also noted he would like to do a pet parade in June.

Mr. Barker reported an Ordinance Committee meeting will be set soon and will include Chief Clair.

Dr. Gates reported the Finance Committee met and discussed the payoff of Engine 1. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the payoff for Engine 1 was approved for the Marion Volunteer Fire Department Inc. at approximately \$26,000. A Finance Committee meeting will be set to discuss additional items.

Ms. Spencer gave a tourism update.

Mrs. Jennings distributed a Lincoln Theatre flyer. She noted the theatre has received a grant for \$5,000 from VA Tourism. The Buildings and Grounds Committee met and discussed the Henderson School HVAC and Round Hill Cemetery. Mr. Rush reviewed the Henderson HVAC noting one of the units is inoperable. Mr. Rush has requested a proposal for replacement with conventional HVAC. He received the quote today to replace one side of the top floor. To replace one side of the top floor is \$13,950 for a 4-ton heat pump. Mr. Rush recommends updating the entire top floor with conventional HVAC not to exceed \$30,000 with Custom Air. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the top floor of the Henderson School will have the HVAC replaced with conventional HVAC not to exceed \$30,000 with Custom Air. Mr. Rush continued with discussion on Round Hill Cemetery noting the annual cost of upkeep at approximately \$75,000. He would like to implement a sinking fund. He recommends increasing the cost per grave to \$1,200 and not allow any bulk buying. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the new cost of a grave is \$1,200 and no bulk buying will be allowed.

Mr. Weaver reported Personnel Committee is still working on Mr. Rush's review and the comp time policy.

Mr. Carter noted District III has lost some key personnel.

Mr. Cornett noted the Smyth County Chamber of Commerce dinner will be November 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Mayor Helms noted the Fire/EMS Committee met on auto aid. There will be a meeting with Smyth County Public Safety Committee on November 22, 2022 at 2:00 pm. The Salvation Red Kettle bell ringing will begin November 14, 2022. Mayor Helms suggested we try to meet the recommendations of Dr. Bruzzo on staffing.

Chief Clair will be attending Incident Management Training next week.

Chief Keesling reported a large Halloween Madness turnout.

Mr. Heath asked to postpone the Housing Authority appointment. Mr. Heath reviewed American Revolution Celebration. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution Virginia America 250 Commission was accepted.

Mr. Rush noted the Chatham Hill Road Drainage project should be completed in two to three weeks. Phase 6 CIRP Water is complete. Mr. Rush will present the draft Comprehensive Plan update to Planning Commission next Monday. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission will be set for Monday, December 5, 2022 for consideration of the Comprehensive Plan update.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

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Mayor

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Clerk