

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 February 18, 2020 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 Linda Burchette; Police Chief John Clair; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Public Works Director Tony Muncy; IT Representative Todd Long; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

ABSENT: None.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Heath rendered the invocation. Members of Boy Scout Troop 93, Sawyer Jennings and Caden Hash, led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Mike Edwards, Charles Hayden, Jennifer Bralley, Carolyn Cooper, CB Gwynn, Dennis Jennings, Greg Tucker, Bob Bradenburg and Chris Hash.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 3, 2020 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mike Edwards gave an update on the Smyth Wythe Airport noting this is the slow season however, there is still a regular group of aircraft using the airport. The Tee Hangers are still being discussed. One of the embankments is deteriorating but is not a threat to the runway. Mr. Long left.

Jennifer Bralley, 222 Wolfe Avenue, Smyth County Humane Society Representative gave an update on the Trap Neuter Return Program. There have been 32 cats processed with this program and \$1,700 has been spent. Pearl Avenue will be the first target area in the spring. There are approximately 100 cats in that area.

Joe Naff, 148 Countryside Drive, inquired about the plans for the Old Buster Brown property. Mr. Rush reviewed the town's plan noting the building is used to store materials for the CIRP project. The long term plan when CIRP project is completed will be to demolish and replace with housing. Mr. Naff distributed photos of the property to council members noting tax payers are being held to a higher standard regarding the Property Maintenance Code.

Greg Tucker, Bostic, Tucker & Company PC., CPAs, reviewed the distributed June 30, 2019 audit for the town. There were no findings and it is in compliance with State Auditor standards. The surplus reserve was approximately \$600,000 at the end of June. The water/sewer fund are showing improvement. There were no audit exceptions.

Dr. Gates followed up to Mr. Naff's comments noting the Buster Brown property needs to be cleaned up.

Mrs. Jennings agreed with Dr. Gates.

Mr. Weaver agreed the outside of the Buster Brown property needs to be cleaned up.

Mr. Cornett referred the Golf Course Grill RFP's to the Town Manager. Mr. Rush noted there were no responses to the RFP. Discussion ensued. Mr. Cornett stated, "looking at a Return on Investment and this will never make money, but it is a service we provide to our citizens". Mr. Cornett suggested we continue the search to increase our amenities. Discussion ensued. Dr. Gates stated, "I can't defend this issue for food services." Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 1 NO, there will be no more RFP's for the Grill and we will continue to operate this calendar year and revisit in December.

Mayor Helms reported VML Legislative Day was very good and Town of Marion representatives met with several agencies including the Director of Aviation. The Salvation Army plans to develop early planning meetings for the upcoming year for the Red Kettle Drive. The WCYB Weather Tracker will be at Food City in Marion February 26, 2020 at 4:30 pm.

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 \$1,539,798.20. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Muncy reported the Golf Course bridge should be completed by Friday. An in depth water study for leaks will begin soon. North Main Street repairs will be completed before spring paving.

Chief Clair noted there will be a Memorial Day event planning meeting February 25, 2020. Tonight the VFW is meeting with Law Enforcement Agencies to accept nominations for Officer of the Year Award. These awards will be presented Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Chief Hamm reported the 24 hour EMS shifts appear to be working good.

Mrs. Veatch reported some Canadian students visited the Henderson School. There were four rooms of music with approximately 75 participants for JAM last night.

Mr. Rush noted in the next 45 days there will be a concentrated effort on leak detection. VDOT has awarded \$600,000 for spring paving under State of Good Repair Program. The Water Treatment Plant needs a raw water pump. The Sewer Treatment Plant needs an affluent pump for the wet well. Mt Rogers Planning District Commission has awarded \$64,000 for a wastewater grant. The VML Legislative Day was very productive. Mr. Rush noted new iPads have been purchased and council members can set up a time with the IT department to pick up their new ones. The old ones should be returned to IT department. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 1 NO, the old iPads will be offered for purchase at \$50 with the submitted recommendation of Chris King or they will be factory reset and used in other departments.

Mr. Heath noted the Economic Develop Department will be coordinating with the Police Department to alleviate Downtown Parking Issues.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Mayor

Clerk