

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia held at the Police Department on September 6, 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; 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, Fire Chief Richard Keesling and Firefighter/EMT Jim Talley.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Rex Anders, Charles Wassum, Michael Kravitz, Michael Perdue, Brandon Caldwell, Tim Ol, Jarod Brown and Kayleigh Johnson.

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

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 August 15, 2022 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Michael Kravitz, 809 Hickory Lane, spoke about the Abatement Ordinance. He also noted he had sent some recommendations to the Town Manager about the AEP Franchise renewal.

Charles Wassum, 321 Wassona Circle, spoke about council's oath and pledge to the Constitution.

Mr. Barker reviewed future plans for the Fire/EMS Department, noting the need to replace the 26-year-old fire engine. He noted the mileage is 92,200. He also reviewed out of service times for this engine. The approximate cost of a new engine is \$993,000. Chief Keesling and Mr. Talley noted the hours on the engine are more critical than the miles. Mr. Hamm reported this engine was purchased by Marion Volunteer Fire Department, Inc and still owes approximately \$28,000. He also noted it will need to be procured correctly. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and NOES, staff is to begin the procurement process for a new fire engine with Mr. Hamm and Chief Keesling working together on details.

Mrs. Jennings distributed the September Lincoln Theatre Newsletter.

Mr. Weaver noted Leslie Vanover is doing a great job as the Farmer's Market Manager.

Mr. Cornett attended the Caring for the Community board meeting last Thursday. He inquired about the budget allocation for this agency. He was informed the allocation was budgeted and a letter requesting the funds needs to be submitted.

Mayor Helms reminded staff and council of the VML Conference October 2-4, 2022. The Navy Band will provide free bluegrass music Thursday evening at the Lincoln Theatre. He noted the train museum is needing volunteer staff. Mayor Helms reviewed a Proclamation for Constitution week. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proclamation for Constitution week September 17-23, 2022 was adopted.

Mr. Fenyk noted the Town Manager had provided updates to the AEP Franchise agreement and has been submitted to AEP.

Ms. Stanley noted the personnel manual has been submitted to VACORP for review.

Chief Clair reminded staff and council of the 80th Police Department Anniversary at the next council meeting. He reviewed an application for a street closure on Main Street for the Homecoming Parade. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Main Street will be closed on Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 6:30 pm for the Homecoming Parade. He reviewed an application for a street closure on Iron Street. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Iron Street will be closed on Sunday, September 11, 2022 for the Mt Zion Family Day. Chief Clair will be attending a chief's conference in Roanoke next week where he hopes to be elected as the third Vice-President. Chief Clair left.

Chief Keesling reported there were 275 calls in August. Mr. Talley reviewed a FEMA Aid to Fire Fighter Grant. The grant is for an exhaust capture system at Station 1. There is a \$100,000 cap with a 5% town match, for a total investment from the town of \$45,000. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the FEMA Aid to Fire Fighter Grant was approved with the town investment of up to \$45,000.

Mr. Hamm reported the town pool closed yesterday. There were approximately 60 pool parties this season. He reported both generators are in stock at the vendor's warehouse and we have received the transfer switche for the municipal building. The Chatham Hill Road drainage project drop inlets are scheduled to arrive the end of this week. The road and the sidewalk continue to be undermined and collapsing from the storm water. Mr. Hamm noted the hydrant testing continues with approximately 30 completed to date. The high level tank refurbishment will begin this week. The offender crew will be assisting in the project. W-L Construction is scheduled to pave the week of September 20, 2022. Lee and Cherry Streets will be paved among other CIRP related areas. Park Blvd will be paved next summer utilizing a State of Good Repair Grant from VDOT. The town will have W-L Construction do some work in this area while they are paving this month.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk

