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 22, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Larry Carter Council Members; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Sergeant Kevin Testerman; Fire Chief Richard Keesling, Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

**ABSENT:** Avery Cornett.

**VISITORS:** Charles Wassum, Charles Hayden and Rex Anders.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mrs. Jennings 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 7, 2022 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** None.

Ms. Spencer noted the tourism report is in the packet. The Staley Overlook dedication on Highway 16 north will be Friday, May 6 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Helms noted the VFW continues to work on plans for the Memorial Day event. He recognized the swim team for going to the state meet. Marion Middle School students are working on the VML Essay Contest. Mayor Helms would like to revisit the consideration of purchasing a new garbage truck. He noted in talking to other agencies at VML Legislative Day and discussion in other groups, the timeframe to order and receive vehicles could be significant. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, consideration of purchasing a new garbage truck was referred to the Sanitation and Streets Committee. Discussion ensued regarding purchasing a new fire truck. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, consideration of purchasing a new fire truck was referred to the Fire and Police Committee. Mayor Helms read a letter from a citizen against deer hunting in town.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts payable were approved for payment as submitted in the amount of $1,891,084.57. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

Ms. Stanley reviewed a Resolution that would allow Town of Marion to offer a 457 plan to employees through the Virginia Retirement System. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Commonwealth of Virginia 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Resolution was adopted.

Sergeant Testerman noted the Police Department accreditation on-site visit will take place March 21, 22 and 23, 2022.

Chief Keesling reported there were 250 fire and ems calls in January 2022. The new ambulance will have a COVID decontamination unit onboard.

Mr. Heath reported Hill Studio will be at the next council meeting to review the results of the Town of Marion housing study.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

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Mayor Clerk