

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 May 20, 2019 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 Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: CB Gwyn, Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Mike & Diane Roberts, Jennifer Bralley and Lili Cornett.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 6, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL USE PERMIT 226 WEST COYNER AVENUE DIANE ROBERTS: Mr. Rush reviewed the special use permit application addressing parking and signage. Mayor Helms opened the public hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the public hearing. Mrs. Roberts addressed the reason for applying for the special use permit. Her aging mother needs her care and this will allow her to be at home with her mother and still be able to operate her business. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the special use permit for 226 West Coyner Avenue for Diane Roberts was approved.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: CB Gwynn, 1503 Park Boulevard, recommended several streets for consideration in the next paving schedule, specifically Park Boulevard, Catron Street and Culbert Drive. Mr. Rush noted with the CIRP Program, once all utilities are replaced in the right of ways, then the street will be sufficiently paved.

Mr. Barker noted there was a good attendance at the Arbor Day Celebration and 2 dogwood trees were planted.

Dr. Gates noted the 2019-2020 draft budget has been distributed and a public hearing will be set for June 3, 2019 at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Carter attended a District III meeting last Thursday and there was full representation of the board.

Mr. Cornett attended a Marion Downtown meeting. The Masonic Lodge Resolution was postponed.

Mayor Helms reminded members the VML Annual Conference will be October 6-8, 2019 in Roanoke. He gave a Memorial Day Celebration update noting the Rolling Thunder will be here at 11:00 am Thursday. The War Memorial Museum will be open Saturday, Sunday and Monday of that weekend. Letters from Home will perform at the Lincoln Theatre on Sunday, May 26, 2019 at 3:00 pm. They will visit the Francis Marion Manor after the performance. The Memorial Day Parade will be Monday at 10:00 am. The Army Band will perform at the Lincoln Theatre June 2, 2019.

Mr. Fenyk reminded members of the FOIA & COIA training. Mr. Rush suggested that the training be moved to sometime in the fall.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,250,394.57. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Rush noted Tony Muncy’s crew has found 2 major water leaks utilizing the new correlator.

Chief Clair reported the Police Department will be compiling data on traffic management and speed enforcement and draft a plan to address. There is a possibility legislation will be implementing some plan to assist with TDO’s and ECO’s. Discussion ensued.

Chief Hamm noted call volume continues to grow with over 100 calls in the first 15 days of May. As call volume continues to increase the discussion becomes county wide on how we can continue to sustain.

Mrs. Veatch distributed quilt trail cards. This was a great Downtown event. There are 2 new members on the Downtown Board. There will be a Cruise-In this Friday on Broad Street from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Mr. Hicks noted the State of Good Repair reimbursement has been submitted. Mr. Rush reviewed the South Church Street Drainage Project noting VDOT rejected the bids due to MBE and WBE qualifications. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the authorizations to accept the bids from the last meeting was withdrawn.

Mr. Rush reviewed the Prater Pump Station application. Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) may be able to fund upgrades to this pump station. This would be 100% grant at \$80,000. Mr. Rush reviewed 3 forms needed for this application. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the 3 forms were approved; 1-Disclosure of Lobbying Activities, 2-Assurances-Construction Program, and 3-Certifications regarding Lobbying; Debarment, Suspension and other Responsibilities Matters; and Drug-Free Workplace Requirements.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Real Estate. Mrs. Jennings moved that Town Council return to Open Session and identified it be known that only those matters legally exempted from Open Session and identified in the motion were discussed during Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaver and carried by a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES, 0 NOES and 1 ABSTAINED (Mr. Barker), Mr. Barker is authorized to pursue the purchase of Real Estate at the next tax sale.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Mayor

Clerk