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 April 4, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Deputy Clerk Samantha White, Town Attorney Mark Fenyk, Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair, Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Chairman Cameron Wolfe, Vice-Chairman Kimberly Austin, Bob Ramsey, Trey White, Ben Reedy, and Alice Freeman Planning Commission Members.

**ABSENT:** Suzanne Jennings

**VISITORS:** Charles Wassum, Charles Hayden, Donna Pennington, Rod Young, Ramzi Humsi, Tom Austin.

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

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held March 21, 2022 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

**JOINT PUBLIC HEARING REZONING REQUEST 1070 TERRACE DRIVE MA TO R-3:** Mayor Helms announced this is a Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission. He turned the meeting over to Planning Commission Chairman Wolfe. The request is for this property to be rezoned from MA (Medical Arts) to R-3 (Residential Multi-Family) to allow for apartments to be constructed. Dr. Humsi also requested that the two interior lot lines of his three properties be vacated. Adjacent property owner, Manuel Street, asked that Mr. Rush make known that he has no objections to the rezoning. Dr. Humsi provided a brief summary of his site plans. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Ramsey and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES (1 ABSTENTION, Mr. Wolfe), it is the recommendation of Planning Commission that the rezoning request for 1070 Terrace Drive from MA to R-3 be accepted. Upon motion of Mr. Reedy, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES (1 ABSTENTION, Mr. Wolfe), it is the recommendation of Planning Commission that the request to vacate interior lot lines for 1070 Terrace Drive be accepted. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. With no public comment, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the rezoning request, 1070 Terrace Drive from MA to R-3, and the request to vacate interior lot lines were approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING 619 DOVER ST SPECIAL USE PERMIT:** Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Special Use Permit for 619 Dover Street for Donna Pennington for a home-based accounting business was approved.

**PUBLIC HEARING VDH EXEMPTION ORDINANCE:** Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the resolution to request exemption from VDH inspections for temporary food booths/trucks at town-sponsored events was approved.

Mr. Barker requested that the Town’s Arbor Day celebration to be moved from April 29, 2022 to April 22 2022, Earth Day. A tree will be planted at the corner of River St and N Church St. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town will recognize April 22, 2022 as Arbor Day.

Dr. Gates noted the Budget Committee met and the process is going well. He recommends that a thorough evaluation of Fire Department equipment be done and would like the Police/Fire Committee to address this. Dr. Gates has received a request for upgrades to the pickleball court on Chatham Hill. Mr. Cornett stated that upgrades may be needed on the courts and other areas of the Chatham Hill Park. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, an evaluation of the Chatham Hill recreation area was referred to the Recreation Committee.

Mayor Helms noted that Social Services has placed pinwheels along Main Street for Child Abuse Prevention Month. Student Government Day will be held on April 28, 2022 and will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the Lincoln Theatre. The Community & Economic Development Committee will meet on April 5, 2022 at 3:30 p.m. in Mr. Heath’s office. VA Tourism hosted a regional meeting on April 1, 2022 at 36 Fifty Brewery and it was well attended.

Chief Clair spoke at Smyth County Museum on the history of Marion Police Department on April 3, 2022. Chief Clair and Lieutenant Hamm have continued work on their FEMA certifications.

Mr. Heath has coordinated with four Marion restaurants and WJHL for appearances on their daytime cooking segment. The BAUD housing study is complete and the feasibility study is 95% complete. The Town has been awarded a $10,000 Drive 2.0 VA Tourism Grant. Mr. Heath reviewed a gas card promotion that he hopes will begin in May.

Mr. Rush noted the Planning Commission met and continued to review zoning codes and Comprehensive Plan revisions. The Marion EDA will meet on April 7, 2022 at noon. Spring paving schedule has been distributed. Progress continues to be made on the waterpark pool and building. An abandoned water line on Spruce St was detected in the leak study. The Callan Drive Recreational Park grant passed the first level of award; the pre-award meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on April 5, 2022.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

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Mayor Deputy Clerk