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 June 20, 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; Town Manager Bill Rush, 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 and Fire Chief Richard Keesling.

**ABSENT:** None.

**VISITORS:** Charles Wassum, Rex Anders, Marie Lord and Michael Kravitz.

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

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held June 6, 2022 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 PRESENTATION:** None.

Mr. Barker suggested council recognize the Marion Senior High School students that achieved state championships in their sport. Parker White was the state tennis champion and Caleb Patton was the state swim champion. Mayor Helms will coordinate with the school system.

Mayor Helms thanked Vice-Mayor Gates for filling in during his absence from last meeting and for lining up the Memorial Day Parade. Mayor Helms attended the Juneteenth event at Emory & Henry College Saturday. The VML Regional meeting will be June 23, 2022 in Galax. Mayor Helms recognized Mr. Heath’s department for receiving the Main Street Program certification again. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a special called meeting will be held Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. for year-end close. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the July 4, 2022 council meeting will be cancelled.

Mr. Fenyk noted work will begin on the AEP Franchise renewal. Mr. Fenyk reported there will be a BZA opening in September due to Doug Covington not wishing to be reappointed. Mr. Rush recommended Chad Archer, noting he is interested in serving. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, council recommends Chad Archer for appointment to the BZA by the judge.

**2022-2023 Budget Adoption:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the proposed 2022-2023 budget was adopted.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of $1,666,359.51. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Carter, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair reviewed a street closure permit application. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the permit for a street closure on October 28, 2022 between 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Chestnut Street from Court to Strother was approved. Chief Clair will be attending VDEM Region 4 2022 Smyth County Rescue Task Force Response Plan Workshops. Options for transporting mental health patients, such as contractors, has become viable through the Alternative Custody Workgroups. The final accreditation is scheduled for mid-July.

Chief Keesling reported there were 266 Fire/EMS calls in May.

Mr. Rush reported the Planning Commission met last week and the revision of the Comprehensive Plan will be guided by the vision for Marion for the next 20 years. Mr. Rush reviewed several properties for consideration for deed of gift to the Marion EDA. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the 10 highlighted properties on the spreadsheet, see attached as record of minutes, were approved to donate to the Marion EDA by deed of gift. Quotes were received today on the two generators and it appears they will be under expected budget. There is an RFP in the packet for a garbage truck. Mr. Rush noted the estimate is $253,000 and the driver and mechanics assisted with writing the specifications. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the RFP for the garbage truck was approved. Mr. Rush noted there is a potential for some grant funding from USDA for the garbage truck. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution of Governing Body of the Town of Marion, Virginia for financial assistance with a solid waste collection vehicle was approved. The Bristol Landfill has received a 90-day consent order from DEQ about closure of the landfill. The Town Managers and the Smyth County Administrator have met and will continue to work on the best solution.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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Mayor Clerk