

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 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: 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 Representatives Stephanie Porter-Nichols and Linda Burchette; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm, Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Mayor David Helms.

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

VISITORS: CB Gwyn, Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Robert B Copeland, Dan Surface, John & El Saunders, Jennifer Bralley, Ron Thomason, Mike Albano, Rex Anders, Bob Watkins and RB Henderson.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 20, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs 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 PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Cornett reviewed a Resolution in Appreciation of John Saunders. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Appreciation of John Saunders was accepted. Mr. Cornett read and presented the Resolution to John Saunders. Rex Anders presented Mr. Saunders with a gift on behalf of Marion Downtown.

Mr. Cornett read and presented a Resolution in Celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the Marion Masonic Lodge #31 to the lodge members who were present. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Celebration of the 170th Anniversary of the Marion Masonic Lodge #31 was accepted.

Robert B Copeland, 761 Chatham Hill Road, spoke about the feral cat concern that was referred to the Ordinance Committee and asked about the status. Mr. Rush noted it will be presented to the Planning Commission Monday night for review.

PUBLIC HEARING 2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET: Vice-Mayor Gates and Mr. Rush reviewed the proposed 2019-2020 budget, noting the Library and Tourism were reduced by the Community and Economic Development Committee. Vice-Mayor Gates opened the public hearing.

Ron Thomason, Smyth County Tourism, thanked council for their past appropriations and asked them to consider increasing or keeping the same as last year.

Mike Albano, Robinhood Drive, requested for council to consider helping convert one of the tennis courts into a soccer field. His organization has raised \$13,000 and asked if the town would help with the labor.

With no other public comments, Vice-Mayor Gates closed the public hearing.

Mr. Barker commended Chief Clair on his Memorial Day Presentation.

Vice-Mayor Gates noted the Memorial Day Parade went well and maybe fewer in attendance than usual. He also noted the Mayor and Mr. Turk Johnson were missed. He reminded everyone of the VML Conference Oct 6-8, 2019 in Roanoke.

Ms. Stanley reviewed the Long Term Care Program offered through Virginia Retirement System. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Commonwealth of Virginia Voluntary Group Long Term Care Insurance Program Employer Adoption Agreement was approved.

Mr. Jennings noted there are 272 youth signed up for summer programs which began May 20, 2019. A football camp will be held July 10-11, 2019. Both pools are now open for the summer. There were 5 golf tournaments last month and 9 this month. There were 472 tokens sold for the driving range in May, which is equivalent to 13,000 balls.

Chief Clair noted the department is doing after action reviews of the Memorial Day event. Officers Horn and Horner will be conducting a bicycle safety program.

Mr. Heath attended a conference at Virginia Tourism Commission last week. His department is planning for a little different vendor location layout for the Chili Cook Off this year. Mr. Heath reviewed a Small Business Loan request. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Small Business Loan Pool request from Alisa Crosby for The Dive/Downtown Tavern, in the former Lucky Pub location, was approved for \$15,000 with terms of 2% interest over 60 months, contingent on approval of the property owner.

Mr. Hicks reported VDOT is conducting traffic counts in town with temporary data recording devices. The pre-bid meeting for South Church Street Drainage Project re-bid will be Thursday, June 6, 2019 and the bid opening will be Thursday, June 13, 2019. Mr. Hicks reviewed the tank repair schedule noting some grant money might be available.

Mr. Rush noted a grant application has been submitted for the Prater Pump Station. He also discussed the possibility of a pump station for the Attoway water system. Mr. Rush reviewed a request from the Smyth County Humane Society. He also noted the feral cat issue has been referred to the Planning Commission. Jennifer Bralley, 220 Wolfe Avenue, Treasurer of the Smyth County Humane Society, reviewed the request for \$3,500 from the Town of Marion as a matching grant along with Two Mauds, Inc. She also reviewed a TNR program, which is Trapping, Neutering and Returning of cats, to help with the overpopulation in the community of cat colonies. Ms. Bralley will attend the Planning Commission meeting next Monday evening. Mr. Rush recommended cancelling the July 1st council meeting since there will be a meeting on June 28th. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the July 1, 2019 council meeting will be cancelled. Mr. Rush reviewed a Quarry Recreation Park Project with an opportunity through the Division of Conservation Recreation to acquire land. There is a program through DCR that would allow the Economic Development Authority to purchase 60 acres of the Quarry property from the Town of Marion with an option for the town to purchase back. The minimum application is for a \$500,000 purchase. The grant application is for \$250,000. There would be some minimal closing cost and the land would be required to have a perpetual recreation only deed restriction. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the program was approved to proceed with the sale of 60+/- acres to the EDA.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Cornett	AYE
Mr. Carter	AYE
Mr. Weaver	AYE
Mrs. Jennings	AYE
Ms. Spencer	AYE
Mr. Barker	AYE
Dr. Gates	AYE

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 pm.

Mayor

Clerk

