

Minutes of a special called meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on June 30, 2023 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 Stanley, Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Portor-Nichols, Police Chief John Clair, Fire Chief Richard Keesling and Director of IT Todd Long.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Charles Hayden, Dr. Charles Wassum, Janene Walker, Stacey Perkins and Gary Shoup.

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 June 19, 2023 were approved as written. Messrs 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: Stacey Perkins and Gary Shoup, 430 College Street, noted they had been paying for town sewer services and just discovered they are on a septic system. They requested a refund for those unused services. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Water/Sewer Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING DEQ PHASE VIII – BOND FUNDING – C-515755 – HOLLOW ROAD SEWER: Mr. Rush reviewed the authorizing resolution for Phase 8 sewer project. Mayor Helms opened the public hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the public hearing. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond of the Town of Marion in an amount not to exceed \$325,860 and providing for the form, details and payment of the Bond was adopted.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

2023-2024 Budget Adoption: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the proposed 2023-2024 budget was adopted.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mayor Helms reviewed the EMS Task Force Proposal and the process for Smyth County to reimburse the town for those expenses. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the EMS Task Force Proposal was accepted. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the hiring of 2 more EMS staff was approved.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a public hearing will be set to adopt the new EMS rates consistent with Smyth County.

Mayor Helms reviewed the need to work on parking issues with Smyth County. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, work on parking issue with Smyth County.

ADOPTION OF THE VIRGINIA CODE AS AMENDED JULY 1, 2023: Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town adopted the Code of Virginia as amended July 1, 2023.

Mr. Long noted a start date for the elevator replacement project will be July 18, 2023. He reviewed an email complaint from a citizen.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,158,582.55. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

SET TAX LEVY:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MARION, VIRGINIA; that pursuant to the Town Charter, the following taxes be levied for the necessary and proper management and expenses of the Town of Marion, Virginia for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023:

- (1) Upon all Real Estate (including Mobile Homes) in the Town of Marion, Virginia \$0.17 per \$100.00 of assessed value.
- (2) Upon all tangible Personal Property in the Town of Marion, Virginia \$0.40 per \$100.00 of assessed value.

- (3) Upon all Machinery and Tools within the Town of Marion, Virginia, \$0.40 per \$100.00 of assessed value.
- (4) Upon all property within the Special Tax District of the Town of Marion, Virginia, \$0.17 per \$100.00 of assessed value.

Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES item (1) 2023-2024 Tax Levy for Real Estate \$0.17 per \$100 of assessed value was approved.

Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES item (2) 2023-2024 Tax Levy for Personal Property \$0.40 per \$100 assessed value was approved.

Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES item (3) 2023-2024 Tax Levy Machinery and Tools \$0.40 per \$100 assessed value was approved.

Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES item (4) 2023-2024 Tax Levy for Special Tax District \$0.17 per \$100 assessed value was approved.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk