

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 17, 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 Representative Linda Burchette; 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: Mayor David Helms.

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

VISITORS: CB Gwyn, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Robert B Copeland, Eva Barton and Jake Schrum .

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held June 3, 2019 were approved as written with the addition of Bob Watkins as a visitor. 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 with the addition of consideration of land option under the Town Manager and the addition of appointment of Vice-Mayor under Town Attorney and strike the two retirement resolutions as they will be on the agenda at a later date.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Vice-Mayor Gates read and presented a Resolution in Appreciation to Jake B Schrum. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Appreciation of Jake B Schrum, Retiring Emory & Henry College President, was accepted. Mr. Schrum thanked council and reviewed his journey with the new campus in Marion.

Robert B Copeland, 761 Chatham Hill Road, noted he has spoken with a health department representative this week about the feral cat problem. He wants to propose limiting citizens to a minimum of 5 animals.

Eva Barton, 415 East Coyner Avenue, also spoke about the feral cats using her yard as a litter box.

Mr. Barker reviewed last Monday night's Planning Commission meeting. The feral cat issue was discussed at that meeting and Smyth County Humane Society representatives were present. The Planning Commission recommends allocating the requested \$3,500 matching grant. Mr. Rush noted there are not enough state and federal guidelines dealing with feral cat issues. Chief Clair also noted there is not a simple resolution to this issue as there is a lack of enforceable legal guidelines. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the request of \$3,500 from the Humane Society to help with the homeless cat issue was approved, with the conditions that all \$7,000 for the TNR Program is spent in Town of Marion and a baseline count with quarterly reports will be submitted. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, \$3,500 to the Humane Society was approved to be added to the proposed 2019-2020 budget.

2019-2020 Budget Adoption: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the 2019-2020 budget was adopted with the addition of \$3,500 to the Humane Society

The roll call vote was as follows:

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| Mr. Cornett | AYE |
| Mr. Carter | AYE |
| Mr. Weaver | AYE |
| Mrs. Jennings | AYE |
| Ms. Spencer | AYE |
| Mr. Barker | AYE |

Dr. Gates AYE

Mr. Carter noted his term on the District III board will expire June 30, 2019. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES, 0 NOES and 1 ABSTENTION, Mr. Carter was re-appointed to the District III Board.

Vice-Mayor Gates reminded everyone of the VML Conference Oct 6-8, 2019 in Roanoke. The next council meeting for the year end close will be June 28, 2019 at 5:00 pm. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a special called meeting for the purpose of year end close will be held Friday, June 28, 2019 at 5:00 pm. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the July 1, 2019 council meeting will be cancelled.

Mr. Fenyk noted the second meeting in July, code allows remaining members present to select someone to chair the meeting if the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are both absent. Ms. Spencer made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Barker to allow Mrs. Jennings to Chair the meeting. Discussion Ensued. Ms. Spencer rescinded her motion and Mr. Barker rescinded his second. Mr. Fenyk is still working on the Quarry survey.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,433,969.67. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair noted the Virginia Department of Emergency Management has 3 million dollars of grant funds for Law Enforcement and Fire/EMS response. Lieutenant Hamm is on a committee relating to this project. Dr. Gates commended Chief Clair on a letter of commendation from one of his officers.

Mrs. Veatch noted the Economic Development department is completing the Chili Cook-Off plans. The department is also partnering with Back of the Dragon to host a BMW car club June 27, 2019 with over 100 cars participating. Mr. Heath spoke about car clubs and their effect on tourism. The Chili Cook-Off will be July 19-20, 2019.

Mr. Hicks reported the re-bids for South Church Street Drainage project will be opened at 2:00 pm tomorrow. He gave updates on CIRP projects. Plans are still in place to replace the Attoway water system meter and build a pump station building.

Mr. Rush reported Callan Drive will be closed next Monday and Tuesday for sewer taps to be installed to cross the road. Mr. Rush reviewed the Quarry Recreation Park project Authorizing Resolution. The application must be submitted by June 28, 2019. This grant will be paid on a reimbursement basis. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Land & Water Conservation Fund Authorizing Resolution was accepted.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Attorney and Town Manager are authorized to draft and execute an Option to Purchase 55.74 acres of land, as detailed on the plat prepared by Robbins Surveying June 12, 2019, from the Marion Economic Development Authority for the sum of \$500,000. The option shall have an executable term of (12) months from the date of execution, with (1) two year extension option. The Town of Marion shall be financially responsible for all the closing costs of the transaction.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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| Mr. Cornett | AYE |
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| 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 6:51 pm.

Mayor

Clerk