

Minutes of a called meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on January 29, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Suzanne Jennings, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Director of Human Resources/Deputy Clerk Samantha White, Police Chief John Clair, County Administrator Shawn Utt; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Janene Walker, Jim Talley.

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

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved with the addition of Investments by Dr. Gates.

Dr. Gates reviewed the initial T-Bill investment made in 2023, noting it was time to reinvest the funds. Dr. Gates suggested the funds be invested in a CD that will yield higher interest rates at this time. He reviewed rates from several local banks and credit unions and will look into other options. He will present to Council at the next meeting.

Ms. Jennings commented that there were many complaints about sound problems at the Lincoln Theatre show last Saturday. Tracy Thompson, Lincoln Theatre Director, has handled the situation well. The Theatre Board and Director are evaluating how to prevent such problems from arising in the future.

Mr. Carter noted that District 3 operations are going well. They have come to a problem with their new building and are working to solve it.

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Jim Talley will enter into Closed Session to provide information to Council.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1), upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Personnel. Mrs. Jennings moved that Town Council return to Open Session and identified it be known that only those matters legally exempted from Open Session and identified in the motion were discussed during Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Weaver and carried by a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Deputy Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Jennings, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Jennings, and a vote of 6 AYES and 1 NO, upon confirming with Smyth County Public Safety Committee, a joint meeting including Smyth County Public Safety Committee, Town Fire/EMS Committee, County Administrator Shawn Utt, and Town Manager Bill Rush,

will be held on February 27, 2024 to hold second interviews with Richard Keesling and Rusty Hamm for the Town of Marion Chief of Fire/EMS position.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Mayor

Deputy Clerk