

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 February 5, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Larry Carter (arriving late) and Avery Cornett Council Members; Assistant Town Manager Billy Hamm, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley, Town Attorney Mark Fenyk, Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols, Police Lieutenant Kevin Testerman, Fire Chief Richard Keesling and Director of IT Todd Long.

**ABSENT:** Mayor David Helms and Bill Weaver.

**VISITORS:** David Fulton, Sara & Dan Kegley, Charles Wassum, Teri Owens, Robert Pike, Hailey Owens, Janene Walker, Tim Cline, Ms. Hess, Jim Talley and Alex Taschereau.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mrs. Jennings rendered the invocation. Vice-Mayor Gates led the Pledge to the Flag.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 16, 2024 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 29, 2024 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the removal of the Commonwealth Attorney presentation.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:** Robert Pike and Teri Owens, noted all the paperwork had been completed and submitted for the proposed new business Call-A-Cab. Ms. Hess spoke in favor of the new business. Lieutenant Testerman reported everything was in order for the application. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Call-A-Cab was issued.

David Fulton, Pearl Avenue, stated the left turn lane from Cherry Street onto Commerce Street was only allowing about 3 cars to get through before turning red. Mr. Hamm will have Jerry Breen review and possibly adjust the time.

Vice-Mayor Gates introduced newly hired Fiscal Technician Sara Kegley. Mr. Carter arrived.

Mr. Cornett reported a successful VML Legislative Day in Richmond.

Mrs. Jennings distributed the Lincoln Theatre newsletter and free tickets to a silent show.

Mr. Barker reported Trey White has resigned from Planning Commission.

Dr. Gates reviewed a reinvestment proposal. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, funds up to \$4,900,000 will be reinvested with the Bank of Marion as a 13-month CD at 5.0% with unlimited withdrawals with no penalty.

Ms. Stanley welcomed Sara Kegley as a new employee to the Clerk/Finance Department. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the next council meeting will be Tuesday, February 20, 2024 due to the President's Day holiday.

Lieutenant Testerman reported the accreditation mock will take place mid-March and the assessment will be completed April.

Chief Keesling reported there were 225 calls in January. The exhaust system has been installed at Station 1. This was through an AFG Grant.

Mr. Long reported he had visited the warming center and Planning Commission will begin examining zoning and operations, and will allow citizen input at upcoming meetings.

Mr. Hamm reported there will be no EDA meeting in February. The schedule for pre-budget meetings has been distributed. Callen Drive Recreation Park is still accepting fill material for the ball fields. There was a meeting with McGill Engineering January 23, 2024. McGill engineers toured Callen Drive Recreation Park after the meeting. A Public Hearing is set for Wednesday, February 21, 2024 for the VDOT Project Pipeline. Material has been ordered for Phase VII Sewer. The meter readers are collecting preliminary data for the radio read project.

Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Mayor

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Clerk