

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 July 15, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates and Jim Barker.

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

VISITORS: CB Gwyn, Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Sue Helms, Teresa McNeil, James McNeil, Robert & Robin Niehoff, Terry Call, Anita Catron, Donald Coley, Doug Teaster, David Matney and Mike Edwards.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held June 28, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of Robert K Niehoff on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Niehoff and family members. Mr. Hicks presented him with a retirement gift.

Mike Edwards, Smyth-Wythe Airport Representative, gave an update on the airport, reporting that the tree removal is complete. Hanger rentals are stable. He and 3 other airport representatives will attend the Annual Airport Conference for the state of Virginia August 11, 2019. He also addressed dog waste on the sidewalks downtown.

Clayborne Gwyn, 1503 Park Boulevard, expressed his concern about Callan Drive continuing to be closed. Mr. Rush noted the reasons for the closure were to complete utility work. Mr. Gwyn also noted that there are trees touching the Prater Lane water tank that need to be trimmed. Mr. Hicks' department has identified trees that need to be removed around the water tank. Mr. Gwyn also reported a town employee had driven across his yard to access the water tank rather than using the road designated.

Mrs. Jennings spoke about Ms. Lois Cornett and how she touched many lives as a teacher.

Mayor Helms also noted Ms. Cornett went above and beyond for students.

Mr. Cornett thanked everyone for the kind words, flowers, food and phone calls during his mother's passing.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the VML Conference Oct 6-8, 2019 in Roanoke. He reviewed an invitation letter from the Blue Ridge Job Corps Center for the National Job Corps Commencement Day Ceremony on August 23, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

Mr. Rush reported Ben Reedy's term on Planning Commission will expire on August 1, 2019 and noted he is willing to serve another term. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Ben Reedy was reappointed to Planning Commission.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,199,234.56. Messrs Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair met with the Deputy Secretary of Health and Humans Services last week about TDO's. The town's TDO total for the fiscal year was 106 at an approximate cost of \$30,000. Next year the town will

host FBI-Leeda training at the Golf Course with approximately 40 to 50 attendees. The Police Department will host the first National Night Out event August 6, 2019 focusing on bicycle safety. The town and Smyth County have moved from analog to digital communications.

Chief Hamm noted the Fire/EMS Department received a 50/50 Forestry Grant. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the 50/50 matching Forestry Grant for \$2,045 was accepted. Several members have achieved higher certification levels and Chief Hamm would like to recognize those as Alicia Ashby Firefighter I & II, Missy Brown Firefighter I & II, Herbie Clay Paramedic, Walker May EMT Intermediate, April Shipley EMT Intermediate and Alex Taschereau EMT Intermediate.

Mr. Heath gave an update on this weekend’s events for the Chili Cook Off. Thursday evening will be movie night, Friday will be the Phantom Concert and Saturday is the 33rd Annual Chili Cook Off. Next week Deputy Director Alex Veatch will be attending Virginia Main Street training. Mr. Heath will be at UVA speaking at the Sorenson Institute. Wells Fargo has contributed \$7,500 to continue the Pop Up Program.

Mr. Hicks reviewed the painting and repairs of the water tanks. Phase 5 Water application is under review. Venturi Meter Replacement bids were accepted last week.

Mr. Rush noted Callan Drive should be opened by Wednesday.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Mayor

Clerk