

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 August 5, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, 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 and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Reverend Dr. James Bennington rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Anita Catron, Dixie Sheets, David Jones, LaTara Cross, Reverend Dr. James Bennington and Trish and Alvin McBroom, Jr.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held July 15, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition under the Town Manager's report on APA Fiscal Distress report.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of Alvin R. McBroom, Jr. on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. McBroom and his family. Mr. Hicks presented him with a retirement gift.

Mr. Heath read a Resolution in Appreciation of Virginia Farmers Market Week 2019. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Farmers Market Week 2019 Resolution was accepted with the correction of the dedication date as 30 August 2008.

David Jones, 1235 West Main Street, Wytheville, Jones Mowing Representative, addressed issues of businesses not obtaining Business License permits. He intends to travel to localities within 150 mile radius to help governing bodies implement policing practices with businesses not complying.

Joe Naff, 148 Countryside Drive, asked about the report in the Bristol Paper Saturday referring to Local Government (Marion) Fiscal Distress report. Mr. Rush reviewed the criteria affecting the report noting Town of Marion had a follow up interview and was determined not to be in fiscal distress. The full report, which was released Friday, can be found on the internet at www.apa.virginia.gov.

LaTara Cross, 502 North Avenue, requested a road closure of Iron Street on September 8, 2019 from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm for the Annual Mt Zion Temple Church event. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the road closure request for Iron Street on September 8, 2019 from 9:00 am until 4:30 pm was granted, with Police Chief and Town Manager to assist with details. Ms. Cross also noted a Prayer Walk will take place on August 25, 2019 from the Court House to Marion Baptist Church. Mr. Heath will work with Ms. Cross to determine the time and help develop a plan.

Mr. Barker has visited other communities recently and has received lots of compliments about the Town of Marion.

Mr. Weaver noted Officer Billings' tremendous efforts on property cleanup.

Mr. Carter attended the District III Board meeting and the Chamber of Commerce Board meeting.

Mayor Helms distributed the obituary for retired Police Chief Fred Catron. Mayor Helms noted the Dr. from Bristol that was killed in auto accident, was very instrumental in TDO efforts. He also reminded everyone of the VML Conference Oct 6-8, 2019 in Roanoke. Spirit of '45 Day is this Sunday at the Court House at 3:00 pm with Speaker Israel O'Quinn.

Chief Clair noted Saturday’s school supply collection effort was outstanding. Tomorrow will be the National Night Out event from 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Police Department. It is estimated that 25 local government agencies will be participating. The department now has 4 FBI Command trained officers.

Mr. Heath noted the Dog Park dedication will be Wednesday at noon. Mr. Heath reviewed a new RBEG loan application and due to financial instability recommends denying the request. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG Loan application was denied.

Mr. Hicks noted quotes for repairs on water tanks have been received from two companies. Phase III Water will have a change order for Horne Avenue due to seriously deteriorated condition of the lines. Attoway Meter Replacement application was approved today by VDH.

Mr. Rush noted Cameron Wolfe’s term on the Board of Zoning Appeals will expire in September and he is willing to serve another term. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Council recommends Mr. Wolfe to be re-appointed by the Judge to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Rush reviewed Park Blvd Sidewalk/Drainage Project noting there is approximately \$296,000 in VDOT Funds and some highway maintenance funds can be applied. The intersection of Highway 16 and Highway 11 will be updated with safer landing zones for pedestrians. The drainage issues will be corrected and sidewalks installed from Highway 16 to the Emory & Henry College of Health Sciences. The grant to secure land as a permanent outdoor recreational area, near the Quarry, has tentatively been approved.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Mayor

Clerk