

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 19, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, 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; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Public Works Director Tony Muncy; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, John Wells, Greg McMillan, Michael Puglisi and Lou Fincher.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held August 5, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Mayor Helms introduced the 22<sup>nd</sup> President of Emory & Henry College, Mr. John Wells. President Wells noted his appreciation to be able to address council. He introduced Emory & Henry staff that were present. He expressed his eagerness for the opportunity to collaborate with the Town of Marion.

Mr. Barker thanked Chief Clair for the successful First Annual National Night Out.

Mr. Weaver noted Spirit '45 Day was a good event.

Mr. Carter attended the Emory & Henry graduation ceremony Saturday.

Mayor Helms noted Chilhowie hosted a National Night Out event also. He reminded everyone of the VML Conference in Roanoke October 6-8, 2019. He noted the Town & Country Dinner Invitation is set for September 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm. The Spirit '45 Day was well attended, including 7 WWII Veterans. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, September 3, 2019 due to the Labor Day Holiday.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,399,395.91. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Ms. Stanley reminded council members of the December 31, 2019 deadline to complete the new training requirements for local elected officials on Conflict of Interest. She also distributed Supplemental #30 for the Town Code Books to council.

Mr. Muncy noted exterior painting of the water tank will begin Wednesday. The Attoway Venturi meter replacement will begin early September and is expected to take about 45 days.

Chief Clair reported a Police Department sign will be installed at the front of the new location. He thanked all staff for assisting with the National Night Out event. He noted Mt Rogers Community Services Board will begin a 23 ½ hour Crisis Intervention Center that will help alleviate some of the TDO's. He will be addressing the new Emory & Henry students Friday.

Mrs. Veatch gave an update on the Chili Cook Off event noting there were approximately 7,000 – 10,000 attendees. There will be an event at the Farmers Market Saturday, October 12, 2019 associated with Mayberry Days. The Halloween Madness event will be held the Saturday before Halloween. Planning is already underway for the Christmas Market the first weekend in December.

Mr. Heath noted Thursday WJHL TV will be coming to Marion. The Sorenson group will be meeting in Marion on September 19, with dinner planned at RiverBend Park at 6:00 pm. The Dog Park is now open.

Mr. Hicks reported VDOT has approved the South Church Street Drainage project. Notice to Proceed will be issued to the contractor soon. An application for a new sewer camera has been submitted to Mt Rogers Planning District Commission. The change order for Horne Avenue has been approved and materials ordered.

Mr. Rush noted the water tanks' rehabilitations are going very well and much less expensive using the offender crew and town crews versus contractors. There will be a total of 3 Mt Rogers Planning District Commission grants submitted next week. Mr. Rush gave an update on the Callen Drive Recreational Park project reviewing a potential process for manufacturing our own topsoil while saving on disposal fees. The National Park Service has given Mr. Barker approval to do the Yellow Book Appraisal. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES, 0 NOES and 1 ABSTENTION (Mr. Barker), council agrees to allow Mr. Barker to do the Yellow Book Appraisal on the Callen Drive Recreation Park project.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Real Estate. 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 Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk