

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 September 3, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Larry Carter Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair and Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks.

ABSENT: Avery Cornett.

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

VISITORS: Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Andrew Philpot and Sergeant Rick Billings.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held August 19, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Andrew Philpot, Hungry Mother State Park Manager, gave an update on projects at the park. Controls on the damn are being repaired and replaced tomorrow. The bridge repair project will begin with taking the lake down approximately 6 inches per day until reaching a level of about 5 feet. The repairs should take approximately 6 months and hopefully be completed by April 1, 2020. He is glad to be able to collaborate with Marion.

Dr. Gates reviewed a loan proposal for two larger projects that occurred this past year, Sewer Treatment Plant repairs and the Police Department renovations. If the Police Department, 555 South Main Street building, is sold, then proceeds will go to the principal of this loan. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a \$250,000 loan from the Bank of Marion was approved for these two projects to reduce the existing debt on the Line of Credit.

Mr. Weaver referred personnel review to Mr. Rush. The request is to rename 4 job descriptions and add one job description in the Police Department and rename one job description in the Water Treatment Plant. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Police Officer Uncertified will be renamed to Police Officer Recruit, Police Officer I will be renamed to Police Officer, Police Officer II will be renamed to Senior Police Officer, Police Captain will be renamed to Police Deputy Chief, Water Treatment Plant Assistant Superintendent will be renamed to Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator and Master Police Officer will be added to the job descriptions.

Mr. Carter noted the District III Site Control Contract for the Scott Center is up for renewal. The rate is \$70 per month. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the District III Site Control Contract 2020 will be renewed at the rate of \$70 per month.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the VML Conference in Roanoke October 6-8, 2019. He noted the Town & Country Dinner is set for September 26, 2019 at 6:00 pm. The Chamber of Commerce will host the 2019 SWVA Legislative Breakfast & Forum November 22, 2019 at 8:00 am at Holston Hills Community Golf Course. Smyth County Tourism will hold the Most Beautiful People in Smyth County Awards at the Chilhowie Town Park September 10, 2019 at 4:00 pm. The Tourism group will be unveiling a LOVE sign September 11, 2019 at 3:00 pm at the Smyth County Tourism Center. Mayor Helms noted the Local Reserve Unit will be hosting a Family Day at RiverBend Park from 8:00 to 4:00 on Sunday, September 8, 2019.

Chief Clair reported the local Reserve Unit will be deploying to Africa in March 2020. The new Police Department sign has been ordered. Chief Clair will be meeting with the local WalMart on the rules, regulations and guidelines for carrying firearms inside the store. Chief Clair reviewed the process for implementing the framework for updating the property maintenance codes. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Joint Public Hearing will be set

for Monday, September 16, 2019 at 5:30 pm to consider the Property Maintenance Policy, Property Maintenance Town Code updates and an Authorizing Resolution.

Mr. Hicks noted the Town Spring Meter Replacement project began today. Mr. Hicks reviewed the VDOT Grant State of Good Repair Resolution for paving North Main Street for \$608,735. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution Affirming Commitment to Fund the Locality Share of Projects Under Agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation and Provide Signature Authority was accepted. There will be a Pre-Construction meeting on South Church Street Drainage project on September 10, 2019. Mr. Rush also reviewed the easement on the Wygal property located to the North and Northeast of the High Level Tank. Mr. Rush has presented Mr. Wygal with a MOU which would allow the Town 150 feet easement onto his property for temporary equipment placement for tank repairs, in turn Mr. Wygal will have unlimited right of personal egress, through and along the existing town maintained roadway located on Parcel 47-A-20, accessed from Althea Street, that we use to access the high level tank. The gate to Mr. Wygal's property, Parcel 47-A-21, is located just to the southeast of the high level tank, and his egress rights will terminate there. Sewer Treatment Plant Chief Operator, Doug Teaster, will be retiring October 1, 2019. This position will be advertised.

Mr. Rush noted the Callen Drive Recreational Park project Yellow Book Appraisal is in process for the grant. Mr. Rush gave an update on the Topsoil project which Mr. Spickard is engineering.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:24 pm.

Mayor

Clerk