

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 October 8, 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, Deputy Clerk Samantha White; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Linda Burchette; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Recreation Director Terry Jennings and Economic Development Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

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

VISITORS: Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, and Lynn Pease.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held September 16, 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 Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of VDOT Paving Award and Public Presentations by Mike Edwards and Charles Harrington rescheduled to a later date to be determined.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mr. Lynn Pease invited Council members and the public to a Veteran's Day program hosted by Lifetime Wellness Center on November 8, 2019 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Dr. Gates reported a problem with the traffic light at Brunswick Lane. Mr. Rush stated the repair is scheduled to take place in the next two weeks.

Mr. Weaver and Mr. Cornett both expressed their appreciation for being able to attend the Virginia Municipal League conference in Roanoke from October 6 – 8. Mr. Cornett noted the Marion booth hosted by Community and Economic Development staff was very nice and had many visitors throughout the VML conference.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone that November 1, 2019 is Extra Mile Day and applications are due by the next council meeting, October 21, 2019. On November 22, 2019, the SWVA Legislative Breakfast and Forum will be held at Holston Hills Community Golf Course. Mayor Helms attended the Recovery Court Graduation and is pleased the town supports the program by allowing community service hours to be performed working with town staff.

Mr. Fenyk presented an Opioid Class Action Lawsuit and its settlement structure. Mr. Rush asked that Council review it further at the next meeting when more information is available.

Chief Clair also attended the VML conference and noted there were many good sessions. He has been appointed to serve on the Regional Alternate Transportation Committee and VACP Training Committee. Lt. Rusty Hamm graduated from Southwest Virginia Professional Leadership Academy.

Ms. Veatch reported that the town's VML Conference booth attracted many visitors. There have been four new businesses opened in town in the last two weeks. Ms. Veatch reviewed events to be held in town over the next few weeks. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG Small Business Loan for \$15,000 to Past Time Antique Emporium was approved.

Mr. Jennings reported youth football and cheerleading is finishing this week. Girls basketball will begin in November. Town parks have been cleaned and will be winterized soon. Emory & Henry will hold their Homecoming Golf Tournament at Holston Hills on Friday, October 18. The driving range had \$8,400 in revenues in its first year.

Mr. Hicks reported W-L Construction and Paving was the only bidder on fall paving. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the W-L bid was accepted with in-place rates. A major leak on North Main Street was found and repaired during the water accountability study. The town received VDOT State of Good Repair Award for paving on North Main Street. The VDOT

Smart Scale project, intersection of Pendleton Street and Main Street, design and surveying has begun. Dave Matney has been promoted to Chief Operator of the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Rush noted the Callan Drive Recreation project environmental review has started and the yellow book appraisal fieldwork is complete. CIRP Phase III Water is awaiting approval on a change order that will allow more work to be completed using the in-place funding. The topsoil pilot project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant will begin this month.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Mayor

Deputy Clerk