

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 21, 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 (arrived late) and Avery Cornett 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; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Public Works Director Tony Muncy and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

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, Charles Hayden, Charles Harrington, Terry Call, Robert Niehoff, Donnie, Coley, Anita Catron, Dixie Sheets, Doug Teaster and family, Mike Edwards and Dave Matney and wife.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held October 8, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of a Support Resolution.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, A Resolution in Honor of Doug Teaster on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Teaster and his family. Donnie Coley, Director of Water and Wastewater Operations, presented Mr. Teaster with a retirement gift.

Mayor Helms presented a check for \$5,000 from Atmos Energy to Fire Chief Billy Hamm for the Fire Department.

Mike Edwards, Smyth-Wythe Airport Representative, gave an Airport update, noting some significant improvements. The Airport has installed four 12x12 heat resistant concrete pads for special aircraft. Mr. Edwards inquired about the town cleaning these pads with the street sweeper.

Charles Harrington, Marion Redevelopment Housing Authority Representative, reviewed the need for several re-appointments to that board. Betty Barker is not interested in serving again and Brian Reed has agreed to fill her position on the board. Mr. Rush reviewed a document proposing changing the expiration of these terms to June 30 on even years. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Marion Redevelopment Housing Authority Board members terms will expire June 30 even years, with 4 year terms staggered every 2 years with no term limits, also Brian Reed will be appointed to Betty Barker's position, the current members appointments will continue until expiration as set by the referenced document. Mr. Rush requested Mr. Harrington to review a housing program through Department of Housing and Community Development that will allow the Town of Marion to participate in an Acquire Renovate Sell Program. Marion Redevelopment and Housing Authority has secured a \$400,000 line of credit to implement this program.

Mayor Helms noted the 2019 Southwest Virginia Legislative Breakfast & Forum will be November 22, 2019 at 8:00 am at Holston Hills Community Golf Course. Extra Mile Proclamation Nominees should be submitted to Ken Heath. The Annual Chamber Dinner meeting will be November 7, 2019 at 6:00 pm at Holston Hills Community Golf Course.

Mr. Fenyk recommended not opting out of the Opioid Class Action Lawsuit.

Ms. Stanley thanked council for the opportunity to attend the 2019 Clerk's Institute & Academy in VA Beach.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,398,411.34. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Muncy noted the Public Works department is busy preparing for the winter season. The department now has two operational leaf pickup vehicles. There will be 5 trucks ready for snow removal this year. The composting trial began today in the sludge shed at the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Chief Clair reported all police radio traffic will soon be on one channel which will improve dispatch operations. He reviewed the hiring process and noted there are several extremely good applicants. He reported TDO transportations are down approximately 89% since the Smyth County Crisis Center opened. Lieutenant Hamm graduated from the Professional Leadership Course. This was a 7 month program.

Mr. Heath noted Youth Government Day will be tomorrow. Halloween Madness will be Saturday from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon. He reviewed other events coming up over the next few weeks.

Mr. Hicks reported the Church Street Drainage Project will begin tomorrow. He also gave updates on multiple projects. Larry Carter arrived.

Mr. Rush reported Prater Pump Station Upgrade grant application has tentatively been awarded \$85,000 by Virginia Department of Emergency Management and \$50,000 by the Virginia Department of Health. Upon project execution the choice of funding sources will be determined. The Yellow Book Appraisal has been completed and submitted on the Callen Drive Recreational Park. Mr. Rush reviewed a Resolution of Support for Appalachian Center of Hope, a residential treatment facility. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Support of Appalachian Center of Hope was accepted.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 pm.

Mayor

Clerk