

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 November 4, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter 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; Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Recreation Director Terry Jennings and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

**ABSENT:** Tricia Spencer and Suzanne Jennings.

**VISITORS:** Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Charles Wassum and Lili Figuenedo.

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

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held October 21, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATION:** None.

Mr. Cornett remarked on the well-attended Halloween Madness event. Mr. Heath noted approximately 1,800 participants.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the SWVA Legislative Breakfast and Forum at Holston Hills Community Golf Course On November 22, 2019 at 8:00 am. He noted Nominees for Extra Mile Proclamations will still be accepted at future council meetings. Mr. Rush reviewed the Veteran's Day garbage schedule, noting pickups will be moved back one day and the Thanksgiving garbage schedule will be determined and advertised at a later date. Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner at the Holston Hills Community Golf Course on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Fenyk submitted a blank lien form to Sergeant Billings for use in the property maintenance program.

Ms. Stanley reminded everyone of the Conflict of Interest Act online training that must be completed by all elected officials before December 31, 2019.

Mr. Jennings reported a solid month of 1,700 rounds of golf in October, which is up 250 from last October. The Ballroom is booked through the end of the year. There were 136 girls registered for basketball. The buildings at all recreation parks have been winterized.

Chief Clair and Mayor Helms attended the bridge dedication in Chilhowie for Trooper Dowell. A Board of Appeals team for the Property Maintenance Code has been compiled to represent the community. There are requirements of this board to have members with specific skill sets. This list consists of Trey White, Chuck Pruitt (contractor), Jay Overbey (property manager), Alan Long (design professional) and Darius Bowman. These will be four year terms with no staggers. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cater and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, these representatives named were approved to the Property Maintenance Code Board of Appeals.

Mr. Heath thanked Chief Clair and Chief Hamm and Economic Development staff for such a successful Halloween Madness event. The Virginia Historic Markers will be set Friday, November 15, 2019 at noon. The Christmas Parade will be Friday, December 6, 2019 at 6:00 pm. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Virginia Main Street and Marion Downtown will be Friday, November 15, 2019 at 6:30 pm at the General Francis Marion Hotel. The first leader of the program, Ted Alexander, now a North Carolina State Senator will be the Key Note Speaker.

Mr. Hicks noted the State of Good Repair Grant paving will need to be bid before December 31, 2019 for the paving of North Main Street in April.

Mr. Rush noted there will be a site meeting with VDOT Wednesday morning on the Park Boulevard Drainage Project. The Topsoil Project testing and development continues, and is going well. A Litter Grant was received again this year for approximately \$2,500. It is possible there are grants available for the Topsoil Project. There may be some grant money available in the spring for CIRP Phase V Sewer. Public Works has five vehicles ready for snow removal.

Mayor Helms noted one of our retired staff, meter reader Alvin McBroom, has agreed to work part-time to help out while another meter reader is out having surgery.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (A-6) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of personnel matters and negotiation. Dr. Gates 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 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager's salary will be increased to \$129,125, due to receiving his annual evaluation.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk