

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 December 16, 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; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols (arrived late); Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks, Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm, Public Works Director Tony Muncy, CIRP Engineer Jeff Spickard, Wastewater Treatment Plant Chief Operator Dave Matney, Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, CB Gwyn, Neil Hollyfield and family.

**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 December 2, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition for a Resolution under Police Chief.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Mrs. Jennings recognized and presented Dr. Neil Hollyfield with an Extra Mile Certificate. Mrs. Jennings noted Dr. Hollyfield has quietly gone the extra mile for our community, with a 37 year history with the Rotary Club, has been the lead dental clinician for the RAM clinics and is associated with the Mel Leaman Free Clinic. Stephanie Porter-Nichols arrived.

**PUBLIC HEARING SEWER ORDINANCE REVISION:** Mr. Rush reviewed the Sewer Ordinance Revision noting the EPA is streamlining rules for sewer use. This revision is a complete review with clarification of control requirements, control plan and definitions. Mayor Helms opened the public hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the public hearing. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Sewer Ordinance Revision was adopted subject to any DEQ revisions.

Mrs. Jennings noted the “Shop with a Hero” event was wonderful. Mrs. Jennings is now the Lincoln Theatre Board President.

Mr. Weaver also noted the Walmart sponsored event “Shop with a Hero” benefited a lot of community children.

Mr. Carter reported the Emory & Henry College of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy class graduated this past Saturday.

Mr. Cornett has been approached by citizens in reference to keeping the grill room at the Golf Course operational. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this request was referred to the Recreation Committee.

Mayor Helms noted Song of the Mountains had a good attendance Saturday night. Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive is a little slower than usual.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,063,631.07. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Muncy gave a Public Works update. Mr. Rush noted the best and less expensive pathway for repairing the Golf Course bridge was with 2 inch steel grading. The estimated cost is \$9,500 for materials and \$2,500 for labor. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0

NOES, Golf Course bridge repairs were approved, to begin purchasing the materials and allocating labor. Snow removal equipment is ready.

Chief Clair reported Marion Downtown volunteered to cover the overage (not covered by the Walmart Grant) from “Shop with a Hero” event. He reported the article about the deceased Marion Veteran resulted in connections with the family members. The service will be this Friday. The opening of the Smyth County Crisis Center in September 2019 has decreased TDO’s and ECO’s for the Police Department by 66%. The Chief clarified the Use of Force Methodology by explaining the Less than Lethal technology. Chief Clair reviewed a Resolution in Support of Constitutional Law Enforcement confirming council’s support of Constitutional rights. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES the Resolution in Support of Constitutional Law Enforcement was accepted. Two new officers were hired today. They will begin the Academy January 13, 2020.

Chief Hamm noted a Boy Scout workshop was held at the Emory & Henry College of Health Sciences to help the boys earn fire safety and first aid merit badges. The EMS inspection was today and the department passed and is recertified for two years. The department helped with the Annual Toy Drive at Walmart. An enormous amount of toys were collected and delivered to the Department of Social Services.

Mrs. Veatch noted 68 vendors participated in the Christmas Market. Shuttle service was offered this year from the Farmers Market to the Henderson School. The new business Moon Dog will be keeping Tuesday Trivia. There will be a New Year’s Eve event at the Henderson School.

Mr. Hicks reviewed bids for the State of Good Repair spring paving. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the W-L Paving bid was approved per the unit prices, \$99.60 per ton of asphalt, \$110 haul rate per truck per hour and \$2.25 per square yard of milling. State of Good Repair 2021 application for Park Blvd., South Main Street and remaining North Main Street has been submitted. An application for replacement of East Chilhowie Street bridge has been submitted.

Mr. Rush noted the DCR met and walked the Callen Drive Recreation Park last Friday. Mr. Rush wants to delay the Top Soil Project approximately one year. DEQ likes the project and potentially may help fund the project and wants to be part of the implementation. Donnie Coley is planning to retire Spring of 2020 and the Public Works Director will accept the CIRP duties and responsibilities.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk