

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 January 17, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Suzanne Jennings, Tricia Spencer, 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 Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Wayne Henderson School of Appalachian Arts Director Catherine Schrenker and Town Engineer Assistant/IT Coordinator Todd Long.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Jeff Spickard, Danny Parks, Kathy Smith and Robert Kell.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 3, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** None.

Mayor Helms expressed his appreciation for those that helped with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive. He estimated the donations came in at just under \$50,000. Mr. Rush noted a donation came in Friday which he believes put the donations above \$50,000. A letter of appreciation and a Key to the City was received from Newport, TN for the Town of Marion's Operation Rudolph to benefit for the citizens in that area that were affected by the fires. Mayor Helms reviewed a Resolution in Appreciation of Mrs. Katherine Coleman Gobble Johnson. She currently resides in a Retirement Facility in Hampton. It will be arranged for the City of Hampton to present this Resolution to her. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Appreciation of Mrs. Katherine Coleman Gobble Johnson, NASA Mathematician, and former Teacher in Marion, VA was accepted.

**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 \$849,986.90. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Carter, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Heath reminded everyone of the VML Day at the Capitol in Richmond, January 24-26, 2017. Mayor Helms read and presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to Ken Heath. Mr. Heath was also presented with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Mr. Hicks noted the contractors are waiting on materials to begin repairs on the East Chilhowie Street Bridge. The Streetscape Project will begin this spring.

Mr. Rush noted the budget process will begin next month. He reviewed the possibility of BPOL revenues being based on net rather than gross, per proposed House Bill.

Mayor Helms noted that he received a call from a citizen in Spokane, Washington that had visited our town and was very complementary.

Mr. Heath reported that the next Pop Up Class, 12<sup>th</sup> Round, will begin in March.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-29) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of a public contract. Mrs. Jennings 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 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Carter, Barker, Jennings, Spencer, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Rush discussed a Golf Conference taking place in Orlando, February 8-10, 2017, which could be beneficial for himself and Golf Course staff. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, it was approved for Mr. Rush, Terry Jennings and Derek Rhea to attend this conference February 8-10, 2017.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk