

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 February 6, 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 Representatives Stephanie Porter-Nichols and Linda Burchette (left early); Police Chief Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: None.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Ms. Rebecca Reed rendered the invocation. Mayor Helms led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Charles Hayden, Rebecca Reed, Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Nolan Wolfe, Dana Watson, M. Watson, William Fields, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Mike Albano, A. Carrillo and Alejandria Gaviria.

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 17, 2017 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution recognizing February as Black History Month was accepted. Bishop Nolan Wolfe and members of his congregation were present. Mayor Helms read the Resolution and presented it to Mr. Fields for the Mt. Pleasant Museum. Mr. Fields thanked everyone.

Mike Albano provided an article from a business magazine about sporting events. As youth sports are growing, he asked the town to consider leading the way to get a sports facility in the Marion area. Mayor Helms thanked Mr. Albano for all his work on the Gobbler Gallop and asked Mr. Albano to present his proposal to the Smyth County Board of Supervisors, as well.

Mr. Carter noted the VML Legislative event went well.

Mrs. Jennings brought a citizen request before council regarding the possibility of on street parking being limited to one side of the street on Henry and Scott Streets. Mr. Rush noted the increased traffic flow in that area is likely to be from the CIRP Program crew working in that area. Mr. Heath suggested a Public Relations announcement to help keep the citizens informed of the CIRP Project locations. Linda Burchette left.

Mayor Helms reported that the next council meeting will be moved to Tuesday, February 21, 2017 due to the Presidents' Day Holiday. The first planning meeting for the Memorial Day Parade and events will be tomorrow night at 6:30 pm at the VWF. The Boy Scouts are trying to raise money to purchase more flags to display in town on the Patriotic Holidays. Mayor Helms noted there were some Green Beret Veterans in town over the weekend. They were from Kentucky, North Carolina, Georgia and Alabama. There will be a Joint Grant Announcement in Saltville on February 15, 2017 at 2:00 pm.

Mr. Jennings reported on the Recreation Department. The soccer camp presented by VA Tech will be June 19-21, 2017 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon each day at Oak Point School.

Chief Anders expressed his appreciation for attending the VML Legislative Day at the Capitol. The two officers in the Academy are doing well.

Mr. Heath noted it was a great day at the Capitol, VML Legislative Day. Legislation passed unanimously to name Song of the Mountains as State of Virginia Television Series. The Lincoln Theatre has been approved as a designated Crooked Road Venue. The Economic Development Department will be helping Mr. Tom Graham with the Emory & Henry student welcome program. The Town of Marion will host the VML Regional Supper on April 5, 2017 at the Holston Hills Community Golf Course. VA Tech has grant opportunities available for Save Our Town grants in the amount of \$5,000. Some of the grants are being

awarded to the first three Town Managers to respond. Mr. Rush responded promptly and we were notified that we were the first participants to respond.

Mr. Hicks noted that East Chilhowie Street Bridge repairs will begin this week. Hydrant replacement will begin next Monday.

Mr. Rush reported that work on the 2017-2018 budget cycle has begun and the first meeting should be around the end of February. VDOT has responded to the Streetscape project and noted most of the work can be done using force account (town employees). They require a Resolution that the town is committing to budget for the force account. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution for Council’s approval for Streetscape Improvements was accepted. The Department of Justice lease is up for renewal for the Probation Office located at 200 Broad Street. No Public Hearing is required. Mr. Rush reviewed a spreadsheet on the Zone Meter and Valve installation project which indicates a savings of approximately \$150,000 by doing this project with force account.

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. Heath supplied the Resolution for Council’s Approval on the Streetscape Project. Mr. Rush read the Resolution aloud.

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

Mayor

Clerk