

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 21, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Suzanne Jennings, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; 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; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation. Eagle Scout Samuel Christopher Bystrek led the Pledge to the Flag.

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Katy Smith, Kelly Spencer-Hill, Brian Tibbs, Charles Hayden, Samuel Christopher Bystrek, Teresa Bystrek, Richard Denzan, Louise Tilson, Ed Pietrzak, Christa Himes, Barry Garten and Sandip Patel.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 6, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Jennings, Weaver, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of Samuel Christopher Bystrek on the Occasion of his Achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout, BSA was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Samuel Bystrek.

Kelly Spencer-Hill, Business Development Manager for Blood Assurance, gave an informational presentation. Blood Assurance is the sole supplier for the Smyth County Community Hospital and other area facilities.

Brian Tibbs, Executive Director for the Lincoln Theatre, gave an update. He noted the Theatre is currently recruiting volunteers, updating emergency services which includes an active shooter training, and development of Lola's continues. The Theatre continues to partner with the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts with Barter Youth Signups coming soon.

Mr. Barker introduced Barry Garten, the new Area Forest Ranger with the U. S. Forest Service. He will be taking the place of Beth Merz, who is retiring. Mr. Garten thanked Mr. Barker for the warm welcome and noted he is excited to be working in this community. He welcomed anyone to call him anytime. Friends of Mt Rogers presented Mr. Garten with a \$10,000 check for the Forest Service.

Mrs. Jennings brought a citizen request before council for consideration of a better location for the flagpole at the Golf Course. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Golf Committee.

Mr. Cornett updated council on highlights from a board meeting for the Mel Leaman Free Clinic. As Chair of the Recreation Committee, Mr. Cornett would like to see the playground equipment updated. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Recreation Committee.

Mayor Helms noted work continues on the Memorial Day Weekend events and the VA Army National Guard Band will perform Saturday, May 27, 2017 at the Lincoln Theatre. The Carnegie School reunion will be in July. The March of Dimes Walkathon is May 13, 2017.

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 \$1,137,216.12. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Jennings, Carter, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Anders reported that the Police Department will be conducting a safety check and active shooting training again this year for the Blue Ridge Job Corps.

Mr. Heath reminded everyone of the VML Regional Supper hosted by the Town of Marion on April 5, 2017 at the Golf Course. The next Pop Up Program starts March 7, 2017.

Mr. Hicks reported that the South Church Street drainage project is in the design phase. Hydrant replacements will begin soon. Dr. Gates reported a stream of water running in Wassona Circle. Mr. Hicks also reported that the zoning request for trash receptacles is under review by the Planning Commission.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk