

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 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush, Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk (arriving late); Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks, Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm, Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Economic Development Deputy Director Alexandra Veatch.

ABSENT: Larry Carter.

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

VISITORS: Joe Naff, Kathy Smith, Mike Edwards, Brenda & Allen Kelly, David Jones and Dr. Jeff Jones.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 6, 2020 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition under Mr. Cornett's report for the Golf Course Grill RFP.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Weaver presented an Extra Mile Certificate to local Pediatrician Dr. Jeff Jones. Dr. Jones started his practice in Marion in 1977. Dr. Jones thanked everyone and noted it has been a privilege to be part of this community.

Mike Edwards gave an update on the Smyth Wythe Airport noting he had traveled to other countries recently with opportunities to visit other airports. The air traffic count is in seasonal transition. The budget review is in process and will be voted on Thursday.

David Jones, 1235 Main Street, Wytheville, requested that council consider implementing numbered stickers for business license holders. Discussion ensued. Mark Fenyk arrived. Mr. Rush noted the Town of Wytheville has implemented this since Mr. Jones was here last. Mr. Rush is not prepared at this time to make a recommendation.

Mr. Cornett deferred review of the RFP for the Golf Course Grill to Mr. Rush. He noted the RFP can be drafted from the 2016 model. Committee members have suggested updates from the draft. Mr. Rush recommends advertisement with a deadline of February 14, 2020 with a two week review period to follow. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 1 NOES, the Town Manager is authorized to advertise the Request For Proposals for the Golf Course Grill.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of Legislative Day in Richmond February 6, 2020. Mr. Heath will be arranging meetings with Legislators. Smyth County will hold a pre-bid meeting tomorrow on the Dr. Staley Overlook on Highway 16.

Mr. Fenyk was asked by Mayor Helms to report at the next meeting on the status of Academy Scholarships.

Ms. Stanley reminded everyone of the deadline February 3, 2020 to file Statement of Economic Interest forms.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,541,523.20. Messrs Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Clair reported nominations for "Officer of the Year" awards are being accepted.

Mrs. Veatch reported the Virginia Main Street Bonanza report has been completed and submitted. Downtown vacancy is at 3.4%. The Farmers Market is now open year round with seasonal hours.

Mr. Hicks noted the bid opening for Phase V Sewer materials will be Thursday at 2:00 pm.

Mr. Rush noted a beta testing image based program called Robotics was performed to evaluate asphalt conditions of the roads. Mr. Rush reviewed the Prater Pump Station Plan amendment regarding the natural gas backup generator. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the amendment to the Hazard Mitigation Plan to include a natural gas generator for the Prater Pump Station was accepted.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Mayor

Clerk