

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 March 6, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Suzanne Jennings, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver (arriving late), 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 and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arriving late).

**ABSENT:** None.

**VISITORS:** Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Katy Smith, Charles Hayden, Jeff and Anna Leigh DeBord, Mike Carter, Michelle Hartzog and Brian Reed.

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

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 21, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Jennings, Spencer, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of a miscellaneous item under Town Manager and addition of A-3 closed session.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Brian Reed, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Representative, reported some issues getting participation in Phase II of the Crescent/Palmer CDBG Project. Terry Jennings arrived. The Boundary Adjustment Request has been approved to include some of Olive Street. A public hearing will need to be held. The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission staff will conduct the public hearing and it can be held in the related neighborhood. Bill Weaver arrived. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the public hearing was approved to be held in the related project area. Mr. Reed also reported to council that an EPA Lead Renovations Repair & Painting Training will be held March 18, 2017 at the Henderson School from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm. This will help solicit certified contractors for these type of projects.

Mike Carter and Michelle Hartzog, advocates for Older Americans Day, requested consideration for the town to assist with tables, chairs and transportation if possible. The event will be held at the Chilhowie Town Park on May 26, 2017. Mr. Carter will inquire about District III helping with the transportation. Mr. Rush will contact Mr. Carter and Mrs. Hartzog to arrange assist from the Town of Marion.

Mayor Helms reported that the Town of Marion will be hosting a VML Regional Supper on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Golf Course. Mayor Helms attended the Change of Command yesterday at the Army Reserve Center.

Mr. Jennings gave a brief update on the Recreation Department activities. The Fish On event will be held April 1, 2017 at 8:30 am at RiverBend Park. Golf rounds this February are up considerably from last February. He also reported that Sundays are generally the busiest days for the Golf Course. Mr. Jennings reported that he has received a quote from National Pools for repairing the hole in the town pool. The funds are budgeted in the current fiscal year, however the quote is \$6,000 more than originally quoted due to grates needing to be replaced.

Mr. Rush reported for Mr. Heath, noting the Economic Development Department is getting geared up for the spring and summer activities. Mr. Heath is working hard on the VML Regional Supper and has Valley Grass scheduled to provide Blue Grass Music.

Mr. Hicks noted the asphalt plants are open. The offender crew is doing a great job and they are scheduled to pressure wash the pool deck. East Chilhowie Street Bridge repair has a finish date of April 17, 2017. The Church Street Drainage project is in the design phase.

Mr. Rush reported the first budget committee meeting will be Friday, March 10, 2017 at 9:00 am. He distributed a list of committee meetings for the month of March. A public hearing will need to be held April 3, 2017 for bond council for CIRP DEQ Phase II and VDH Phase I and II. Cameron Wolfe's term on planning commission will expire on March 31, 2017 and he has agreed to serve another term. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Cameron Wolfe was re-appointed to the Marion Planning Commission. Mr. Rush reported that Norfolk Southern has presented a one-time buy out option for the railroad easements. Mr. Rush will be taking this to the Water/Sewer Committee for consideration. The south bound on ramp at exit 45 will be closed for about four weeks for repairs to the bridge deck over Matson Drive.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-29) and (A-3) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of a public contract and Real Estate. 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.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is authorized to enter into negotiations and sign the contract extension with the Smyth County Foundation pertaining to the Golf Course.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager is to enter a purchase agreement for one new fairway mower, one used fairway mower and two Ventrac mowers with attachments not to exceed \$175,000.

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