

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 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Suzanne Jennings, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Deputy Clerk Samantha White; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Dr. Jim Gates Council Member.

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

VISITORS: Mike Edwards, Jeff Spickard, Jeff and Annaleigh Debord, Kathy Smith, and Robert Kell.

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 March 6, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with Eagle Scout Public Presentation rescheduled to a later date.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mike Edwards provided an update on the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission.

Robert Kell, Sprouting Hope Community Garden Director, asked that Council provide their support to Ohana Recovery Center as their lease expires and they search for a new location that will keep the Center in Marion. Mr. Kell also asked that Council continue to address the need for low-income housing in town.

Mr. Barker reported that Marion has been named a Tree City Destination for the 15th consecutive year. There will be an Arbor Day Celebration at Marion Elementary School. Marion First United Methodist Church will host a community meeting on Sunday, April 2 at 5:00 pm to discuss the drug problem in our community.

Mr. Carter attended the District 3 budget meeting. District 3 will provide transportation for seniors to Senior Day on May 26 in Chilhowie.

Mr. Cornett addressed citizens' concerns regarding Chatham Hill Road work zone safety.

Mayor Helms reported that Marion will host the VML Regional Supper at Holston Hills Community Golf Course on April 5 at 6:00 pm. Memorial Day programs and parade are being planned. Local Government Education Week is April 1-7. VML Policy Committees are appointing new members. Blue Ridge Job Corps is hosting its quarterly meeting Thursday, March 23 at noon. Exit 45 Southbound entrance continues to be closed. RAM Clinic will be held at Smyth-Wythe Airport from May 5-7. The Chamber of Commerce Town and County Quarterly Meeting will be March 29 at 6:00 pm at Riverfront Restaurant in Chilhowie. Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Annual Meeting will be April 6 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Fenyk presented a site plan survey for 1408 North Main Street. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, an Entrance Permit for Permanent Ingress/Egress across town property was approved.

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 \$1,016,119.22. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Chief Anders attended a VFW planning meeting for Memorial Day activities. The two officers attending the Academy are doing well there. Cooper, Police K-9, is beginning to make public appearances and has assisted officers in drug cases.

Mr. Heath reported there will be a Tornado Drill on March 21 at 9:45 am. He is working with VA Tech on a grant opportunity. Fish On will be April 1 at Riverbend Park. The boat donated to The Henderson School has a pending sale. There are 16 people attending the current round of Pop-Up classes.

Mr. Hicks reported there are ongoing repairs on East Chilhowie Street Bridge. Mr. Hicks has received the design for the Church Street Drainage Project and will meet with VDOT soon. Fairway Drive Project will begin on Monday, March 27. CIRP Phase I Sewer has overall completion of 54%. CIRP Phase I Water has overall completion of 50%. Applications for VDOT Primary Extension Program have been submitted.

Mr. Rush reported that Committee Meetings have been held throughout the previous week. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Weaver and with a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution of Support for application to Virginia Department of Health for CIRP Phase III and IV was passed. A revised version of the Streetscape plan has been submitted to VDOT. Mr. Rush presented information on Norfolk Southern Easements. The town received the VML Safety Award and grant for \$4,000.00 that will be used to purchase and install camera systems on various town properties. A Public Hearing will be held on April 17 for Residential Trash Enforcement Guidelines. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and with a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush was given approval to contract Mount Rogers Planning District Commission to review and update the Comprehensive Plan not to exceed \$5,000.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Personnel. 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Carter, Barker, Spencer, Jennings and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk