

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 April 17, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Suzanne Jennings and Larry Carter 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; Economic Development Director Ken Heath (arriving late); Administrative Assistant for the Office of Community and Economic Development Shelby Farris (arriving late); Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Bill Hamm and Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Schrenker.

**ABSENT:** Avery Cornett Council Member.

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

**VISITORS:** Mike Edwards, Jeff Spickard, Jeff and Anna Leigh Debord, Kathy Smith, Ed and Karen Fouts, Charles and Anna Wassum.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 3, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC HEARING RESIDENTIAL TRASH ENFORCEMENT:** Mr. Rush reviewed the proposed Ordinance change noting the fine structure as follows: first offense – letter only, second offense - \$25 fine, third offense - \$50 fine, fourth offense - \$100 fine, fifth offense - \$250 fine, additional offense - \$250 each. All fines would be considered a class 4 misdemeanor and fines would reset each year on June 30<sup>th</sup>. (Mr. Heath and Mrs. Farris arrived.) Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the proposed Town Ordinance change to Chapter 58 Solid Waste for Residential Trash Enforcement was adopted.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Mr. Heath introduced the new Administrative Assistant for Office of Community and Economic Development, Shelby Farris. Mrs. Farris thanked everyone for the opportunity to work for the Town of Marion.

Mike Edwards provided an update on the Fly Fishing and Wine Tasting Festival he attended April 7-9 on behalf of the Town of Marion, Smyth County and the Tourism Center to promote tourism in the area. The Town of Marion provided a \$500 scholarship for Mr. Edwards to attend. He distributed 31,000 brochures at the festival. He also gave an update on the Smyth Wythe Airport. Paving will begin May 8, 2017 and last for 23 days. The Ram Clinic will be held at the airport May 5-7, 2017.

Mr. Wassum, 200 Larch Street, thanked council for the special care to the mowing and grooming of the Wassona Park area.

Mr. Barker reported there will be an Arbor Day Celebration at Marion Elementary School on May 15, 2017 at 1:30 pm. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, May 15, 2017 will be set as Arbor Day for the Town of Marion.

Dr. Gates reviewed the budget process and noted the need to set the Public Hearing. He also noted the Budget Committee will meet on the Museum request. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing on the 2017 – 2018 budget will be set for May 15, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

Mr. Weaver reviewed the Personnel Committee meeting regarding the retirement of the Animal Control Officer, Lee Farmer. The Personnel Committee recommends redirecting those funds, not filling the position and turning the operations of the Animal Control Officer over to Smyth County. Upon motion of

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the operations of the Animal Control Officer will be turned over to Smyth County and this process will be reviewed in 90 days.

Mayor Helms thanked staff and council for the excellent job on the VML Regional Supper at Holston Hills Community Golf Course on April 5 at 6:00 pm. The Memorial Day Parade will be May 29, 2017. Exit 45 Southbound entrance ramp closure has been postponed until tomorrow. The Ram Clinic will be held at Smyth-Wythe Airport May 5-7, 2017. The Vice-Commander of the VFW toured Marion and a large group welcomed him.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$813,615.43. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Chief Hamm noted the EMS calls are up considerably.

Chief Anders noted the Police Department has been awarded a Byrne Justice Grant in the amount of \$5,892 and the Town's match will be \$655. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Byrne Justice Grant was accepted with the Town's match of \$655. This grant will be used for vehicle equipment. Chief Anders noted a picture is on the iPad of the new badges. These were made possible by a donation from Mrs. Campbell.

Ms. Schrenker reported the boat donated to the Schoolhouse has been sold. There were 6 participants in the guitar workshop last week. Fiddle and banjo making workshops will begin in June 2017. Ms. Schrenker noted she is trying to acquire some fundraising ideas to help fund a part time or full time person for the wood working shop.

Mr. Heath reviewed the next two RBEG Loans for \$15,000, each of which is allowable through the USDA Program. One loan is to Karen Hester and Monica Guertler, dba Hester's Country Store, and the second loan is to Ed Fuqua, dba Charley's of Marion. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the loan for Hester's Country Store in the amount of \$15,000 was approved. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the loan for Charley's of Marion in the amount of \$15,000 was approved.

Mr. Hicks distributed the paving list. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the paving schedule was approved in the amount of \$294,773 for the spring 2017 paving. The VDOT special paving project for Main Street will be announced in June or July. East Chilhowie Street Bridge repairs will be completed by May 1, 2017.

Mr. Rush noted the water accountability report shows the plant only needed to produce less than 10,000,000 gallons for the month. Phase 1 Water project is scheduled to close on Thursday, April 20, 2017. Phase 1 and 2 Sewer projects are scheduled to close in June. The Streetscape Project is waiting on a notice to proceed. The Comprehensive Plan review will begin soon, any council suggestions should be submitted to Mr. Barker.

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

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Mayor

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Clerk

