

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 May 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Suzanne Jennings, Avery Cornett and Larry Carter (arrived late) 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 (arrived late).

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Jeff Spickard, Jeff and Anna Leigh Debord, Kathy Smith and Katie Smith.

**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 April 17, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Cornett and Dr. Gates 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. Terry Jennings arrived.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Kathy Smith wrote and read a patriotic poem about the Town of Marion and Mayor Helms. Larry Carter arrived.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution for Business Appreciation Month 2017 was accepted.

Mr. Barker reviewed an Arbor Day Proclamation. There will be a celebration at Marion Elementary School on May 15, 2017 at 1:30 pm. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Proclamation Declaring May 15, 2017 Arbor Day was accepted.

Dr. Gates has received lots of positive comments about the Golf Course.

Mr. Carter reported that a District III bus will be available to transport citizens to Chilhowie on May 26, 2017 for the Older Americans Day celebration.

Mayor Helms has also received positive comments about the Golf Course and citizens seem to be understanding of the bridge issues. Memorial Day weekend celebration will begin on Thursday with Rolling Thunder. The Ram Clinic will be held this weekend at the Smyth-Wythe Airport. Emory & Henry College, School of Health Sciences Inaugural White Coat Ceremony for the students entering their Physician Assistant Program will be held at the Lincoln Theatre on May 22, 2017 at 4:00 pm. The March of Dimes Walk and the Blue Line 5K will both be held Saturday, May 13, 2017.

Mr. Jennings will invite the little league teams to walk in the Memorial Day parade. The Town pool will open on Friday, May 26, 2017 as the repairs are complete. The Golf Course hosted a large tournament Saturday and a prom that night. The beverage cart is scheduled to arrive mid to late May. Mr. Rush met with the ABC Board on the new operating guidelines for the grill and it is going well. Mr. Rush noted the decision has been made to remove and replace the Golf Course bridge after the flood damage. Mattern and Craig will be helping guide us through the replacement process. The plan is to replace with a single lane VDOT approved steel bridge. This is estimated to take 90 to 120 days.

Chief Anders noted the Marion Downtown Cruise Ins will begin May 12, 2017. He also reported the Fake Facebook News post was reported and removed very quickly.

Mr. Hicks reviewed the Highway Maintenance quarterly report. There were two paving bids submitted Friday afternoon. The apparent low bidder was W-L Construction and Paving. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, W-L Construction and Paving bid was

accepted in the amount of \$277,448 and not to exceed 10% recycled material. East Chilhowie Street bridge contractor will be here tomorrow to complete the project. Mr. Hicks and Mr. Rush attended a VDOT meeting concerning the Church Street Drainage project. Fairway Drive repairs are complete and the sink hole seems to have been stabilized. Mr. Hicks reviewed the repairs needed at the Sewer Treatment Plant noting Smyth County will be responsible for a portion of this. Mr. Rush is exploring the possibilities of rebuilding with stainless steel.

Mr. Rush noted the Public Hearing for the budget needs to be moved to June 5, 2017. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Public Hearing on the 2017 – 2018 budget will be reset for June 5, 2017. The Streetscape project should get a notice to proceed very soon. Airport minutes and financial packet were distributed. The Animal Control transition to Smyth County will happen over the next 90 days.

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