

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 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Avery Cornett 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 Lieutenant Andrew Moss; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm (arriving late).

**ABSENT:** Suzanne Jennings Council Member.

**VISITORS:** Jeff Spickard, Jeff and Anna Leigh Debord, Kathy Smith, Kenneth Browning, Valerie Hicks, Luke Hicks, Reverend Jim Bangle and Policar Officers Rick McNew, Tim Whisman, Jason Horner and Rick Billings.

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Reverend Jim Bangle rendered the invocation. Police Officer Tim Whisman led the Pledge to the Flag.

Kathy Smith read a poem in honor of National Peace Officers Week titled "Empty Chair in the Breakroom".

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution for National Peace Officers Week 2017 was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to the Officers present.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 1, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Cornett, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition under the Town Manager's report for VML Committee and one addition to Closed Session for Real Estate.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Kenneth Browning announced he will be a Candidate for the State Delegation for the 6<sup>th</sup> District and if elected will work closely with the Town of Marion Council and Smyth County Board of Supervisors to help grow Smyth County.

Luke Hicks thanked Council for the opportunity and support to install the benches at the RiverWalk for his Eagle Scout Project.

Anna Leigh DeBord, 343 College Street, reported the Museum has hired a part time person to allow the museum to be open this summer Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. She also asked Council to consider any donations.

Mr. Barker noted the Arbor Day Program was held today.

Mr. Cornett noted the Student Government Day was a good program. The Vice Mayor and a Council person from Wytheville gave Mr. Cornett a tour of their Recreational Facilities.

Mayor Helms reported the Memorial Day Parade will be held at 10:00 am on May 29, 2017. Mayor Helms attended the Arbor Day Program today. He also attended the March of Dimes Walk Saturday. Student Government Day had a great group of students shadowing at the Town of Marion. Marion College Reunion will be held this weekend with Saturday's events at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. The Emory & Henry White Coat Ceremony will be held next Monday, May 22, 2017 at 4:00 pm at the Lincoln Theatre.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$858,877.45. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Lieutenant Moss displayed one of the safety vests purchased by the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Officer Bill Ray Johnson won the Blue Line 5K Gear Challenge. Billy Hamm arrived. Lieutenant Moss noted the department is currently working on the break-in at the Golf Course.

Mr. Heath reported that a visiting group was here today from Pearisburg and another visiting group will be here tomorrow from Abingdon.

Mr. Hicks reported the paving contract with W-L Paving was signed Friday. East Chilhowie Street Bridge repairs are complete and will re-open after VDOT inspection. The water accountability is 48% this month.

Mr. Rush noted the Public Hearing for the 2017 – 2018 budget will be June 5, 2017. He reviewed the Phase 2 Water Authorizing Resolution. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond of the Town of Marion in an amount not to exceed \$356,600 and providing for the form, details and payment of the Bond was adopted.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

Mr. Cornett	AYE
Mr. Carter	AYE
Mr. Weaver	AYE
Ms. Spencer	AYE
Dr. Gates	AYE
Mr. Barker	AYE

Mr. Rush reviewed the Phase 2 Sewer Authorizing Resolution. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation and Water and Sewer Revenue Bond of the Town of Marion in an amount not to exceed \$346,300 and providing for the form, details and payment of the Bond was adopted.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

Mr. Cornett	AYE
Mr. Carter	AYE
Mr. Weaver	AYE
Ms. Spencer	AYE
Dr. Gates	AYE
Mr. Barker	AYE

Mr. Rush reviewed the Streetscape Project noting start date to be shortly after Memorial Day. He gave an overview of the proposed replacement of the Golf Course bridge. The bridge is currently 100% in the floodway and is uninsurable. There are two options for replacing the bridge, 1 – to replace exactly as it was or 2- replace and raise the abutments and change the approaches with box culverts on each end. The Demolition was done by Teaters Trucking on an emergency contract at minimal cost. Mattern and Craig will do the Engineering on an hourly basis not to exceed \$35,000. The preliminary estimates are as follows: \$30,000 engineering, \$30,000 abutments, \$100,000 bridge, \$150,000 approaches. Mr. Rush hopes to be able to hold costs as minimally as possible for a total of approximately \$225,000 to \$275,000 total. When completed the bridge will be a single lane steel bridge, VDOT Standards, able to support delivery trucks. Mr. Rush reviewed a proposal from Charlie Harrington, MRHA Representative, for a CDBG application allowing him to access up to \$20,000 of the Town's \$2,000,000 borrowing capacity for CDBG Grants. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, MRHA will be allowed to utilize the \$20,000 capacity of the Town's borrowing ability for a Housing Development Planning Grant with a one year maximum. Dan Surface's term on Planning Commission expires on June 18, 2017 and he is willing to serve another term. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Dan Surface was re-appointed to the Marion Planning Commission. Mr. Rush will be serving as the Chair for the VML Community Economic Development Committee.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of acquisition of Real Property. Dr. Gates 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, Dr. Gates, Carter, Barker, Spencer, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

