

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 June 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver (left early), 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; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; Public Works Director Jackie Perry; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arriving late).

ABSENT: Larry Carter Council Member.

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Jeff and Anna Leigh Debord, Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Lee & Patty Farmer, Emma Walters, Matthew Walters, Eddie Hamm, Beth Hamm, Brenda Rowland, Miranda Walters, Jeremiah Walters, Stephanie Walters, Mike Edwards, Travis Poston, Brian Tibbs, Employees: Deputy Clerk Anita Catron, Purchasing Agent Billy Hamm, Police Lieutenants Andrew Moss and Rusty Hamm, Police Sergeants April Morgan and Kevin Testerman, Police Officers Josh Taylor, Amber Eades, Rick Billings, Jeffrey Horn, Brian Sexton, Timothy Whisman, James Yonts and Keith Finney.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held May 15, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Cornett, Jennings, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively. Terry Jennings arrived.

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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Kathy Smith read a poem as a tribute to Lee Farmer's retirement.

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of Lee Farmer's Retirement was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Farmer and his family. Chief Anders presented Mr. Farmer with a plaque from the Marion Police Department. Mr. Farmer thanked everyone and stated he was proud to have served the citizens of Marion for 26 years.

Mike Edwards, Collins House Inn Bed & Breakfast, gave a tourism update. He would like to see the area continue to encourage visitors to come to Marion as a destination and suggested we welcome the Appalachian Trail hikers. Mr. Edwards also gave an update on the airport paving. The paving should be approximately 90% completed this week and the runway should be re-opened Friday.

PUBLIC HEARING FISCAL 2017-2018 BUDGET: Mr. Rush reviewed the proposed budget noting a 10% increase in water/sewer charges and a 2 cent per one hundred dollar tax value Real Estate tax increase. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing. Council discussion ensued regarding the museum request. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Smyth County Historical Museum request for a donation was approved for \$2,000 to come from the budget year 2017-2018. Mayor Helms thanked the staff and finance committee for all their work on the budget and also noted the need to increase funds to continue to provide services to the citizens.

Mr. Cornett thanked the VFW for the Parade and crosses on the Courthouse lawn. He also noted the National Guard Band was fantastic.

Mr. Weaver reported the Memorial Day Celebration was great.

Mrs. Jennings noted that she was in a major city on Memorial Day and their festivities did not compare to Marion's. Mr. Tibbs was available to answer any questions about the Lincoln Theatre and noted the Golf Tournament will be held Saturday at Holston Hills.

Mr. Barker enjoyed the Memorial Day Weekend and thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mayor Helms reported on the trip to Washington, DC with Mr. Heath. Mayor Helms stressed the importance of ARC, CDBG and DHCD funds as part of growing the communities. He and Mr. Heath visited Senator Kaine's office and shared ideas. Mayor Helms enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend and thanked the VFW. He reviewed an issue with site distance when exiting the parking lot at the front of the Courthouse on North Church Street. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the 3 parking spots directly in front of the Courthouse on North Church Street will be eliminated. The Marion College Reunion was a huge success with events at the Henderson School, including a paint party. Mayor Helms thanked Mr. Tibbs for having the Lincoln Theatre open and available for the reunion group. The Museum of the Middle Appalachias will hold an open house on Saturday afternoon June 17, 2017 in honor of the first dig 100 years ago. The VML Magazine had a nice article about the Regional Supper and Emory & Henry College School of Health Sciences.

Mr. Jennings reported 286 children have signed up for summer programs. Tennis lessons will be July 10-14, 2017 at no cost. The swimming pools opened for the season on May 26, 2017 and positive comments have been received regarding the refurbing of the town pool. There have been several tournaments and weddings at the Golf Course and the alternate route, due to the bridge being out, continues to work well. Mr. Rush called today about the beverage cart and it will be here Thursday.

Mr. Perry noted the pavement painting and markings should be completed 2-3 weeks sooner this year. Marking began last night and the new paint machine is working well.

Chief Anders thanked the Public Works staff for their help with the parade. He also reported there have been no complaints on the new animal control process.

Mrs. McDonald thanked everyone for their help with the Memorial Day Weekend. This week kicks off the summer activities beginning this Friday with the Art Walk at 5:00 pm, Cruise In on Broad Street at 6:00 pm, Ghost Tours at 7:15 pm and the first Summer Concert Series at 8:00 pm at the Farmers Market. A Blood Assurance Blood Drive "Battle of the Badges" geared toward Police/Fire/EMS will be held June 19, 2017 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Smyth County Ambulance Service location on Highway 16. The Rock, White and Blues themed Cruise In will be held July 4th with live music by Jig Saw Jane at 6:00 pm. The Phantom Block Party will be held July 21, 2017 from 7:00 to 10:00 pm on the Courthouse steps. The Town and County quarterly meeting is to be hosted by Marion this time and for those who register they will receive a \$15 coupon to the downtown restaurant of their choice. A second stage will be set up in front of the Town Hall this year for music for the Chili Cook Off; this was made possible by sponsorships from area businesses in the amount of \$10,000. We have received a Virginia Main Street Grant for \$5,000 for a LOVE sign. Leslie Vanover, Farmer's Market Manager, completed a 16 week course and is now a certified Market Manager.

Mr. Heath congratulated Mrs. McDonald on meeting the challenge of collecting \$10,000 in sponsorships for the two stages for music this year. Hester's Country Store will be having a grand opening soon. Rally North America, 9 Car Club Rally will be coming to Marion on July 11, 2017. The Kiosk will have one whole side providing information available to the Appalachian Trail hikers. Virginia Main Street has provided 4 new signs at each entrance to Marion.

Mr. Rush reviewed Mr. Hicks' report noting W-L Paving plans to have the paving in town completed by June 30, 2017. East Chilhowie Street Bridge repairs are complete and the bridge is re-opened. Mr. Spickard reviewed the bids opened last Thursday on Phase II Sewer Project. Teaters Trucking was the apparent low bidder. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the bid was awarded to Teaters Trucking for the contractor portion of Phase II Sewer in the amount of \$219,321.37. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the material bid for Phase II Sewer was awarded to 4 different vendors, Ferguson Enterprises, Consolidated Pipe, HD Supply and Eastern Vault Inc, for a total of \$22,253.95 with no bids received for manholes, anchor bolts or crushed stone. Mr. Weaver left. Mr. Rush reviewed VDH Phase III and Phase IV Water applications. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, VDH Phase III Water application option 2, \$108,000 principal forgiveness with \$549,000 as a 30 year loan at 2.5% interest for a total of \$657,000 was accepted. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, VDH Phase IV Water application option 2, \$119,000

principal forgiveness with \$600,000 as a 30 year loan at 2.5% interest for a total of \$719,000 was accepted. Streetscape is waiting on notice to proceed.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk