

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 19, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter 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; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Bradley Powers, Leslie Vanover, Jocie Hash, Emily Hash and Virginia Mahaur.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held June 5, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Heath introduced Leslie Vanover, Farmers Market Manager, and noted she is the first Virginia Certified Farmers Market Manager. Mayor Helms thanked her for all her hard work.

Mr. Cornett helped with removing the Memorial Day flags from the Courthouse lawn and he thanked Mayor Helms for all his hard work on this program. Mr. Cornett attended the Back of the Dragon program in Tazewell as a vendor and as a representative for the Town of Marion.

Mayor Helms reviewed the baseball game invitation from the Town of Pulaski and asked anyone interested to please RSVP to Ms. Stanley. The Saltville 100 Year Dig Celebration has been moved to Saturday, June 24, 2017. Morgan Griffith submitted a letter of support of the CDBG Program. Mayor Helms and Mr. Heath received a thank you letter for traveling to Washington, DC and speaking in support of this same program. The Carnegie Reunion will be July 13-15, 2017. The Emory & Henry College of Health Sciences will host an open house for the Fall Prevention and Obesity Clinics located at the School of Health Science on June 21, 2017 from 4-6 pm. There were over 1,000 flags displayed this year for the Memorial Day weekend.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,143,449.95. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Chief Hamm introduced EMS Training Officer and Paramedic Bradley Powers. Bradley Powers traveled to Charlotte, NC to accept an American Heart Association STEMI Award presented to Marion Fire/EMS. This is the only agency in the area to hold this certification. Mr. Cornett asked about AED Training and EMT Classes. Mayor Helms appreciated the charts and graphs in Mr. Hamm's report.

Chief Anders reported there had been lots of Police and Fire/EMS calls today and all agencies worked very well together.

Mr. Heath presented Certificates of Appreciation from Newport, TN to Marion Fire/EMS and Police Chief Anders for their help with Operation Rudolph. Cruise In and Concert Series will be held this Friday, June 23, 2017. A LED Crossing sign will be installed at the Lincoln Theatre to improve pedestrian crossing ability. A large group of approximately 70 vehicles will be visiting on July 11, 2017. Mayor Helms distributed new Smyth County visitor brochures.

Mr. Hicks reported the paving will begin this week with milling on Thursday and paving next Monday. CIRP areas will be paved first and then areas that have been repaired, Matson Drive Culvert project, Fairway Drive project and others. There will be a fall paving this year. East Chilhowie Street Bridge is opened, inspection has been done and VDOT is working on the load rating. Mr. Hicks is working on hydrant replacements, there are about 18-20 needing to be replaced.

Mr. Rush reviewed the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget. Discussion ensued regarding the Cost of Living Raise and health insurance. The health insurance went up 15% and the town has elected to not pass this increase on to the employees. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, there will be no Cost of Living Increase for employees this year In lieu of the town absorbing the 15% increase to health insurance and providing helicopter insurance. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget was adopted. A closing date for CIRP Sewer Phase II will be July 20, 2017. Mattern & Craig are working on the design for the Golf Course bridge replacement. A design and cost estimate will be provided soon. The Property Maintenance program is back in force for the season and as many as 7 properties a day are being cleaned up. This has encouraged improved maintenance of surrounding properties. Mr. Rush noted a meeting will need to be held on June 30, 2017 to close end of year. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, there will be a called meeting on June 30, 2017 at 5:15 pm for year-end closing.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk