

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 July 17, 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 Lieutenant Andrew Moss; Engineering Assistant/IT Coordinator Todd Long; Economic Development Director Ken Heath (left early) and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Dan Read and Charles Hayden.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Heath 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 30, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held July 3, 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: Mrs. DeBord thanked council for the financial support of the Museum. There have been over 850 visitors. Mayor Helms expressed his appreciation for all her hard work and efforts with the Museum.

Mayor Helms reviewed a Resolution for Mrs. Lenora Pennington's 100th Birthday on July 21st. He will review with Marion Baptist Church members and present this Saturday. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Appreciation of Mrs. Lenora Beatrice Aker Pennington on the Occasion of her 100th Birthday in Marion, Virginia was accepted.

Mr. Cornett introduced visitor Dan Read.

Mr. Weaver enjoyed the music event downtown.

Mrs. Jennings had company from England and they expressed their love for our community.

Mr. Barker reported that Chief Anders is in the hospital.

Mayor Helms noted the Class of '77 Reunion and the Carnegie Reunion were held this past weekend. Joann Morgan is working on a book about Ms. Evelyn Lawrence. There were 140 people that attended the Class of '77 Reunion. Mayor Helms has received many positive comments about the town staff. The Car Rally last week had cars from 20 different states and the rally raised \$149,000 for Wounded Warriors.

Mr. Fenyk reported the garnishment for an RBEG Loan has been filed with the General District Court.

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 \$378,873.93. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Chief Hamm reported that Tony Muncy is supervising fire hydrant painting and there is a plan in place for repairing and replacing hydrants. The VDOT Abingdon office called about doing a survey regarding so many motor vehicle accidents at exit 47. The fire department will begin reporting these accidents to VDOT. The new ambulance was in an accident Friday afternoon. No one was seriously injured.

Lieutenant Moss reported a grant has been submitted to add an additional Police Officer, the grant will cover the first three years and then the officer’s salary would become the Town’s responsibility. He reviewed the K-9 report, noting Cooper is doing a great job and has been called out to assist the County as well as Chilhowie and Saltville.

Mr. Heath reviewed an invitation from Mt Rogers Community Services Board for the Rhea Lawrence Rehabilitation Center open house Friday, July 28. Happy’s Restaurant is under new management and will now be serving breakfast. Mr. Heath reviewed an article about the United Way – ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constraints Employed). 43% of Smyth County residents fall in this level as well as half of all Americans.

Mr. Rush reviewed Mr. Hicks’ report, noting paving is complete and the next round of paving will take place this fall. The water department repaired several water leaks last week, with 5 leaks happening in about a 6 hour window. Mt Rogers Planning District Commission has a wastewater grant coming up in August. The Town will apply for this to help with necessary upgrades at the Sewer Treatment Plant. Mr. Rush reviewed the water accountability report. Phase II Sewer Project has a closing scheduled for Thursday, July 27. We have received the Notice to Proceed on the Streetscape Project. An update will be available on the Golf Course Bridge at the next meeting. Golf Carts are ready to be purchased and should arrive mid-October. Paving at the Airport is complete. A letter was received from the Smyth County Board of Supervisors indicating their building inspector is retiring. Towns with a population of more than 3,500 residents are responsible for their own building inspection services or this can be contracted out to another municipality.

Mr. Carter noted the pigeon problem at the parking garage has returned. Mr. Rush reported pigeon prevention items have been ordered and will be installed. Then the parking garage will be pressure washed.

Mayor Helms noted the Spirit of ‘45 Day will be August 13 at 3 pm at the Court House.

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

Mayor

Clerk