

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 August 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer (arriving late), 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 (left early); Public Works Director Jackie Perry and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Charles Hayden, Jeff Spickard, Dennis Carter, Damon Mazoff, Edwina Richardson, Jackie Wilson, Lori Cutshaw and Kim Sturgill.

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 Mr. Carter and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held July 17, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Cornett, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved with one addition under Town Manager's report for District III and removal of Real Estate closed session. (Tricia Spencer arrived).

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Dr. Carter, Smyth County Schools Superintendent, reviewed the Strive for 5 Initiative. This program will encourage students to miss no more than 5 days during the school year. Edwina Richardson, Assistant Principal of Oak Point Elementary, reviewed the program in depth. This Initiative will help combat chronic absenteeism, which is 18 days or more missed during the school year. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Support of "Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow, Strive for 5" Initiative was accepted.

Mr. Cornett expressed citizens' concerns about bears in the area.

Mayor Helms noted Spirit of '45 Celebration will be held Sunday, August 13th at 3:00 pm at the Court House with speaker Israel O'Quinn. He reported a large crowd at the Farmers Market Saturday. The Chamber of Commerce Annual Town & Country BBQ will be held August 24th at 6:30 pm. Mayor Helms noted about 40 children participated in a Downtown project "Marion Rocks", which involves children painting rocks and placing them around the Downtown area.

Mr. Fenyk reported the individual with the criminal charge for the bad check has retained counsel and deposited cash into a trustee account and the attorney has written a check to the town to cover the bad check.

Ms. Stanley distributed a preliminary agenda for the VML Conference in October. She reported the town will be hosting a VRS Roundtable Wednesday, August 23rd at the Golf Course.

Mr. Jennings reported some golfers traveling thru the area from Michigan attended the Chili Cook Off. Flag football will wrap up this week and had 46 kids that participated. Area high schools have registered for a tournament which will be held tomorrow and includes 15 teams. A tackle wheel has been purchased for the football program which will aid in teaching how to tackle to help reduce injuries. Mr. Barker asked about the possibility of recruiting some used golf clubs for younger kids to use.

Mr. Perry noted the Public Works crew are trimming Right of Ways. Public Works is also working on painting, color coding and replacing fire hydrants. The garbage truck has been refurbished but still needs the braking system replaced.

Chief Anders thanked everyone for all their help during the Chili Cook Off event. The department is reviewing the applications for the Officer vacancy and will conduct interviews the next two weeks.

Mr. Heath noted his department is working with Emory & Henry College to schedule a Homecoming Parade. The 911 Program will be held September 11 beginning at 7:30 am with a timeline of bell ringing representing the time each plane was crashed. The Head Space Brewery will be opening August 28th. Mr. Heath reviewed a proposal from Emory & Henry College for multimedia equipment to help with presentations at the Lincoln Theatre. Mr. Rush reviewed the terms of the Public Education Governmental (PEG FEE) funds. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, \$5,000 was allocated for the Emory & Henry multimedia proposal from the PEG FEE account.

Mr. Hicks reported the fall paving will begin at the end of September or early October.

Mr. Rush noted the town will be hosting a VRA Workshop on September 21st at the Golf Course. VDH has asked about holding a workshop there as well. The Streetscape project is in the procurement process. Mr. Rush distributed an estimated cost proposal on the Golf Course bridge which is \$293,787. We have received quotes on several of the components. Mr. Rush recommends moving forward and preparing to put this on a bank loan. Mr. Hicks proposed to the engineers to raise the bridge three more feet and this consideration was well received. The bridge is in the flood plain and is uninsurable. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the town will proceed with construction of the replacement of the Golf Course bridge based on the estimates with financing to be determined. The recommendation for the East Chilhowie Street bridge is to remove the concrete decking and replace with wood. This estimate is approximately \$100,000. The Airport will re-open on August 28th. Doug Covington's term on the Board of Zoning Appeals expires in September. Mr. Rush has spoken with Mr. Covington and he is willing to continue to serve. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, it is recommended that Mr. Covington be re-appointed by the Judge to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mike Guy is retiring from District III at the end of this year. October 1st District III will no longer be cooking meals for senior citizens, however they are looking for a location to continue to serve meals. They are considering requesting usage of the upstairs area of the Rescue Squad building. The wrecked ambulance is being taken to Roanoke for inspection. It is possible the box is not damaged and the cab and chassis can be replaced.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Personnel dismissal. 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, Carter, Barker, Spencer, Gates and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk