

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 September 5, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates (arrived late), Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Lieutenant Rusty Hamm; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arrived late).

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Jeff Spickard, Charles Harrington, Brian Reed, Sheila Myers, Mike Steele, Kenneth Browning, Caeli Brannon, Kristi & Chris McConnell, Jonathan Luper and Virginia Mason.

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 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held August 21, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Cornett, Carter, and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Kristi McConnell with the Emory & Henry Community Outreach Program spoke about promoting recycling in the area. Students would like to see more recycling facilities available. Jonathan Luper, Public Works Director of Grayson County, gave a presentation about how their recycling program works. Grayson County now has 12 recycling centers. Dr. Gates arrived. Mayor Helms would like this to be researched and asked Mr. Luper if he would consider assisting the town if possible. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Sanitation Committee.

Kenneth Browning, Sugar Grove, spoke about the possibility of combining activities for the young people with the dog park.

Sheila Myers, Porter Valley Road, Marion, presented a letter and petition signed by the Senior Citizens to encourage the town to keep the Senior Citizen Center open. She noted that on Tuesdays there are approximately 40 Seniors that meet there and it is a safe, bright place for them to meet. Mayor Helms stated there is no plan to discontinue the Seniors using this facility and the Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet to determine the best use for this building. October 1, 2017 District III will no longer use this building to prepare meals. Mayor Helms noted the Henderson School is set up to facilitate many activities for the Seniors.

Mike Steele, Blue Ridge Job Corps Community Liaison, noted the Job Corps will be joining with Marion Senior High School on September 21 at 1:15 pm for a Peace Walk. He will have a Proclamation to present at the next Council meeting.

Charles Harrington, Marion Housing Authority, noted a safety and security grant for the Housing Authority has been awarded in the amount of \$196,100. A new Federal program requirement will be enforced beginning in December 2018, all public housing properties must be smoke free. Mr. Harrington received an email from Richmond today that our area could be affected by the next hurricane.

PUBLIC HEARING CDBG FUNDING: Brian Reed, Mt Rogers Planning District Commission, reviewed the Federal requirements for Community Development Block Grants. The state of Virginia has 17 million dollars available for these type of grants. This is the first required Public Hearing for the Community Development Block Grants. The second Public Hearing will be project specific. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing for comments. With no public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Helms noted the Extra Mile applications are due next week. He reviewed the 2017 Oral Rabies Vaccination notice. He reminded everyone of the VML Conference in Williamsburg October 1-3, 2017. The 9-11 Program will be held at the Fire Station this year with the tolling of the bell representative of each event. There will be a wreath laying ceremony at 10:30 am.

Mr. Fenyk reported the re-appointment request for the Board of Zoning Appeals has been filed.

Mr. Jennings reported the Annual Emory & Henry Golf Tournament will be held Friday, September 15, 2017. He invited council to attend the luncheon at 1:00 pm following the tournament. He noted the dog park is in the initial planning stages. This will be implemented with grants and private funding. The first planning meeting/public input meeting will be September 21 at 6:00 pm in the council chambers.

Mr. Hicks reported for Mr. Perry on Public Works Department. Three hydrants have been replaced. The department is preparing for leaf pickup. Streetscape project began today.

Lieutenant Hamm reported job interviews will be held September 11. Two of the new vehicles have been striped and placed into service. The Police Department now supports an "Offer Up Program" which allows citizens a safe place to meet to sell/exchange items with video surveillance. A request from Mt Zion Temple Church was presented by Lt Hamm for a street closure for their Annual event. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the street will be closed on Sunday, September 10 from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm from Orange to High Street.

Mr. Hicks gave an update on the Golf Course Bridge replacement. The contractor will be here tomorrow. The steel abutments have been ordered and will be delivered Thursday. There is a scheduled work session for the Planning Commission on Comprehensive Plan and hopefully it will be ready for presentation to council and a Public Hearing in January.

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

Mayor

Clerk