

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 October 16, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms (arriving late), Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, 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: Suzanne Jennings.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Jeff Spickard, Police Officer Jeffrey Davis, Keyla Edwards, Pat Davis, Charles Hayden, Patrick Ford and Brian Reed.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation. Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates led the Pledge to the Flag.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held September 18, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Cornett, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Brian Reed, Mt Rogers Planning District Commission Representative, announced that the Town of Marion has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$100,000 for Sewer Treatment Plant upgrades. (Mayor Helms arrived). Mr. Reed reported that any changes to the Comprehensive Plan should be submitted to him in the next 30 days. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Joint Public Hearing will be scheduled for Monday, November 20th at 5:30 pm.

Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates turned the meeting over to Mayor Helms. Police Chief Anders introduced the new Police Officer Jeffrey Davis. He has 10 years' experience in corrections and his wife and daughter were present.

Mr. Carter attended the last District III meeting.

Mr. Cornett attended the opening of Med Express. He corresponded with two Recreation Equipment vendors while at the VML Conference in Williamsburg. He has reached out to the FBLA club at the high school for input on the Playgrounds. Mr. Cornett has asked Dennis Carter, School Superintendent, for permission to partner with the students.

Mayor Helms noted the 3 ½ day VML Conference was only 2 ½ days this year and it was really pressed for time. There is a possible change in the format for next year. Extra Mile Day Awards will be presented at the November 20th meeting. Mayor Helms read a Resolution for National Physical Therapy Month,

October 2017. Mayor Helms had presented the Resolution to the first and second year Physical Therapy students at the Emory & Henry College of Health Sciences, just prior to this meeting. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the National Physical Therapy Month, October 2017, Resolution was accepted. Mayor Helms read a Resolution in honor of Richard Greer's 100th Birthday. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Appreciation of Mr. Richard Greer on the Occasion of his 100th Birthday in Marion, VA was accepted. Mayor Helms reminded council of the Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner at the River Front Restaurant in Chilhowie on November 2nd at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Fenyk thanked council for the opportunity to attend the VML Conference.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$960,837.55. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Ms. Stanley thanked council for the opportunity to attend the 2017 VMCA Clerk's Institute and Academy along with Mrs. Catron, Deputy Clerk.

Chief Hamm gave an update on the ambulance. The loading system will be recertified by Stryker. The new 2018 Cab and Chassis is on order from Atlantic. February 2018 is the anticipated time frame for the ambulance to be back in service.

Chief Anders thanked council for allowing him to attend the Chief's Conference in VA Beach. The USDA Resolutions for the purchase of police cars were reviewed. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution of Governing Body of Town of Marion was accepted. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Code of Conduct was accepted.

Mr. Heath noted there was lots of good networking at the VML Conference. Halloween Madness will be the last Saturday in October. The Christmas Parade will be Friday, December 1st at 6:30 pm. Patrick Ford, volunteer, reported on the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. There are 69 Jam Students. The school has won a 50/50 Commission of the Arts Award. The pottery and ceramic programs are on schedule. They will be adding silk screening to the letterpress program.

Mr. Hicks reported the easements for the South Church Street Drainage project have been sent out. Mr. Rush noted VDOT will be combining several projects this year. There is a 6 year plan now for the South Church Street Drainage project. The funds must be committed by the end of the year, \$700,000 total with \$400,000 for the Church Street Drainage and \$300,000 for a Smart Scale project for bike lanes and sidewalks on Park Blvd. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, A Resolution for the Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia as an Endorsement of the Construction of Drainage Improvements on South Church Street, Project U000-119-128 (UPC 112204) was accepted. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, A Resolution for the Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia as an Endorsement of the Construction of New Sidewalk and Crosswalks along Park Boulevard, Project 0016-119-129 (UPC 112205) was accepted.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Request to Administer Project was accepted for both projects. Mr. Hicks continued his report with water/sewer updates. The Sewer Treatment Plant staff was appreciative of the Mt Rogers PDC grant. Streetscape continues to move forward. The south abutment for the Golf Course Bridge is completed. Phase 1 Sewer is completed and Phase 2 Sewer started last week. Fall paving will begin in November.

Mr. Rush reviewed the Sewer Treatment Plant Headwork's Rehab noting the estimated cost to rebuild will be \$275,000, of which we have received the Mt Rogers PDC \$100,000 grant. Smyth County will also be responsible for their portion of the repairs. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Manager is authorized to move forward and accept the Mt Rogers PDC Grant, subject to terms and conditions, for the Sewer Treatment Plant Headwork's Rehab with a cost not to exceed \$100,000. Mr. Rush noted he was appreciative for the opportunity to attend the VML Conference. Mr. Rush has discussed the recycling process with Jonathan Luper, Public Works Director of Grayson County. There is the possibility of DEQ Grants for recycling.

Mayor Helms set the Christmas Holiday schedule. Town of Marion offices will be closed Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th for the holidays.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1), (A-3) and (A-7) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of personnel matters, acquisition of Real Property and consultation with legal counsel. 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, Dr. Gates, Carter, Barker, Spencer, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Buildings and Grounds Committee recommends to start the process to consolidate the Police Department and Senior Citizens programs into the Senior Citizen building and bring back to council plans and estimates to sell the current Police Department building.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager will receive a 2.5% salary increase due to a good evaluation.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the new Job Description for a Firefighter/EMT was accepted and is to be added to the Personnel Manual.

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

Mayor

Clerk

