

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 18, 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; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Jeff Spickard, Police Officer Bryan Morris, Michael Little, Victoria Stevens, Zaria Johnson, LaShae McConnell, Markita Fitchush, Chasity Smith and Suzanne Widener.

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

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

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Lt. Moss introduced Police Officer Bryan Morris and reported he was the top DUI Apprehender this year and he had received a plaque.

Mayor Helms read a Proclamation recognizing Constitution Week. Mayor Helms noted the officials of Smyth County met with the DAR Officers at the Court House last week and signed the Proclamation. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proclamation recognizing September 17-23, 2017 as Constitution Week 2017 was adopted.

Ms. Widener, Blue Ridge Job Corps representative, spoke about Youth to Youth Partners for Peace. Mayor Helms read and presented a Youth to Youth Day 2017 Resolution to the students present. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Youth to Youth Day 2017 Resolution was accepted.

Mr. Barker reviewed a request from Mike Albano for the Annual Gobbler Gallop. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Annual Gobbler Gallop will be held November 23, 2017 using the same route as last year.

Mrs. Jennings noted the Isaacs held a wonderful performance at the Lincoln Theatre Saturday night.

Mr. Cornett thanked staff for the 9-11 program.

Mayor Helms noted that Catherine Schrenker will report at the next meeting on the Henderson School. The Emory & Henry Health Science students are interacting well with community programs. Staff organized the 9-11 program exceptionally well. The Emory & Henry golf tournament Friday had 88 players to participate.

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 \$1,065,219.87. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Lieutenant Moss reported the new police cars are in service this week. The interviews for the officer vacancy have been completed. There were three candidates interviewed, one certified, one correction certified and one uncertified. Recruiting and keeping officers is becoming more difficult. Mr. Rush reviewed an application to Rural Development for police cars. The town has been awarded a grant/loan for a total of \$106,000. The grant portion is \$50,000 and the loan portion is \$56,000 at 3.25% interest

over three years. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush is given authorization to accept the Rural Development grant.

Mr. Heath reviewed two movies that the filming is taking place in Marion. There will be a public input meeting about the possibilities of a dog park Thursday, September 21 at 6 pm in the council chambers.

Mr. Hicks reported the Water Treatment Plant was ranked #1 of 131 plants in Virginia for the 2016 Virginia Optimization Program. Council suggested presenting the employees at the water plant with a plaque. Work began today on the Golf Course bridge replacement. The fall paving schedule is on page 30 and all streets that are to be paved except Strother Street on in the CIRP Program.

Mr. Rush noted the driving range is substantially finished. There will be a bridge constructed to access the driving range. There will be four landing areas on the driving range for players to work on their range. Mr. Rush suggested cancelling the next council meeting due to the VML conference and it will not be possible to have a quorum. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, with appropriate advertisement the first meeting in October will be cancelled. There will be a buildings and grounds committee meeting scheduled for next week.

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

Mayor

Clerk