

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 November 6, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, 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; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arrived late).

ABSENT: Larry Carter and Suzanne Jennings.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Jeff Spickard, Charles Hayden, Mike Edwards, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Police Officer Rick Billings and Amy Billings.

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 Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held October 16, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Cornett 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 as distributed with the addition of one closed session A-3 for Real Estate.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mr. Mike Edwards gave an update on the Smyth Wythe Airport noting the work on the runway is complete. (Terry Jennings arrived). The Airport has been busy with college basketball recruiters flying in, looking at Oak Hill Academy students. Mr. Edwards also reviewed the Ghost Walk Tours noting that the tours netted \$500 for local food pantries.

Mrs. Anna Leigh DeBord with the Historic Museum reported there have been 1,541 people tour the museum since April. The Museum will be open during the Christmas Market.

Ms. Kathy Smith reminded everyone of the Art Walk at the Gallery the 2nd Friday of each month.

Lieutenant Moss introduced the new Police Sergeant Rick Billings. There were 6 officers that applied for this position. Officer Billings has been a Police Officer with the Town of Marion since 2008.

Mayor Helms noted a Joint Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan will be held at the next council meeting, November 20, 2017. The Planning Commission will meeting next Monday night and the draft will be posted on the website. This will come back to council in December and hopefully adopted in January 2018.

Mr. Cornett noted the Downtown Halloween Madness was a great event this year. He also reported the Recreation and playground meeting at RiverBend Park went well.

Mayor Helms reviewed an invitation for a retirement reception for Bud Robinson on Wednesday, November 8th between 3:00 and 5:00 pm at the Golf Course. Mr. Robinson has worked for the Golf

Course for 37 years. He noted there were several thank you notes in the pack. Southwestern State Hospital will be having a Veterans Program November 8th at 10:00 am. Halloween Madness worked out well on Broad Street. Mayor Helms thanked Mr. Heath and the Economic Development staff for all their hard work on Halloween Madness event and such a great summer at the Farmer's Market.

Mr. Jennings noted Mr. Robinson's Retirement Reception may last until 6:00 pm if anyone would like to come by after work. The Parks and Recreation buildings will be winterized this week. There were 108 girls that registered for basketball on October 2. The new carts have arrived at the Golf Course and there has been positive feedback. The Golf Course staff will be attending ABC training classes in Abingdon on Thursday at 9:00 am. He requested a Recreation Department meeting. Mr. Rush will set the date and time. Mr. Rush reviewed a Reauthorizing Resolution relating to the Golf Course. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution Reaffirming Holston Hills Community Golf Course Strategy and Authorizations was accepted.

Lieutenant Moss reported there have been some arrests made on the church break-ins. He reviewed the K-9 deployment report. The vacancy for an officer position has been advertised. He thanked the Commonwealth Attorney Roy Evans for the grant for 3 police cars. He also reported the prices quotes for the Rural Development grant for police cars will be submitted by the end of the week. Mr. Rush reviewed the Mental Health TDOs and ECOs transport process. Discussion ensued. Mayor Helms noted we need to key in on our Legislators to help with this process.

Mr. Heath reported he will be on WJHL tomorrow promoting the Christmas events. His office has sent out RFP's for designs and proposals for a monument sign highlighting Back of the Dragon, Song of the Mountains and VA Tourism; two were received and council was asked for their input in final design.

Mr. Rush noted Mr. Hicks is at the Golf Course preparing for the bridge installation. The bridge should be set tomorrow, weather permitting. Phase II Sewer is in progress. The fall paving schedule is mostly CIRP. The recycling efforts could possibly be for cardboard and mixed paper. The County Transfer Station fire update is a building and equipment will need to be replaced. They were only down for 4 hours on the day of the fire. The county has noted they do not anticipate tipping fee increases.

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 5 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 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, staff is to finalize and set the pay classification for the job classification for Master Mechanic and implement into the Personnel Manual.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk