

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 20, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker (also serves as Planning Commission Member), Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Cameron Wolfe, Alice Freeman and Trey White Planning Commission Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Anita Catron (left early); Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Jeff Spickard, Charles Hayden, Judy Wyant and Brian Reed.

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

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Helms introduced Judy Wyant as a newly elected Board of Supervisors Member. Ms. Wyant noted that she is looking forward to working together with the Town of Marion, as we have many things in common and our goals are similar.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Mayor Helms noted the Public Hearing was for the review of the Comprehensive Plan draft. Mayor Helms turned the meeting over to Chairman Wolfe of the Planning Commission. Chairman Wolfe asked Mr. Rush to review. Mr. Rush noted this is a dynamic document for the future which has been significantly revised over the past 5 months. The draft has been circulated and posted on the Town's website. Mr. Rush noted that he hopes to have the document approved in January. Brian Reed, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Consultant, reviewed in more detail. Mr. Wolfe asked for public comment. With no public comments the Public Hearing was closed. Mayor Helms thanked everyone for their hard work on this project. Planning Commission members were excused.

Mr. Carter attended the District III meeting last Thursday. He reported Mike Guy is retiring and Sport Richardson will be the New District III Director.

Mr. Cornett attended the Marion Downtown meeting and plans to attend the Shop Small meeting. The Recreation Committee met last Monday. The dog park which is still in the design and planning phase, will be privately funded. Mr. Cornett reviewed the Playground Revitalization Program, which has goals of updating the playgrounds and equipment with private donations and grants. The donations will be for

new equipment. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Finance Director is to set up a revenue and expense line item for these donations and expenses, also letters will be sent to all donors for their listing as tax deductible donations.

Mayor Helms reminded council and staff of the Celebrity Bagging event tomorrow from 4:00 to 5:00 pm at Food City. The Warren Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held at the Methodist Church.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,614,461.60. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Chief Anders reported the Police Department is very busy with mental health calls, sometimes requiring 8 to 12 hours per subject to be transported and hospitalized. Chief Anders reviewed the Rural Development Loan Resolution for the grant to purchase Police cars. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Rural Development Loan Resolution in the amount of \$56,000 was accepted. He also reminded everyone of the Gobbler Gallop on Thanksgiving.

Chief Hamm noted the call volume is still high, with 7 calls today already. There is a graph on page 12 of the agenda packet showing the call volume. The wrecked/rebuilt ambulance is due to be back in service in April 2018.

Mr. Rush reported for Mr. Heath noting the Holiday season has begun. The Christmas parade will be Friday, December 1 at 6:30 pm, the Christmas Market will be the same weekend and the Christmas lights will be installed this week.

Mr. Hicks noted the second section of the Streetscape Project has begun. The Town shop buildings are being renovated for more space. A shed has been built to store the salt spreaders. Leaf pickup started November 16. The cross connection and backflow prevention survey is now on the website. Staff met with the county today at the Sewer Treatment Plant and the head works repairs will begin soon. The approaches to the Golf Course bridge will be paved in the spring after the freeze/thaw period. The Employee Christmas Dinner is tentatively set for December, 15 at 12 noon at the Golf Course.

Mr. Rush reported the Streetscape Project will not have to cross Main Street due to a better solution recommended by Jerry Breen. Mr. Rush reviewed the Senior Citizen Center renovations. He distributed a diagram with a list of necessary items and costs. Painted roof verse metal roof was debated. The time frame was reviewed noting most of the renovations will be done using force account (employees) over the winter months. Once the Police Department has moved to this location the South Main Street building will be sold and the proceeds will be used to offset the cost of renovations. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, authorization is given to proceed with the plan of renovating the Senior Citizen Center to accommodate the Police Department per the design reviewed, using force account and selling the current building upon completion. Mr. Rush reviewed a Special Use Permit Request for 815 Henry Street by the Pikes, for a home based errand business, such as shopping, mowing lawns, etc. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES

and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing will be set for December 18, 2017 for a Special Use Permit for 815 Henry Street.

Chief Anders noted there will be a corn hole tournament this Saturday, November 25 at the Golf Course and the proceeds will go to the Santa's Elves Program.

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

Mayor

Clerk