

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 December 4, 2017 at 5:30 pm.

PRESENT: Vice-Mayor 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 Chief Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arrived late).

ABSENT: Mayor David Helms.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Jeff Spickard, Charles Hayden, Police Lieutenant Rusty Hamm, Police Lieutenant Andrew Moss, Police Sergeant Rick Billings, Amy Billings, Police Sergeant Kevin Testerman, Police Sergeant Rick McNew and wife, Police Office Joshua Taylor, Police Officer Stacy Hess, Wanda Owens, Sam Rosenbaum, Turk and Penny Johnson, Ronald Null, Tony Delarosa, John Crabtree, Claude Heath, Jim Schmidt, Sandra Schmidt, Saundra Schmidt, David Thomas, Donald Edwards and Rick Bubert.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held November 20, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter, Cornett 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 with the addition of one closed session A-7 for Legal and an item under Ken Heath's report for a Small Business Loan.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Vice-Mayor Gates read and presented Sergeant Rick McNew with a Resolution in Honor of his Retirement. Chief Anders presented him with a plaque and his service weapon, which was purchased for \$1. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Honor of Richard (Rick) McNew on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted. (Terry Jennings arrived.)

Vice-Mayor Gates swore in newly hired Police Officer James Stacy Hess.

Turk Johnson, VFW Commander, and members of the VFW Post 4667 presented the Town of Marion with a framed picture of the 2016 Memorial Day Flag display on the Courthouse lawn. Vice-Mayor Gates expressed his appreciation of the VFW Post 4667.

Mr. Barker noted lighting near the Lincoln Theatre needs to be addressed.

Vice-Mayor Gates reported the Employee Christmas Luncheon will be Friday, December 8 at noon at the Golf Course. The VML Regional Supper will be December 12 at 6:00 pm in Pennington Gap.

Mr. Jennings noted boys basketball registration will be held tonight and tomorrow. The Parks and Recreation facilities have been winterized. (Mr. Jennings left.)

Chief Anders noted the cornhole tournament raised \$310 for Santa's Elves Program. The cars purchased with the Rural Development Grant funds should arrive in March.

Mr. Heath expressed his appreciation for all the hard work staff put into the Christmas Market and Parade. Mr. Heath reviewed an application for RBEG Loan #12 from Amy Billings DBA D & D Trophies & More. The business wants to expand and offer more services. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the RBEG Loan #12 to Amy Billings DBA D & D Trophies & More was approved for \$5,000, with a term of 60 months at two percent interest.

Mrs. McDonald thanked staff for all their help with the events this past weekend. Merry Main Street will be Thursday, December 7 from 5:00 to 8:00 pm with free carriage rides. The VA Main Street Bonanza report is upcoming. This is an extensive 30 page report. (Mr. Heath and Mrs. McDonald left.)

Mr. Hicks reported the concrete deck on the Golf Course Bridge was poured today. There is a 21 day cure time. The bridge approaches will be paved next spring. Fall paving was completed Saturday. Mr. Cornett inquired about the possibility of having the East Chilhowie Street Bridge re-opened. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Rush noted renovations to the Senior Center are moving forward. The equipment and items are being reallocated to other departments. The recycling efforts will be costly and will be addressed during the budget process.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-7) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of consultation with legal counsel regarding a contract. Mrs. Jennings 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 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk