

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 18, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.

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; Assistant Director of Public Works Tony Muncy and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Mayor David Helms.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Brian Reed, Destiny Poston, Jacob Goodman, Teri Owens, Robert Pike, Marvin Leslie, Lynn Pease, Charlene Burnop, Robb Farmer, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Chester & Beverly Cole, Judy Wyant, Margaret Linford, J. Howard Burton, Terry Jennings, Jeff Richardson, Derek Rhea, Haley Rhea, Chase Rhea, Bud Robinson, Pam Stickley and Anita Catron.

INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation. Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates 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 December 4, 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.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates read and presented a Resolution on the occasion of her Retirement to Pam Stickley. Ms. Stanley recognized Mrs. Stickley for all her hard work and dedication, and presented her with her retirement gift. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Honor of Pam Stickley on the Occasion of her Retirement was accepted.

Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates read and presented a Resolution on the occasion of his retirement to Harold Bud Robinson. Derek Rhea presented Mr. Robinson with his retirement gift. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution in Honor of Harold “Bud” Robinson on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted.

Mr. Marvin Leslie, representative of Friends of the Library, which is a 501(c)3 and is comprised of volunteers to help support the Library, recently became aware of a resolution drafted by the Smyth County Board of Supervisors. The Resolution is for an exemption of the Board of Trustees governing body, allowed by State code of Virginia. Mr. Leslie is asking for council support by means of a Resolution countering the Board of Supervisors Resolution. Discussion ensued. Mr. Leslie presented a sample of a counter Resolution. Mr. Rush read aloud the sample Resolution and noted he will take it under advisement. Mr. Leslie noted he had been in contact with the Library Consultant for the State of Virginia, Kim Armentrout. Dr. Gates suggested Mr. Leslie contact the Virginia Legislators. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Manager will take under advisement, study and reach out to the other localities and bring back to next council meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING SPECIAL USE PERMIT: Mr. Rush reviewed a Special Use Permit application for 815 Henry Street from Robert Pike for a home based business for basic daily tasks. Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates opened the Public Hearing for citizen comments. With no public comments, Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates closed the Public Hearing. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Special Use Permit for 815 Henry Street was granted based on the conditions stated in the application.

Vice-Mayor Dr. Gates reported Mr. Rush, Mr. Heath, Mr. Weaver and Mayor Helms attended the VML Regional Supper in Pennington Gap, where Michelle Goudy reviewed the upcoming Legislative Session. Mr. Rush noted the upcoming Holiday schedule and rescheduling of the garbage pickup. Upon motion of

Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the next council meeting will be moved to Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

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 \$1,400,833.83. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

The Golf Course Bridge is scheduled to re-open on Wednesday, December 27, 2017.

Ms. Stanley noted the Statement of Economic Interest forms will be distributed at the next council meeting.

Mr. Muncy reported on the Public Works Department. Brush and junk pickup are ahead of schedule. The department has repaired 16 water leaks, 15 sewer lines and installed 3 taps. The snow plows are ready for the winter season. The Senior Center renovations are underway. Mr. Fenyk noted much appreciation for all Mr. Muncy's hard work has been recognized by citizens.

Chief Anders reported two new officers have been hired and will be attending the academy. This now leaves them only one short of being at full staff.

Chief Hamm noted the Virginia State EMS Inspection was last Tuesday. The EMS service is inspected by the state every two years. The department passed the inspection. Mr. Hamm thanked Samantha White and Jimmy Shupe for all their help with the inspection process.

Mr. Heath reviewed the Dog Park plans and reported there have been a couple meetings with public input. Mr. Heath's recommendation for the location is a section of RiverBend Park. He has received a fencing quote for \$10,000. Mr. Heath will raise the funds, as a private citizen, to cover this cost if the Town of Marion will donate the land. Mr. Cornett would like to see the location at the bridge at the Golf Course. Discussion Ensued. Mr. Rush reviewed a parking plan for an area on Baughman Avenue, which would help with several issues including parking for RiverBend and the Amphitheatre. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Ms. Spencer, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Heath is to proceed with the RiverBend Park site for the location of the Dog Park, start fund raising and council may offer to look at betterment options. (Mr. Heath left.)

Mr. Hicks noted Mr. Muncy is doing a great job. The Golf Course bridge approaches are almost finished and paving will be done in the spring. The screen at the Sewer Treatment Plant has been removed and is ready for the rebuild. Water Accountability is really bad this month. A leak Study will be done in January.

Mr. Rush reviewed a Harwood Rehabilitation Project Proposal lease/option to purchase. Mr. Joe Ellis was the only person that responded to the original RFP. The project was awarded last January. The project is approximately 60% complete. The Federal Government has decided to limit the Historic Tax Credits. The guidelines are to change at the end of the 2017 year. The guidelines state the project must be under control of the owner. A lease/option to purchase would cover this under control requirement. Mr. Rush reviewed a lease agreement with council. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town of Marion will enter into a lease agreement with option to purchase, the lease will be for \$1.00 thru December 31, 2018 by which time a Certificate of Occupancy should be received.

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

Mayor

Clerk

