

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 January 2, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver and Larry Carter 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 and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

**ABSENT:** Suzanne Jennings and Avery Cornett.

**VISITORS:** Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Marvin Leslie, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Mike Edwards, Chester & Beverly Cole, Margaret Linford, Police Officer Dale Basa, Ed & Karen Fouts and Frank & Frances Detweiler.

**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 Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 18, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition to closed session for A-1 personnel.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Mr. Mike Edwards expressed thanks to the mayor and councilpersons for the opportunity to speak about the Mountain Empire Airport. Upon distribution of a handout to those present, Mr. Edwards pointed out key points including the recent runway resurfacing and the common traffic that it receives, noting some of the common utilizers of the runway. Mr. Edwards went on to note that most airports of similar size in the surrounding area employ 5-15 persons, while the Mountain Empire Airport currently employs three. Mr. Edwards discussed the tree cutting planned for the area in the coming month of April and business development expected in the coming year.

Rex Anders, Chief of Police, introduced the new incoming officer, Dale Basa. Officer Basa will be attending the police academy this month to transfer his accreditation to Virginia.

Mr. Marvin Leslie, representative of Friends of the Library, gave an update from last meeting and encouraged the municipality to have a voice. He presented a copy of a petition he is circulating. He plans to submit the petition to the General Assembly. Mayor Helms noted Mr. Rush has drafted a Resolution and there will be a meeting of representatives from Marion, Saltville and Chilhowie to review the draft. The Resolution will be presented at the next council meeting.

Ms. Stanley distributed and reviewed the Statement of Economic Interest forms which will be due February 1, 2018.

Chief Anders reported the last vacancy for the Police Department has been filled and the new officers will be introduced at the next council meeting.

Mr. Heath reviewed the Dog Park plans and reported there has been \$1,000 raised so far. He would like to be able to have the new Dog Park installed this spring at the chosen location. VML Legislative Day is January 30, 31 and February 1, 2018.

Mr. Hicks noted there have been several main line water breaks in the last two weeks. The Sewer Treatment Plant Weisman screen will be transported to Tampa, Florida this weekend for repairs.

Mr. Rush reviewed the DEQ funding letter for Sewer Phase III and IV projects. The Scott Senior Citizen Center renovations are moving forward with the offender crew and Public Works employees doing much of the work. Mr. Rush noted the Comprehensive Plan is ready for consideration. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the updated Comprehensive Plan was adopted.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) 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. 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 Carter voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, a request for a personnel committee meeting was accepted and the issue will be brought back to the next council meeting.

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

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Mayor

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Clerk