

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 16, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, 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; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Schrenker; Assistant Director of Public Works Tony Muncy (arriving late) and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Charles Hayden, Jane Tate, Marvin Leslie, Tom Copenhaver, Dr. Peter Bruzzo, Charles Atkins, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Dillow, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Chester & Beverly Cole, Judy Wyant, Margaret Linford and Jeff Richardson.

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

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held January 2, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter, and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Chief Anders introduced the new Police Officer, Ben Dillow. Mayor Helms swore in Officer Ben Dillow.

Mr. Rush reviewed the Fire/EMS merger that took place about 3 years ago, noting we continue to look for efficiencies. He thanked Mr. Hamm for all his work on the merger and continuing to oversee the daily operations. Mr. Rush introduced Dr. Peter Bruzzo, the Operational Medical Director, OMD, for the Fire/EMS department. Dr. Bruzzo reported he has left his Emergency Medical employment to accept a position at the Emory & Henry College of Health Sciences Physician's Assistant, PA, Program. He would like to collaborate with the Fire/EMS department to allow the Master's Degree level PA students shadow at the Fire/EMS Station, under his direct supervision. Dr. Bruzzo reviewed his plan in detail, noting students will be transported by himself in a non-emergency mode. No students will be taken to accidents on Interstate 81 or to any violent situations. Dr. Bruzzo also noted the Emory & Henry College PA program supports this agreement. He hopes to report to council annually from his position as OMD. He also reviewed new policies he has written to allow the basic EMTs to provide a more expanded level of service, such as the use of Narcan, Epi pens and glucagon. This will take place after Dr. Bruzzo has provided the appropriate training. Mayor Helms noted the Fire/EMS station is now fully staffed and covers 57 square miles. He expressed his appreciation of Dr. Bruzzo and Mr. Hamm for all their hard work.

Anna Leigh DeBord, Historical Museum Representative, noted the museum is going to dedicate one window to historical artifacts and requested anyone having any items they would like to loan the museum for display, to please contact her.

Mr. Tom Copenhaver spoke about the Joint Resolution among Marion, Saltville and Chilhowie. He reported the Smyth County Board of Supervisors has not compartmentalized the Library. He suggested Council object to the Board of Supervisors changing the governance of the Library.

Ms. Jane Tate spoke noting there is a great difference between an advisory board and a board of trustees. The Library is currently governed by a board of trustees and is not a department of the Smyth County Board of Supervisors.

Mrs. McDonald noted the Bonanza report is in the agenda packet. She reported the design of the LOVE sign is complete and on the finishing phases of installation. Mrs. McDonald will be attending the Virginia

Main Street 2 day retreat next week. She has also been awarded a \$1,500 grant to attend the National Main Street Conference in Kansas in March. Steve Hill, owner of the Automotive Connection, is expanding his business to Downtown Marion. (Mrs. McDonald left.)

Mayor Helms read aloud the Joint Resolution in Support of a Board of Trustees for the Smyth County Library System. This Resolution has already been approved by Saltville and Chilhowie Councils. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution will be amended to remove paragraph 3, remove Saltville and Chilhowie's names from the last paragraph and present on Town of Marion letterhead. The resolution will be forwarded to the Board of Supervisors and to Legislators in Richmond. Mayor Helms reminded council of the VML Legislative Day January 30 thru February 1, 2018 in Richmond.

Mr. Fenyk noted Appalachian Power had submitted documentation for a temporary increase for one year. Dr. Gates would like an opinion from VML on this increase.

Ms. Stanley reminded council and staff the Statement of Economic Interest forms are due February 1, 2018.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,045,544.23. Messrs Barker, Jennings, Weaver, Cornett, Carter and Dr. Gates voted affirmatively.

Mr. Muncy reported on the Public Works Department noting the Streetscape Project is on hold due to weather. The second phase should go smoothly. The Golf Course Bridge gates are built and will be installed Thursday. A new Mechanic has been hired for the Motor Pool department. An accident on Saturday took out the newest dump truck, this will put us short on snow removal efforts.

Chief Hamm reported there were 195 Fire/EMS calls in December. He is excited about Dr. Bruzzo's new appointment with the PA Program and looks forward to working closer with him.

Ms. Schrenker reviewed some highlights of the Henderson School programs. Wayne Henderson's third guitar workshop will begin Sunday. Jane Henderson, Wayne's daughter will be teaching a ukulele workshop. A Marion Artesian Market grew out of the Christmas Market. There are 11 registered for the Marion Artesian Market in February. The next level of strengthening the programs at the Henderson School is an Artesian Apprentice program. The Virginia Commission of the Arts has awarded Ms. Schrenker a 50 for 50 arts award. Mr. Rush noted Ms. Schrenker is doing a fabulous job.

Mr. Heath reported \$1,000 has been raised for the Dog Park. (Mr. Heath left.)

Mr. Rush reported the Church Street Drainage project is still 90 days out. He noted there will be some guardrails installed at the Golf Course Bridge. The Sewer Treatment Plant Weisman screen has been delivered to Florida for repairs and rebuild. This should take 4 to 6 weeks. The VDOT State of Good Repair application might get funded this round. Phase II Sewer project will take a short break. Phase II Water, Goolsby Street area, is fed by a concrete water tank whereas a 120 gallon per minute leak has been detected and the Goolsby Street line has been reconstructed to take this tank offline.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of personnel matters. 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 6 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Barker, Jennings, Cornett, and Carter voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Personnel Committee, upon the overall review of Mr. Rush's initial five year tenure, and in light of his exemplary service in overall management practices and financial savings his leadership has brought to the Town of Marion, do hereby recommend his annual salary be raised to \$125,000, effective March 1, 2018, which

will bring his compensation in line with similar municipalities of size and complexity in Southwest Virginia.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk