

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 March 19, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates (arriving late), Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Suzanne Jennings, Avery Cornett and Larry Carter (arriving late) Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representatives Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm and Public Works Assistant Director Tony Muncy.

**ABSENT:** None.

**VISITORS:** Derrick Barr, Kimberly Austin, Melody Johnson, Michael Little, La Shae McConnell, Tonya Brown, Da Anne Scott, Chasity Smith, DeMetria Ellis, Malyka Campbell, Markita Fhzhush, Alexis Wilson, Zaria Johnson, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Lili Cornett, Joe Naff, CB Gwyn, Lois Cornett, Kenneth Waak, Brian Reed, Josh Smith and Jeff Spickard .

**INVOCATION/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Mr. Hicks 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 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held March 5, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Spencer, Cornett, and Jennings voted affirmatively.

**AGENDA:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Blue Ridge Job Corps Student Council Association was introduced by the sponsor Michael Little. (Mr. Carter arrived.)

Emory & Henry Health Science students, Derrick Barr and Melody Johnson, invited everyone to attend the Gala to benefit the Mel Leaman Free Clinic Saturday, April 21, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom. An admission ticket is \$25 and 100% of the benefits go to the Free Clinic.

Mr. Cornett reported the Recreation Committee met last Tuesday and discussed the Golf Course, the Driving Range and the Playground Revitalization project. Mr. Cornett accepted questions about the Playground Revitalization project, as he works toward gaining the full support of council for this project. Ms. Spencer asked for clarification as to this being a town project or a privately funded project. Mr. Cornett read his report from the minutes of November 20, 2017 meeting. Mr. Cornett will be attending a meeting in April regarding recreation grants and would like direction, as to how to move forward, either as a town representative or private citizen. Mr. Cornett read and distributed a draft Resolution. Discussion ensued. It was suggested a solid plan be presented at the next meeting and once ready to move forward, bids will need to be solicited for the playground equipment. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, an edited Resolution will be presented at the next council meeting along with a report from the auditors for depositing the funds.

Mayor Helms reported there will be a Memorial Day planning meeting April 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the VFW. He distributed the VML Committee Nomination forms and noted council members wanting to serve on any of these committees, please contact Ms. Stanley. The Fish On event will be Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. The Town Election voting site will be the W. W. Scott Center on May 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 \$1,095,757.09. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Spencer, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Muncy reported everything is going well in the Public Works Department.

Chief Anders reported the third new Police vehicle from Rural Development arrived last week. There was another school threat today. Mayor Helms encouraged our Police Officers to be visible at the schools to help parents and students feel safe.

Chief Hamm noted the newest ambulance is being painted and should be back in a couple weeks.

Mrs. McDonald noted the LOVEworks sign was unveiled last week and added to the LOVEworks Trail. Several ribbon cuttings are scheduled next week. The Farmers Market opens May 5, 2018. A Farm to Fork Brunch will be held Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Grand Ballroom. This will be a Fundraiser for the Farmers Market. Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Farris will be in Kansas March 25-29, 2018 for a National Main Street Conference. The next round of Pop Up Classes start April 19, 2018. (Dr. Gates arrived.)

Mr. Heath reported Burger King will officially open tomorrow at 6:00 am. The CDBG Public Hearing will be Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 2:00 pm in the Council Chambers. Mr. Heath has begun the Sorenson Institute 10 month program on Public Service in Governance. The class will be held here in September. Mr. Heath read the CDBG Resolution. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution for Application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Sheffey Street Housing Rehabilitation Project was accepted.

Mr. Hicks reported the Riverwalk steps are completed. Paving bids will be published and paving will begin early this year. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, bids will be accepted early for paving and from Mr. Hicks' paving list, the blue streets will be paved in April, green streets relative to VDOT funding and black streets will be paved in June. Mr. Hicks reported a grant has been submitted for funding to pave South Main Street. Mr. Rush is compiling a list of streets not currently in our Urban Maintenance system to be upgraded by VDOT to Rustic Roads in our inventory. Mr. Spickard noted the Prater Lane Pump Station is a critical component in the Town's water system. An application for a backup generator for this pump station is due by the end of March. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Virginia Department of Health Water Supply Assistance Grant Fund Resolution for a Prater Lane Pump Station Backup Generator was accepted.

Mr. Rush reported a VDH/MRPDC application for water tank rehabs and replacement planning grant will be submitted soon. He noted the advertising and process for replacing the Police Chief needs to begin soon. His recommendation is to advertise April 1<sup>st</sup>, accept applications until April 30<sup>th</sup>, interview in May, make decision by the end of May and take over July 1, 2018. The W. W. Scott Center will be ready for May 1, 2018 elections as the voting precinct. Several names have been submitted as a replacement for Billy Buchanan on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Rush reviewed a Request for Variance by Mount Rogers Mental Health for 416 East Main Street. This will go before the Board of Zoning Appeals April 9, 2018.

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

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Mayor

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Clerk