

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

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, 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; Assistant Public Works Director Tony Muncy; Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings and Economic Development Director Ken Heath.

ABSENT: Dr. Jim Gates.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Jeff Spickard, CB Gwyn, Joe Naff, Mike Edwards, Larry Bowman, Kim Austin, Carolyn Jones and Lili Cornett.

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 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held March 19, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Cornett, Weaver and Carter voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one change, the Town Election is May 1 and two deletions, strike accounts payable item and strike Billy Hamm report.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, A Resolution in Honor of Larry Bowman on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Bowman. Mr. Muncy presented Mr. Bowman with a retirement gift. (Mr. Muncy and Mr. Bowman left.)

Mr. Cornett read and presented a Resolution for a Playground Master Development Plan. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 2 NOES, the Resolution for a Playground Master Development Plan was accepted. Mr. Cornett reported that Jamie Hall, Terry Jennings and himself will be attending a conference in Roanoke on April 11, 2018. This is a free workshop about applying for grants for recreation equipment. Attendance at this workshop is required before applying for these grants. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rush recommends attendance at this workshop to see what is available, assess and understand what our needs are and then present a solid plan to council. Any grant application should be reviewed by council before submitting.

Mayor Helms reported the second Sunday in August is Spirit '45 Day. The next Memorial Weekend Planning meeting will be April 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the VFW. Mayor Helms noted a Retirement Reception for Bill Shelton, DHCD Director, will be Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 5:30 pm at the Heartwood Center in Abingdon.

Mr. Jennings reviewed the numbers for soccer participation and noted April 30, 2018 will be signups for summer sports. The Driving Range is still scheduled to open mid to late May.

Chief Anders noted Lieutenant Hamm has received a \$2,000 WalMart Community Grant for the Police Department.

Mr. Heath distributed an RBEG Loan application from Toshia Thompson owner of Rufflections. She was the first Grantee when this project began and has completed her first loan. The new application is for façade, equipment and other upgrades to the business. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Small Business Loan for \$15,000 for 60 months at 2% interest was approved. Today is the sixth anniversary of Summit Bottling. Saturday, April 14, 2018 a Greensboro church group will be here to tour downtown. Emory & Henry will spend the afternoon of Tuesday, April 17 learning "hands on" economic development. Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Farris will be hosting the Virginia Main Street managers at the Henderson Wednesday, April 18, 2018. State officials will be at the General Francis Marion for a two day conference on May 16 & 17, 2018.

Mr. Hicks noted the spring paving bids are due April 10, 2018. Mr. Spickard reported the comment period for South Church Street Drainage Project ended last week. There was no response from the Department of Game and Inland Fishery. The project will be reviewed and submitted to VDOT, if approved the project will begin this summer. The Water Treatment Plant received another Excellence in Water Works Award.

Mr. Rush reported the Police Chief position has been advertised. The Scott Center renovations are going well and will be ready for the May 1 elections. Zoning department is working on Abandoned Vehicle enforcements and an article will be in the newspaper notifying citizens of the enforcements. Board of Zoning Appeals member Billy Buchanan will be moving outside the town limits in July. A Mount Rogers Mental Health Variance request will be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals next Monday night. Dan Surface is resigning from the Planning Commission mid-May.

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

Mayor

Clerk