

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 16, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Suzanne Jennings 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; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Schrenker; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm and Public Works Assistant Director Tony Muncy.

ABSENT: Avery Cornett.

VISITORS: Kim Austin, Kathy Smith, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Joe Naff, CB Gwyn, and Jeff Spickard.

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

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

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

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mrs. Anna Leigh DeBord noted the Smyth County Museum opened today and there will be a membership drive on April 29, 2018.

Dr. Gates noted the proposed 2018-2019 budget has been distributed to council for review. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, a Public Hearing on the proposed 2018-2019 budget will be held on May 7, 2018.

Mayor Helms reported the next Memorial Day planning meeting will be May 8, 2018. He reminded everyone that the Town Election will be May 1, 2018. Mayor, Mr. Rush and Mr. Weaver attended the Retirement Dinner for Bill Shelton who is retiring from the Department of Housing and Community Development. Over the years he was very instrumental in the Housing Rehabs in Marion. A Church group from Greensboro, NC visited Marion Saturday. There were attendees at Song of the Mountains Saturday night from Alaska.

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 \$1,096,889.59. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Spencer, Jennings, Carter and Gates voted affirmatively.

Ms. Stanley reviewed the new Virginia Retirement System contribution rates. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the employer contribution rate 11.77% certified by the VRS Board of Trustees for the fiscal years 2019-2020 was accepted.

Chief Anders reported April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Chief Anders read the Resolution. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution to proclaim the Month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Town of Marion was accepted. The new mobile speed bumps worked well at the Lincoln Theatre Saturday night. These mobile speed bumps are temporary and may also help with work zone areas. (Ms. Schrenker arrived.)

Ms. Schrenker reviewed the programs at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. Barn Quilt Classes have begun and seem to be really popular.

Chief Hamm noted the newest ambulance is waiting on one running board to be installed.

Mr. Heath thanked Mrs. Farris and Mayor Helms for helping with the tour group from North Carolina Saturday. Mr. Heath attended the Sorenson Institute this past weekend. He reviewed the calendar of upcoming events for Marion. Senatorial Candidate Corry Stewart will be here Saturday at 5:00 pm. The Economic Development Team will be setup at the Virginia Welcome Center at Exit 1 on Memorial

Weekend. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will be meeting in Marion May 15 & 16, 2018. Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald has resigned. Virginia Logos has approved placement of Back of the Dragon Logo signs at Exit 45. Marion was well represented in the Blue Ridge Country Magazine.

Mr. Rush reviewed Mr. Hicks’ report, noting W-L Construction was the apparent low bidder for paving. The 2019 Smart Scale program has been funded for the Pendleton Street area. The 2022 Smart Scale program will be for the Chatham Hill, Lee Street Highway 11 intersection upgrade. The Dover Street Sewer Project is completed and partially funded by Mt Rogers Planning District Commission. Mr. Rush continued with the Manager’s report noting the RiverBend sewer issue has no environmental danger and will be corrected soon. Applications are being submitted for the Police Chief position and the Va Chiefs Association has been engaged to assist with this process. Work continues on the Abandoned Vehicle Enforcement process. Prince George County has an extensive RFP and are allowing us to use it as a template which the council and attorney will review and present at the next meeting. A public hearing has been set for May 7, 2018 to hear a rezoning request for 136 Hulldale Avenue.

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, Spencer, and Carter voted affirmatively.

Ms. Spencer left.

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

Mayor

Clerk