

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 May 7, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Bill Weaver, Suzanne Jennings, Avery Cornett and Larry Carter Council Members; Cameron Wolfe Planning Commission Member; 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; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks and Deputy Clerk Anita Catron.

ABSENT: None.

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Jeff & Anna Leigh DeBord, Joe Naff, CB Gwyn, Jeff Spickard, Bob Valentine, Charles Hayden, Marvin Leslie, Ginny Moorner-Shields, Ralph Price, Sarah Gillespie, Lili Figueredo, Mike Edwards and William Fields.

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 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held April 16, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Spencer, Carter, Gates, Cornett and Jennings voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition for Police Week Resolution.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING REZONING REQUEST 136 HULLDALE AVENUE: Mayor Helms announced this is a Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission. Mr. Hicks reviewed the request for 136 Hulldale Avenue to be rezoned from R-2 (residential) to CG (commercial general). Public notices were advertised accordingly and adjacent property owners were notified. Mr. Hicks noted staff recommendation is to rezone to CG. Mr. Wolfe asked the owner if he had comments. Mr. Ralph Price, property owner, noted ½ of this property is R-2 and ½ is CG. He is requesting the rezoning so the entire property will be zoned the same. Mr. Wolfe opened the Public hearing for citizen comment. With no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this request to rezone 136 Hulldale Avenue from R-2 to CG was approved.

PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED FISCAL 2018-2019 BUDGET: Dr. Gates reviewed the proposed budget. Mr. Rush recommended a marginal increase for the Airport. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing for citizen comment.

Mr. Mike Edwards, Airport Representative, asked for reconsideration of level funding to be increased, if not this would reduce their request by approximately 25%. Mr. Rush noted the Airport request was \$50,000 and level funding is \$37,000. Other Managers have agreed to increase funding to \$39,500. Mr. Edwards noted there will be a meeting at the Airport to discuss airspace over the properties. He will notify council once the meeting is set.

Mrs. Anna Leigh DeBord, Smyth County Museum Representative, requested a separate line item for the Smyth County Museum and the Mt Pleasant Museum. Mr. Rush noted both already have their own line item with \$2,000 allocated.

Mr. Marvin Leslie thanked the Town for operating such an outstanding Golf Course. He noted the advertised budget for the Golf Course spoke well of the stewardship of the town. He encourages the town to consider offering a more expanded food service in the future.

Mr. Joe Naff asked for an explanation as to why the Golf Course loan was paying interest only and nothing toward the principal. Dr. Gates addressed this question by noting the need to assess the Golf Course's viability. He also noted the expenditures are down due to reducing the food services.

Mrs. Sarah Gillespie, Chamber of Commerce Director, thanked council for their continued support of the Chamber. They have moved all workshops to Marion at the Henderson School. She noted the quarterly networking breakfast is June 7, 2018 at the Henderson School.

Mr. William Fields, Mt Pleasant Museum Director, congratulated the council members that were re-elected. The Museum recently did a program on Lucy Crockett. Mr. Fields created a piece of artwork for the cover of Mountains of Music homecoming program.

Mayor Helms expressed his appreciation for those speaking. With no further comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Barker reviewed the Arbor Day Celebration. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Arbor Day Celebration will be at the Marion Elementary School on May 23, 2018 at 1:30 pm.

Mrs. Jennings thanked voters for voting last Tuesday. The Lincoln Theatre Golf Tournament was held Saturday. There was a dedication of the Rhea Lawrence Recovery Center at the Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute.

Mr. Carter attended the first pinning ceremony for the Occupational Therapy class at the Emory & Henry School of Health Sciences. He noted this is a state of the art facility.

Mr. Cornett noted the Merry Go Rounds are in the process of being repaired. He received a response from Israel O'Quinn's office about funding for recreational programs.

Mayor Helms attended the School of Health Sciences inaugural graduation at Emory & Henry College. He expressed his appreciation of having this College in Marion and it has met its goals. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will hold a regional meeting at the Southwest Virginia Higher Ed Center May 14, 2018 at 4:00 pm. Mayor was proud to have Senator Warner here last Friday for the 911 Celebration. Creigh Deeds visited the RAM Clinic at the Airport Saturday. Mayor Helms reviewed a Proclamation for Mental Health Awareness Month. Ms. Ginny Moorer-Shields, Southwest Virginia Mental Health Institute Representative, spoke about mental health awareness. She noted a movie screening titled Suicide Ripple Effect will be performed tomorrow night at 6:30 pm at the Lincoln Theatre. Mayor Helms will present the Proclamation at this event. Mayor Helms read the Proclamation. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Mental Health Awareness Month May 2018 Proclamation was accepted.

Mr. Rush reported for Mr. Jennings noting we are entering the golf season and the course is in good condition. He noted repairs are in progress on the Merry Go Rounds in order to improve safety issues. A playground inventory of local playgrounds will be taken and sent to the Recreation Committee. The Senior Citizens continue to meet at the Rescue Building and will return to the Scott Center once the renovations are complete. The Scott Center will continue to be a Red Cross Emergency Shelter and a voting precinct.

Chief Anders congratulated the winners of the election. Chief Anders read the Virginia Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day Resolution. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Virginia Police Week and Peace Officers Memorial Day Resolution was accepted. Mr. Rush reviewed the Rural Development Police Vehicle Grant application. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the town will apply for this grant with the same grant and loan terms as last year.

Mr. Heath noted there will be a ribbon cutting Wednesday at 10:00 am for Royal Oak Pediatrics new location. Next Tuesday and Wednesday the Commonwealth Transportation Board will hold a meeting at the General Francis Marion Hotel. May 17 & 25, 2018 the Economic Development Department will be at Exit 1 to showcase the Town of Marion. Crush Friday ads will be in the newspaper notifying citizens of the events for the upcoming weekend. A grant from VA Tourism for \$6,500 has been awarded for a WWI and WWII Marketing event.

Mr. Hicks noted a meeting will be held with VDOT tomorrow regarding the SmartScale application for Chatham Hill Road Intersection. Mr. Rush continues to work on getting the East Chilhowie Street Bridge back in service. To replace the concrete decking with wood will be approximately \$100,000. This would change the load rating from the current 1,500 pounds to approximately 8,000 pounds. The Sewer Treatment Plant has an equipment repair issue that is going to cost approximately \$23,000.

Mr. Rush reported receipt of a Department of Environmental Quality warning letter on the RiverBend Sewer issue involving the bottling plant. A tentative plan of corrective action has been implemented. Mr. Rush gave an update on the new Police Chief process, noting there have been 33 applications received. The Virginia Association of Chiefs is reviewing and narrowing the field of applicants. The interviews will begin around the first of June. An Abandoned Vehicles RFP has been drafted and reviewed by the Town Attorney. Approximately 80 vehicles have been identified. The process will be to advertise RFP for towing services, send registered letters and towing to begin mid-June. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Manger is to advertise the RFPs for towing service and begin the process. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, it is recommended that Mr. Tom Hower be appointed by the Judge to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the unexpired term of Billy Buchanan. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Dr. Kim Austin was appointed to the Marion Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Dan Surface.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mayor

Clerk