

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 21, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Suzanne Jennings, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Deputy Clerk Samantha White; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representatives Stephanie Porter-Nichols and Linda Burchette; Police Chief Rex Anders; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Public Works Director Tony Muncy; Purchasing Director/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Jeff and Annaleigh Debord, Kathy Smith, Lili Cornett, Joe Naff, CB Gwyn, Valerie and Luke Hicks, Paul and Virginia Vandergriff, Greg, Dawn and Jake Robinson, Robin, Willis and Vickie Bridgeman, Richard Widener.

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 May 7, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with addition of the Diamond Cab Resolution.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of Jacob Hunter Robinson on the Occasion of his Achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout, BSA was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Jake Robinson.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of John Luke Hicks on the Occasion of his Achieving the Rank of Eagle Scout, BSA was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Luke Hicks.

Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of Diamond Cab Company on the Recognition of Twenty-Five Years of Service in Marion was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Willis and Vickie Bridgeman.

Mr. Barker reported there will be an Arbor Day celebration May 23, 2018 at 1:30 pm at Marion Elementary School.

Mrs. Jennings reported The Lincoln Theatre held a planning retreat where a 3-year plan was established.

Mr. Carter attended a Chamber of Commerce Board meeting to plan next year's activities. He also attended the District III Board of Governors meeting.

Mr. Cornett presented the minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting held May 15, 2018. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes were approved. Mr. Cornett noted the need to replace or certify football helmets due to new federal regulations. Discussion ensued. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 1 AYE and 6 NOES, a \$10,000 increase to the Recreation Equipment line item in 2018-19 budget was not approved. Staff recommends referring this item to the Finance Committee. Upon motion of Mr. Cornett, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a request to increase the Recreation Equipment line item by \$10,000 in 2018-19 budget was referred to the Finance Committee.

Mayor Helms noted the memorial flags have been placed on the courthouse lawn. Food City has donated \$1,000 for the purchase of a large flag to be carried in the Memorial Day Parade. Rolling Thunder will be on the courthouse lawn May 24, 2018 at noon. Letters from Home will be at The Lincoln Theatre May 27, 2018. The Memorial Day Parade will begin at 10:00 am on May 28 with a program and hot dog lunch at the VFW afterwards. The Army Reserve Band will be at The Lincoln Theatre June 6, 2018. Virginia's Secretary of Transportation and several others from that department were in Marion for

several meetings last week. Marion and Smyth County Tourism have hosted a few days at the Virginia Welcome Center at the Tennessee and Virginia line. They are planning to host several days in June, also.

Mr. Fenyk reported the Smyth County Recovery Court members appreciate Council allowing community service hours to be completed through the town.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,312,282.01. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Muncy thanked Council for the opportunity to serve as Public Works Director. They have located and eliminated the large leak at Old Prater Road in Attoway area. Mr. Rush appreciates Mr. Muncy's and the water crew's efforts at making good repairs.

Chief Anders reported there will be two officers graduating from the Academy on May 24. He, along with Ken Heath, Public Works, and the Marion Downtown Board, are planning for the summer events.

Mr. Heath appreciates the planning efforts of many on the upcoming summer events. He invited everyone to upcoming Community Safety meetings and Thursday morning breakfasts he is hosting at Sisters Café. There will be a SWVA presentation at Heartwood May 30, 2018. The first Cruise-In of this year will be May 25, 2018.

Mr. Hicks reported spring paving will begin this week on Fowler Street. The Smart Scale pre-application has been completed. The Church Street Drainage project is awaiting results from a US Fisheries and Wildlife survey. There will be a night leak survey done soon. Streetscape IV project is almost complete. Army Reserves have been working on improvements at Riverbend Park. Phase II Sewer is complete and Phase II Water is 40% complete. Jeff Spickard noted the progress on preparations for Phase III and IV Water and Sewer. North Street and Dover Street mini CIRP projects are nearing completion. One manhole and some rerouting will correct the sewer problem at Riverbend Park.

Mr. Rush reported progress has been made on the Police Chief selection. Scott Center renovations are 90% complete. Planning Commission is reviewing the Property Maintenance Code including Abandoned Vehicle enforcement. Mr. Rush was reappointed to the VML Economic Development Committee.

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 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of Personnel. 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 7 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Gates, Weaver, Carter, Barker, Spencer, Jennings and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

Mayor

Clerk