

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 June 18, 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; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; 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 (left early); Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm and Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts Director Catherine Schrenker.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Anita Catron, Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Lili Cornett, CB Gwyn, Charles Hayden, Zachary McNew, Roy McNeil, James McNeil, Teresa McNeil, Scrapper Broady, Carol Barnard, Mike Albano, Dean Roark, Virginia Nihart, Karen Glaeaer, Melissa Clair, John Clair, Turk and Penny Johnson, Sarah Gillespie, Emily Brittingham, Diane Hayes, Thelma Perry, Stephen Perry, Herbie Clay and Earl Coleman.

**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 June 4, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter, and Cornett voted affirmatively.

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

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Memory/Honor of Jackie Perry on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Perry's family and presented them with his retirement gift.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Honor of Earl Preston Coleman on the Occasion of his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mr. Coleman.

Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Appreciation and Recognition of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of McNeil Furniture was accepted. Mr. Heath read and presented the Resolution to the McNeil family.

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, a Resolution in Appreciation of Mrs. Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson, NASA Mathematician, and Teacher in Marion, Virginia was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Mrs. Coleman's nephew, Mr. Scrapper Broady. Mr. Broady is an active member of Emory & Henry College. He fosters a Costa Rica Project which brings students from Costa Rica to Emory & Henry College each summer.

Mayor Helms reviewed the process of replacing Retiring Police Chief Anders. From a pool of 32 applicants, it was narrowed down to 3 finalists, who were interviewed this morning. Mayor Helms introduced the successful candidate, Mr. John Clair from Quantico, VA.

Dean Roark, Marion Downtown Business Owner, spoke about the possibility of more police presence downtown at night. He also addressed the issue of excessive dog feces on Main Street.

Mike Albano, 228 Robinhood Drive, distributed a brochure on a new sport similar to soccer. He would like to request the use of the tennis courts on Chatham Hill Road for this sport. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this request was referred to the Recreation Committee. Mr. Albano also requested more trash cans be placed throughout town.

Ms. Schrenker reported the Wayne Henderson Festival held at the Grayson Highlands State Park this past weekend raised \$60,000. Guitar workshop #4 will begin in November. Ms. Schrenker expressed

interest in the Mt Rogers group home next door to the Henderson, as artisan apprentice housing. She is looking for availability of a food truck for Monday nights.

VFW Commander Johnson just returned from the State Convention. He thanked council for their help with Memorial weekend.

Dr. Gates noted the budget committee met last week and finalized the budget process. The changes since the public hearing are now in the form of a Resolution. Mr. Rush read the Resolution. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Budget Changes Resolution was adopted, therefore the Fiscal 2018-2019 Budget was adopted with those changes.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

Mr. Carter	AYE
Mr. Weaver	AYE
Mr. Cornett	AYE
Mrs. Jennings	AYE
Ms. Spencer	AYE
Dr. Gates	AYE
Mr. Barker	AYE

Mrs. Jennings noted some younger citizens have questioned how to get involved in local government. Mr. Rush noted he would like to be engaged with the younger citizens.

Mr. Cornett attended the Marion Downtown Board meeting June 14, 2018, noting they welcomed new member Claybourne Gwynn. Mr. Cornett reviewed a request for a United Way Grant for Recreation items at River Bend Park. He asked Mr. Rush to review further. Mr. Rush noted this request came to him in the last 10 days with a deadline of June 30, 2018. He forwarded this on to council which appeared to be a good ideal initially with no costs involved. There would need to be permanent concrete slabs in place. Mr. Rush has requested more information and with none presented at this time, Mr. Rush withdrew a recommendation until further information is obtained.

Mayor Helms reminded council and staff of the VML Conference in Hampton September 30 – October 2, 2018. The Town of Abingdon will be hosting a reception for outgoing council members Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 4:30 pm at the Heartwood. Teleperformance will be hosting a Feed the Children food drive for distribution in Smyth County. A special called meeting will be held Friday, June 29, 2018 at 5:15 pm for Year End Financial Closing.

Mr. Fenyk noted there will be Conflict of Interest and Freedom of Information Act training for council on Monday, July 2, 2018 at 4:00 pm.

**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 \$1,035,942.38. Messrs Gates, Barker, Spencer, Weaver, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Ms. Stanley reminded everyone the Clerk and Finance offices will be closed on Friday, June 29, 2018 for the Year End Financial Closing.

Mr. Rush reported for Public Works due to Mr. Muncy leaving the meeting due to a tree down on Panorama Drive. The renovations at the Scott Senior Center are waiting AEP permission to install fiber optic cables.

Chief Anders reviewed a request for a 5K on September 8, 2018 for autism service dogs. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this request for a 5K on September 8, 2018 was approved with the Town Manager and Police Chief to approve the route. Chief Anders will begin working with Police Chief Clair next Monday.

Mr. Heath introduced Sarah Gillespie, Smyth County Chamber of Commerce Director and she reported the Chamber is partnering with the Town to host a Mayberry Day in Marion on Broad Street October 6, 2018. She requested Broad Street be closed for this vintage day event. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings,

seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Broad Street will be closed on Saturday, October 6, 2018 for Mayberry Day.

Mr. Hicks reported the application for SmartScale Project is due August 1, 2018. There will be a pre-bid meeting on July 10, 2018 on Phase III and IV Sewer.

Mr. Rush thanked Chief Anders and the VA Association of Police Chiefs for their assistance with the selection process for the new Chief. The Scott Center renovations are almost complete.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk