

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 September 4, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representatives Stephanie Porter-Nichols and Linda Burchette; Police Lieutenant Andrew Moss; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Tricia Spencer and Suzanne Jennings.

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

VISITORS: Kathy Smith, Joe Naff, CB Gwyn, Charles Hayden, Jeff Spickard, John Clark, Gary Heninger, Karen & Ed Fouts, Linda Dean, Nikki & John Widener, Cindy Stroupe, Patrick Stroupe and Melony McCarty.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held August 20, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Carter, Gates and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with the addition of one closed session for Real Estate.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Mayor Helms welcomed the citizens. Mayor also noted Mr. Tom Graham had a little wager about which team, Marion or Chilhowie, was going to win the football game Friday night. The losing team was to wear the winning team's jersey to the next council meeting. Mayor Helms expressed his appreciation for the good community comradery and the respect shown of the kids on both teams, as they worked together displaying the flag at the game.

Melony McCarty, 481 Wassona Drive, noted there were visitors in town this weekend from Germany, Spain and Michigan. Some even attended the football game Friday night. Mrs. McCarty expressed her appreciation of the town's Memorial Day and Patriot events. Her husband's daughter died while serving in the military. Mrs. McCarty has set a personal goal to mail 500 cards to folks serving in the military. There will be a display at Sister's Café for folks to drop off addresses of military personnel.

Karen Fouts, Matson Drive, spoke about her concern of the drug problem on Matson Drive. She distributed a list obtained from a public website of people that have been charged. She asked why they are still dealing after being charged. Mrs. Fouts asked for help from council and the Marion Police Department to remedy this situation.

Patrick Stroupe, Matson Drive, addressed the same issue as Mrs. Fouts, noting he has had packages stolen from his mailbox. He deals with this every day and is trying to raise a family there. He expressed his frustration and asked for help as well.

Linda Dean, 233 Cherry Street, asked for her neighbors home to be considered under the property maintenance program. Ms. Dean noted her property has depreciated \$20,000 to \$25,000 since 2009. She has been to the court system and the housing authority to try to get some consideration. She distributed pictures of the derelict house.

Charles Hayden, 726 South Church Street, discussed two items of concern; first he is unhappy with the attitude of council and secondly he noted his home owners insurance coverage has been reduced due to fire hydrants being removed and not replaced.

Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the soccer foundation will hold the Annual Gobbler Gallop on November 22, 2018.

Mr. Cornett expressed his appreciation for the Marion Police Department as they responded to an alarm at his store. He also noted Marion Police Department is actively working on the drug problem.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the VML Conference in Hampton, September 30 thru October 2, 2018. The Town and Country BBQ will be September 18, 2018 at 6:00 pm in Chilhowie at the W-L Hanger. There was a flag pole dedication ceremony today at 5:00 pm in front of the Town Hall. There will be a Patriots Day Program on September 11, 2018 at the Fire Station. Mayor Helms spoke about the drug arrest list that was distributed by Mrs. Fouts, noting the Marion Police Department will continue to work on the drug issues in Marion.

Mr. Jennings reported flag and tackle football programs begin tonight. All merry-go-rounds have been refurbished. A regional high school golf tournament will be held later this month at the golf course.

Mr. Heath reported the homecoming parade will be October 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm. The Christmas parade will be December 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm. The Farm to Table event raised \$2,200 for the Farmer's Market and \$800 for the Marion Senior High School program that helped with the event.

Mr. Hicks noted South Park Street has been paved. The Sewer Treatment Plant grit removal system upgrade is complete.

Mr. Rush will send out an updated spreadsheet on CIRP financials. Fiber optic lines are to be installed at the Scott Center next week. Mr. Rush reviewed a rezoning request for parcels located on Commerce and Pendleton Streets to be rezoned from Industrial General to Commercial General. A Joint Public Hearing is scheduled for September 17, 2018 at 5:30 pm. Planning Commission will review Monday night and be ready to make a recommendation.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-3) upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of Real Estate matters. Dr. Gates 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 5 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Weaver, Dr. Gates, Barker, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:39 pm.

Mayor

Clerk