

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 17, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Tricia Spencer, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver and Avery Cornett Council Members; Vice-Chairman Bob Ramsey, Alice Freeman, Trey White, Ben Reedy and Kimberly Austin Planning Commission Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath (arriving late) and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

ABSENT: Suzanne Jennings and Larry Carter.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Charles Hayden, Joe Naff, CB Gwynn, Rex Anders, Ed & Karen Fouts, Jay Overbey, Michael Overbey, Jeff & Karen Richardson, Holly Richardson, Rita Repass, Jean Davis, Patrick & Cindy Stroupe, Anita Catron, Bill Thompson, Donald Coley, Jerry Breen, Todd Wilson and Emily Brittingham.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held September 4, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 Noes, a Resolution in Honor of Jeff Richardson on the Occasion of his Retirement was accepted. Mayor Helms read and presented the Resolution to Jeff Richardson and his family. Donnie Coley, Director of Water/Sewer/CIRP, presented Jeff with his retirement watch.

Patrick Stroupe, Matson Drive, thanked council and the Marion Police Department for the cooperation shown since his presentation at the last meeting. Their neighborhood is forming a Community Watch Program. He distributed a flyer announcing the first meeting Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Marion Church of God Fellowship Hall. Chief Clair reported that Officer Horner will attend this meeting.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING REZONING REQUEST PENDLETON STREET AND COMMERCE STREET: Mayor Helms announced this is a Joint Public Hearing with Planning Commission. He turned the meeting over to Planning Commission Vice-Chairman Ramsey. He noted this request was reviewed by Planning Commission last Monday. Mr. Rush noted this request began with Southern States considering an expansion. Other businesses in the area wanted rezoned as well, with the exception of Anita Catron, representative for Catron Machine and Welding, Inc property. The request is for these properties to be rezoned from I-G (Industrial General) to C-G (Commercial General). Mr. Ramsey opened the Public hearing for citizen comment. One citizen spoke, asking for clarification of the difference in the two zoning categories. Industrial is allowed to have heavy manufacturing and another difference is the setback guidelines. (Mr. Heath arrived). With no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed. Mrs. Freeman asked if residential buffers would apply for Spruce Street. Mr. Hicks noted residential buffers only apply to adjoining properties. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. White and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, it is the recommendation of Planning Commission that the rezoning request be accepted. Mr. Barker returned to the council dais. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the rezoning request was approved, changing the zoning for the requested parcels on Commerce Street and Pendleton Street, with the exception of Catron Machine & Welding, Inc, from I-G, (Industrial General) to C-G, (Commercial General).

Mr. Weaver reported the Personnel Committee met today.

Mr. Cornett referenced the current county issue concerning outdoor flags and encourages support of the American flag.

Mayor Helms reminded staff and council of the VML Conference September 30-October 2, 2018 in Hampton, VA. The Town and County BBQ will be tomorrow at 6:00 pm at the W-L Hanger in Chilhowie. He reminded council to be considering nominations for Extra Mile Recognitions. Mayor Helms noted there is a Constitution Week proclamation in the packet. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Proclamation Constitution Week 2018 was accepted. Mayor Helms read the Proclamation. Blue Ridge Job Corps will hold their quarterly meeting October 4, 2018. Mayor Helms attended a tourism meeting last week in Chilhowie recognizing Anne Hull, who was selected as Most Beautiful Person in the county. The next council meeting scheduled for Monday, October 1, 2018 has been cancelled.

Mr. Fenyk noted the Circuit Court Judge has appointed Thomas R. Hower to the Board of Zoning Appeals effective September 13, 2018.

ACCOUNTS: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$1,004,349.31. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Weaver and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Rush reviewed a potential payroll restructure, which includes amendments to section 2 and 3 of the personnel manual and an adjustment to the pay scale to include an increase of \$1,000 to the beginning pay of each classification grade. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the amendments to section 2 and 3 of the personnel manual were accepted and the new pay scale was accepted.

Ms. Stanley noted online payments for Water Bills, Real Estate and Personal Property Taxes will be available soon.

Chief Clair reported Officer Billings will be attending the Virginia Building Code Academy for the Town of Marion. The Police Department will begin door to door contact this week about inoperable vehicles. Towing for these vehicles will begin next week. Mr. Rush reviewed a USDA Rural Development grant/loan for two police vehicles. The grant portion is \$25,000 and loan portion is \$45,000. Mr. Rush reviewed the documents required for the processing of this grant/loan. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Code of Conduct was accepted. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution of Governing Body of Town of Marion, Virginia was accepted. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Dr. Gates and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, The Loan Resolution was accepted for \$45,000. Mayor Helms noted \$70,000 was already budgeted for 2 police vehicles. Chief Clair thanked council for their concern during his wife's illness.

Chief Hamm noted he found out late this afternoon the quote for the new ambulance is very close to the budgeted amount. Mr. Rush reviewed a financial proposal for repurposing versus selling. Call volume is still in the 190's per month.

Mr. Heath attended an ARC Conference last week in Tupelo, MS. Mayberry Day will be October 6, 2018. The Sorenson Institute will visit Marion this Thursday. The Upper Tennessee Roundtable Riverbend Cleanup will be October 20, 2018. Homecoming Parade will be October 4, 2018 at 6:00 pm. Christmas Parade will be December 7, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Mr. Hicks noted the new equipment at the Sewer Treatment Plant is working well. The Streetscape concrete reconstruction recommended by VDOT has been completed.

Mr. Rush reported the fiber optics was installed at the new Police Department over the weekend. Mr. Rush reviewed a Special Use Permit request letter from New Hope Pain Management Clinic to be located at 1070 Terrace Drive. The owners are local. Mr. Rush read the request letter. Discussion ensued. Town Attorney noted there could not be MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) without a Special Use Permit. Recommendation by Town Manager is to refer to the Planning Commission.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Mayor

Clerk