

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 October 15, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Mayor David Helms, Vice-Mayor Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer, Suzanne Jennings, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter and Avery Cornett Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk (arrived late); Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath, Public Works Director Tony Muncy, Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings (arrived late) and Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

**VISITORS:** Jeff Spickard, Kathy Smith, Katie Smith, Joe Naff, CB Gwynn, Tom & Susan Austin, William D McFarlane, Frank & Frances Detweiler, Cathy Williams, LiLi Cornett and Pastor MaLue.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held September 17, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, 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 striking New Hope Medical Clinic and striking Airport Update Mike Edwards.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** Ms. Williams, new Director for the Blue Ridge Job Corps, gave a brief update on the services provided. The program is open to young adults ages 16 to 24, male and female students. The program offers medical training, including nurses, office staff and advanced LPN training. There will be an open house Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Ms. Williams noted she wants to continue to be good neighbors as lots of the students volunteer with local events.

Doug McFarlane 507 Adams Street, thanked Town Manager, Mayor and Council for always being approachable with citizen issues. He noted that recently in his neighborhood there is a problem with four wheelers being ridden on public roads. He would appreciate staff looking into a solution for this nuisance. He presented a petition with signatures of neighbors. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Planning Commission.

Susan Austin spoke about the proposed New Hope Medical Clinic location at 1070 Terrace Drive. Ms. Austin is not specifically against all Pain Management Clinics, however there are more appropriate locations and much research is required to ensure the best type of programs. Mr. Rush noted the application for the special use permit has been withdrawn. Mr. Fenyk arrived.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone of the Annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner November 6, 2018 at 6:00 pm at River Front in Chilhowie. Terry Jennings arrived. Mayor Helms noted the VML Conference was a great meeting this year. Mr. Rush was elected to the Executive Committee for a two year term. Mayor Helms encourages towns to come up with a legislative packet. The Mental Health Transport policy has made it to the State Legislative packet.

Mr. Fenyk noted on Wednesday there were 2 transports to our area from Hampton as we were transporting clients there. We are crisscrossing going both ways. He has submitted a proposed deed on the Quarry property.

**ACCOUNTS:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the accounts were approved for payment in the amount of \$879,450.31 with the exception of Friends of Southwest Va budget allocation for \$7,500.00, this brings the total to \$871,950.31. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Jennings reported the Driving Range is now open. Project Crossroads is going to remove some trees.

Mr. Muncy noted the leaf schedule has been moved back one week. Mr. Rush noted the Driving Range has turned out amazing due to lots of work by the Public Works crew and Tony's input.

Chief Clair reviewed the Rural Development Grant for Police vehicles. He noted the department will begin moving critical tasks to the Scott Center Friday and officers will move this weekend. Bicycles that have been donated to the department will be refurbished and donated to underprivileged children. Officers will be serving lunch tomorrow at Marion Elementary School.

Chief Hamm reviewed the process of purchasing a new ambulance with the possibility of a partial grant from Rural Development. The quote is a little under the budgeted amount of \$230,000 fully equipped. Once we purchase this ambulance, we will need to sell two of the undependable older models to be in a good position to apply for a full grant during next year's grant cycle.

Mr. Heath noted Mayberry Days and the Vintage Market were a huge success and the characters performed on the street and at the Lincoln Theatre. There will be a Crooked Road meeting tomorrow at 5:00 pm to discuss a wayside kiosk detailing Smyth County's musical heritage. The Christmas Parade will be Friday, December 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm. This Saturday there will be a wine tasting for the Rotary Club at Holston Hills Community Golf Course.

Mr. Hicks asked Mr. Spickard to review the Environmental review on Church Street Drainage Project. Mr. Spickard noted VDOT feels it is likely that we will encounter petroleum contamination of the soil. Mr. Spickard reviewed how this will be handled if encountered, based on 3 levels of contamination and the 3 remediation efforts. This project will likely begin next summer. Mr. Hicks noted the water accountability has increased.

Mr. Rush noted the commitment package for Phase III and IV Water and Sewer has been received. There will be a Public hearing on November 5, 2018 for rezoning requests for Callan Drive and 533 and 535 South Church Street.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (A-6) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Dr. Gates and vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for discussion of personnel matter and investment of public funds. 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 Weaver, Dr. Gates, Barker, Spencer, Jennings, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Cornett and a vote of 6 AYES and 1 NO, Town Manager and Mr. Barker have authorization to attend the October 29, 2018 tax sale at the court house to potentially purchase distressed properties.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

---

Mayor

---

Clerk