

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 December 17, 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; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Police Chief John Clair; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Economic Development Director Ken Heath; Wayne Henderson School of Appalachian Arts Director Catherine Schrenker (arrived late); Public Works Director Tony Muncy and Purchasing Agent/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, Kathy Smith, Joe Naff, C. B. Gwynn and Charles Hayden.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 3, 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, 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 with one deletion under Town Manager's report for rezoning request.

**PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS:** None.

(Ms. Schrenker arrived). Mr. Carter attended the inaugural graduation of the Emory & Henry School of Health Sciences Occupational Therapy class, of which 6 students held a 4.0 GPA. There were over 300 parents and attendees.

Mayor Helms noted Mr. Heath's graduation from the Sorenson Institute was an honor and also an important honor for the Town as well. VML Legislative Day will be January 23 & 24, 2019 in Richmond.

Mr. Fenyk noted the proposed deed for the Quarry is acceptable and will likely close sometime next week.

Ms. Stanley reported the Statement of Economic Interest forms will be distributed at the next council meeting.

**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 \$893,041.20. Messrs Barker, Dr. Gates, Spencer, Jennings, Weaver, Carter and Cornett voted affirmatively.

Mr. Muncy was appreciated for the timeliness of snow removal during the recent snow event.

Chief Clair noted training and reorganizing from the move will be conducted during the winter months. There was an 18 hour TDO transport during the recent snow event.

Chief Hamm noted the Fire/EMS Department raised approximately \$3,500 and lots of toys for Santa's Elves program.

Ms. Schrenker thanked the Police department for securing the Henderson Building each evening. Ken McCoy from Charlotte, NC is donating his Wayne Henderson guitar to the school. The guitar making instructors have committed to teaching only at the Wayne Henderson School of Appalachian Arts. The first annual New Year's Eve picking party will be held at the Henderson School. It will be pot luck and family friendly. A guitar class reunion will be held January 18 & 19, 2019.

Mr. Heath thanked everyone for their help during the Christmas Market weekend. A Crooked Road meeting was held today. Mr. Heath thanked council and the community to be able to attend the Sorenson Institute. The class raised \$23,000 for the Sorenson Institute. Mr. Heath reviewed a restructure of his department. The restructure will continue to work with the Downtown area and grow

tourism. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Deputy Director of Community and Economic Development position was approved and will be a level 14.

Mr. Hicks noted the water accountability issue is being worked on from several different angles, including leak detection to replacement of meter at the town spring. The recent large water leak was located behind the old American Furniture building, having lost 2.6 million gallons. The town spring is offline and the water treatment plant is running 12 hour shifts. The Church Street Drainage project is in the final stages to submit a cost estimate. There will be 5 applications submitted January 7, 2019 for the VDOT State of Good Repair grants.

Mr. Rush noted Phase III & IV sewer loan package will close on Wednesday, December 19, 2018.

Mayor Helms noted receipt of a thank you letter from the United Way for the town representatives helping bag groceries at Food City. Mayor Helms expressed his appreciation of council and staff this past year.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.

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Mayor

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Clerk