

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 January 4, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, and Tricia Spencer Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Mona Barr; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Economic Development Director Assistant Samantha White, Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald, Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: Dr. Jim Gates, Avery Cornett and Suzanne Jennings.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Mike Edwards and Charlie Harrington.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held December 21, 2015 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter and Spencer voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Mrs. White reported that the Historic Tax Credits for the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts has been completed, certified and all items qualified. There will be a check from the state investors for approximately \$468,000 in the next 5-7 business days. There is still about \$45,000 more to come from the federal investors.

Charlie Harrington, Marion Redevelopment & Housing Authority, reported on the vacancies that have occurred. Due to the death of Mal Brown, his term will need to be filled and Mr. Bill Huber has resigned. Don Wampler has accepted the Vice-Chair position. Mr. Harrington gave two recommendations and both have agreed to serve. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, James McNeil will fill the unexpired term of Mal Brown which will be until September 2016 and Carol Edminston will be appointed to Mr. Huber's vacancy which will expire in February 2020.

Mayor Helms reminded everyone that January 26-28, 2016 will be VML Legislative Day in Richmond. Mr. Heath is going to speak at the Finance Forum in Richmond on Wednesday.

Mr. Fenyk reported the Conservation Easement for the Town Spring has been recorded and returned to Virginia Outdoors Foundation. Mr. Rush noted the Bond Resolution will be sent tomorrow and a closing date will be set. Mr. Fenyk also reported that a previous judgment for meals tax had been paid and released.

Ms. Stanley reviewed a DMV program, Vehicle Registration Withholding Program, that allows municipalities to report to DMV unpaid Personal Property taxes. These delinquent taxes must be satisfied before any DMV processes can be completed. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Ms. Spencer and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the Town Clerk is to implement this program through DMV.

Mr. Jennings noted the girls basketball program just ended and the boys program starts tonight with 190 participants. There will be an AAU Basketball Tournament February 27-28, 2016. The Va Tech 3 Day soccer camp will be held again this year July 11-13, 2016. There were 687 rounds of golf played in December.

Chief Anders noted one of our officers resigned and went to Chilhowie. Chief Anders is requesting permission to advertise for this vacancy. Upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Carter and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, Chief Anders is to advertise for this vacant Police Officer position.

Mrs. McDonald reported that she is working on the Bonanza Main Street report for accreditation. She also noted her department has been awarded a Downtown Investment Grant for \$60,000.

Mr. Heath noted progress is being made at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts on the wood shop and the kitchen area. The next round of Pop Up class is scheduled for March 2016. The Town of Marion is one of 3 Virginia Communities invited to apply for a 2.5 million dollar Vibrant Communities Grant. The Streetscape project is currently awaiting VDOT approval. Emory & Henry College is preparing and planning a huge event this April on campus and will include a BBQ Cookoff.

Mr. Hicks noted the addition of street and lane miles for highway maintenance due to the boundary adjustment will be .62 primary and 1.94 secondary. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the Virginia Department of Transportation New Urban Street Payment Request Resolution was approved. The Zone Meter project has been approved to go forward with purchasing materials. Residential On Street and Off Street parking was discussed. Upon motion of Mr. Weaver, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, Residential On Street Parking was referred to Planning Commission for review.

Mr. Rush noted that a CIRP Water Project has been submitted to Virginia Department of Health for funding consideration. A determination should be made around June 2016. There will be 3 water crew employees moving over to the CIRP program to work on the Zone Meter Project. Marion Corrections has approached the Town Manager in regards to the inmates doing some projects for the town. This project will start in the next couple weeks and the inmates must be paid at a reduced rate.

Mr. Carter would like to see the town draft a letter to the Attorney General regarding the concealed weapon permit issue.

The next council meeting will be Tuesday, January 19, 2016 due to the Holiday. Ms. Barr left.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (A-3) upon motion of Mr. Barker, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, Town Council entered into Closed Session for the purpose of a personnel matter and discussion of the acquisition of real property. Mr. Barker 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 4 AYES and 0 NOES. The Town Clerk polled the Council Members. Messrs Barker, Weaver, Carter and Spencer voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk