

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 March 7, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor David Helms, Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Bill Weaver, Larry Carter, Avery Cornett, Suzanne Jennings and Tricia Spencer Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols; Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks; Police Chief Rex Anders; Marion Downtown Director Olivia McDonald; Purchasing Agent/Fire Chief Billy Hamm; and Golf Course Manager Terry Jennings.

ABSENT: None.

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

VISITORS: Jeff Spickard, Mike Edwards, Ron Thomason, Bob Lincoln, Malcolm M Brown IV and Dr. D. K. Armbrister.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held February 16, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Weaver, Barker, Carter, Cornett, Dr. Gates, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

AGENDA: Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the agenda was approved as distributed with one addition under Public Works for consideration of garbage truck.

PUBLIC PRESENTATION: Bob Lincoln, Manager of the General Francis Marion Hotel, gave an update on two shows he and Mr. Ron Thomason attended to promote tourism. He also distributed a handout. One of the shows was in Cleveland, OH and the other was in Maryland. They distributed approximately 30,000 pieces of printed material to participants at these two motorcycle shows promoting tourism for Marion, Smyth County and the surrounding area. Mr. Thomason also spoke and thanked Council for their support.

Malcolm M Brown IV spoke on behalf of Dr. Armbrister regarding the rezoning request for 592 Radio Hill Road. Mr. Brown noted the request may need to be for a Special Use Permit instead of changing from MA Medical Arts to R-3 Residential. The concept is to provide attractive apartments for the students close to the school. The upstairs will be 100% apartments and the downstairs will be mixed use having offices and apartments. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, this item was referred to the Marion Planning Commission next Monday night.

PUBLIC HEARING CIRP & WATERSHED BONDS: Mayor Helms turned the public hearing over to Mr. Rush to review this item. Mr. Rush noted the June 2015 Resolution for the Watershed Loan was approved on June 15, 2015 not on June 18, 2015 as advertised. The Resolution needs to be re-affirmed to clear this technicality. Mayor Helms opened the Public Hearing for comments. Upon motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Resolution Readopting, Ratifying and confirming a prior Resolution that authorized the Issuance and Sale of a General Obligation Bond of the Town of Marion in an amount not to exceed \$127,300 and provided for the form, details and payment of the Bond was adopted. Mr. Rush reviewed the Zone Meter Project noting the Virginia Department of Health funding for this project will be half grant and half loan. The Virginia Resource Authority packet has not yet been submitted to the Virginia Department of Health. Mr. Rush noted the authorizing Resolution will be coming to Council soon. With no further public comments, Mayor Helms closed the Public Hearing.

Mrs. Jennings gave an update on the Lincoln Theatre and distributed some materials. She noted that Saturday night concessions were available to the audience.

Mr. Cornett has been contacted by Mr. Harrington in regards to donating a piece of Real Estate to the Town of Marion. Mr. Cornett visited the property and took the request to Mr. Rush. The property is in the County on Johnston Road, parcel number 47-A-70D, consisting of approximately 5.83 acres. Mr. Fenyk announced publicly that he is a contiguous land owner, therefore he cannot advise council. Upon

motion of Dr. Gates, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mr. Rush is to research this property for any liabilities or uses and give a recommendation to council.

Mayor Helms reviewed a request from the March of Dimes to hold their Annual Walk at the RiverBend Park and Shelter. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mrs. Jennings and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the March of Dimes will be allowed to hold their Annual March of Dimes Walk at the RiverBend Park and Shelter. The next VFW planning meeting for the Memorial Day Weekend events will be March 15, 2016 at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Jennings gave an update on the Recreation Department. There are 297 kids registered for soccer. A Grill Manager for the Golf Course has been hired for the summer. The Golf Course will be open on weekends beginning this weekend and on April 1, 2016 will open daily for the season.

Mr. Rush gave the report for the Public Works Department. Part Time Seasonal hiring will begin soon. The garbage truck has been bid and there are some funds set aside in a sinking fund for a down payment. Worldwide Equipment met the specifications and Goodpasture was the apparent low bidder, approximately \$10,000 less. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the garbage truck from Worldwide Equipment was approved at \$173,360. The old garbage truck will be refurbished as a backup.

Chief Anders reported interviews will be done tomorrow for the officer job openings. The K-9 Grant has been postponed. The Henry Street case has been continued until June. The Street Light Maintenance policy with Appalachian Power is being updated.

Mrs. McDonald noted the 10th round of Pop Up Classes began Tuesday night with 25 participants. She also noted there is an amazing amount of activity at the Wayne Henderson Appalachian School of Arts. The Wholesome Waves Grant will continue this year with the SNAP program at the Farmers Market.

Mr. Hicks reported the water accountability is down to about 45%. The Zone Meter Project is underway. The zone meters and isolation valves should help pinpoint leaks and help with water accountability. A Draper Aden Hydraulic Analysis is being conducted at the State Hospital, hopefully this could help locate any large leaks as well. A VDOT Primary Extension Application has been submitted to VDOT in the amount of \$380,000 for paving on North Main Street. A Resolution will be submitted soon. Mr. Hicks reported that Alice Freeman's term on the Planning Commission expires in April 2016 and she is willing to serve another term. Upon motion of Mr. Carter, seconded by Mr. Barker and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, Mrs. Alice Freeman was re-appointed to the Marion Planning Commission. Mayor Helms requested that Mr. Hicks keep the citizens informed about the CIRP Project.

Mr. Rush noted the Preliminary Engineering Report and Resolutions for the CIRP Project are in the final stages of revisions. Mr. Rush reviewed the Phase I and Phase II proposals for water improvement projects. Upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the Virginia Department of Health Water Line Replacement Phase I and Phase II Funding Resolutions were accepted. Staff will be attending a VDH funding application workshop tomorrow. Mr. Rush reviewed the Offender Program.

CLOSED SESSION: Pursuant to Code of Virginia, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A-1) and (A-3) upon motion of Mrs. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Weaver and vote of 7 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. 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 Barker, Weaver, Carter, Dr. Gates, Cornett, Jennings and Spencer voted affirmatively.

Upon motion, duly seconded and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk

