

Minutes of a joint meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia and the Board of Supervisors of Smyth County held at the Lincoln Theatre on May 13, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

PRESENT FOR THE TOWN: Mayor David Helms, Jim Owens, Suzanne Jennings and Bill Weaver (arriving late) Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Anita Catron; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall.

ABSENT: Dr. Jim Gates, Jim Barker, Tricia Spencer and Larry Carter.

PRESENT FOR THE COUNTY: J. Howard Burton and Blake Frazier Board Members; Michael Carter County Administrator; Michelle Clayton County Attorney and Lori Hester Economic Development Director.

ABSENT: Wade Blevins, Ronald Blevins, Todd Dishner, Richard Blevins and Roscoe Call.

PRESENT FOR THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Chairman John T. Stirrup, Jr., Vice-Chair Bruce C. Goodson, Cole Hendrix, John G. Kines, Jr. and Victoria Hull; Zack Robbins, Edward Lanza and David Comny Staff Members.

VISITORS: Wanda Owens, Charles Wassum and Karen Fouts.

Chairman Stirrup opened the meeting with review of the Voluntary Settlement Agreement. The Annexation is for 409 acres with the potential for an additional 100 acres. The summary includes Annexation, Revenue-Sharing, Waiver of Annexation and City Status Rights and Conveyance of Rocky Hollow Road spring to Smyth County.

Mr. Robbins gave an overview of the requirements of the commission as proposed by law to review. The Commission is directed to hold hearings and must report in writing its finding as pursuant to the code of VA 15.2-3400. The necessary advertisements have been placed in the local newspaper, Smyth County News and Messenger, on April 16 and 23, 2014. The Commission will render a report by September 2014. The Chairman asked for any additional comments.

Mr. Rush noted the Town's appreciation for the Commission's trip here, touring of the areas and their time. Mr. Rush introduced the elected officials and staff that were present. He gave a summary of the Voluntary Settlement Agreement and exactly what the Town is asking for. The Town of Marion and Smyth County recognize the need for a partnership.

Mr. Carter introduced his team that was present and he noted that he is the Chairman for the CDA with the Town and County. He spoke of having a great working relationship with the Town and noted the County is asking for the same thing as the Town in relationship to the Voluntary Settlement Agreement.

Mr. Frazier is excited about this refreshing process as neighboring localities tend to be in conflict. The Commission asked Mr. Frazier if he feels the constituents understood the process. Mr. Frazier noted the people are ready for a positive growth period for Smyth County.

Mrs. Clayton expressed her gratitude to the Town Manager for all his hard work putting the process together. She agreed with the request for an extension for technical adjustments. She noted what a great opportunity this is for both parties and there would be no animosity if the CDA takes longer than expected to materialize. Discussion Ensued.

Mr. Comny thanked the Town for the tour of the areas. He asked if there are provisions of service in annexation areas. Does it included Police protection as some of the abandoned buildings could be high risk crime areas. Mr. Rush noted our Police Department already services those areas.

The Chairman asked for any additional comments. With no future comments Mr. Stirrup thanked everyone and expressed his appreciation for the hospitality over the last several days. A recommendation will be in September 2014.

The meeting was recessed until 7:00 pm tonight.

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Mayor

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Clerk

Minutes of a joint Public Hearing of the Town Council of the Town of Marion, Virginia and the Board of Supervisors of Smyth County held at the Lincoln Theatre on May 13, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT FOR THE TOWN: Mayor David Helms, Jim Owens, Suzanne Jennings, Tricia Spencer and Bill Weaver (arriving late) Council Members; Town Manager Bill Rush; Town Clerk/Director of Finance Cindy Stanley; Deputy Clerk Anita Catron; Town Attorney Mark Fenyk; Economic Development Director Ken Heath and Marion Downtown Director Olivia Hall.

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PRESENT FOR THE VIRGINIA COMMISSION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Chairman John T. Stirrup, Jr., Vice-Chair Bruce C. Goodson, Cole Hendrix, John G. Kines, Jr. and Victoria Hull; Zack Robbins, Edward Lanza and David Comny Staff Members.

VISITORS: Karen & Ed Fouts, David Thomas, Bob Whisam, Gay Overbay, Charles Overbay, Larry Absher, Earl Griffey, Jade Powers, Jesse Hall, Michael Porter, Dan Roark, Claybern Barker, Sharry Frances, Justin Pauley, Arthur Barker, Otis Barker, LaVon Lowery, Don Medley, Ralph Surber, David Surber, Scott Schriefer, Charles Harrington, James McNeil, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Wassum, Kathy Smith, Chad West, Bill Powers, Gilda Powers, Robert Parlier and Matt Wassum.

Chairman Stirrup welcomed everyone and reviewed the Voluntary Settlement Agreement.

Mr. Robbins gave an overview of the Commission's responsibilities as directed by law.

PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT: Chairman Stirrup opened the Public Hearing.

- 1) Otis Barker, Adwolfe, spoke against Liquor by the Drink portion of the Annexation.
- 2) Michael Porter, Pastor of Blessed Hope Baptist Church, also spoke against Liquor by the Drink.
- 3) Ralph Surber, Sugar Grove Pastor, spoke against Liquor by the Drink.
- 4) Donald Medly, Sugar Grove Pastor, also spoke against Liquor by the Drink.
- 5) Charles Wassum noted that growth of the Town and County is not dependent on Liquor by the Drink.
- 6) LaVon Lowery, local business man, agreed with the previous speakers against Liquor by the Drink specifically at the Golf Course.
- 7) Arthur Barker, Sugar Grove Pastor, spoke in regards to the negative effects of alcohol.
- 8) David Thomas, 221 Wassona Circle, spoke about allowing the citizens to vote to decide on Liquor by the Drink. He also thought Area C might contain a Conflict of Interest for Mr. Rush.
- 9) Charlie Harrington, Executive Director of Housing Authority, expressed the importance of the issue for growth of our community and the advantage it holds for future developments. Mr. Harrington spoke in favor of the Annexation.

10) Bill Powers has a common border with the Golf Course and over the last 35 years as adjacent property owners he has had no problems. He spoke favorably about the Annexation.

11) Matt Wassum spoke against Golf Course Annexation as it was not the job of the Government to serve alcohol.

12) Gilda Powers spoke in favor of the Annexation as a property neighbor of the Golf Course.

13) Earl Griffey, Scratch Gravel, spoke against Liquor by the Drink.

14) Chad West spoke against the Annexation and ask the Commission to consider Liquor by the Drink portion of the Annex for the children from broken homes due to alcoholism.

The Chairman thanked the speakers for their interest in the community. He advised that the comment period will be open until May 30, 2014. Staff will provide details and directions on how to submit additional public comments.

Upon motion of Mr. Kines, seconded by Mr. Goodson and a vote of 8 AYES and 0 NOES the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk