

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Marion Planning Commission held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building on November 13, 2017, at 5:15pm.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Cecil Hicks rendered the invocation.

VISITORS: Brian Reed, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.

PRESENT: Chairman Cameron Wolfe (arriving late), Vice-Chairman Bob Ramsey, Jim Barker, Alice Freeman and Ben Reedy Planning Commission Members; Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Bill Rush, Assistant Town Manager/Engineer Cecil Hicks, Deputy Clerk Anita Catron and Town Attorney Mark Fenyk.

ABSENT: Dan Surface and Trey White Planning Commission Members.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: As the meeting was called to order, with 4 voting members present, the Commission has a quorum.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Reedy and a vote of 4 AYES and 0 NOES, minutes of the meeting held September 11, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs Barker, Ramsey, Freeman and Reedy voted affirmatively.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: No Report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES: No Report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: No Report.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DRAFT COPY REVIEW AND DISCUSSION: (Chairman Wolfe arrived). Vice-Chairman Ramsey turned the meeting over to Chairman Wolfe. Chairman Wolfe apologized for being late and reminded all members they were to have reviewed the draft of the Comprehensive Plan that was sent out. He then turned the floor over to Brian Reed with MRPDC to continue the review and updates that have been made. Mr. Reed informed members they have worked on changes and continue to make more changes each day by adding new data and removing or shortening old data. He stated they will continue to remove and update as needed. He also discussed the new section that was added to the Comprehensive Plan for Economic Development and Marion Downtown which totals about 12 pages. Also noted was the requirement by VDOT that information be added for restructuring areas in the town. VDOT must have all changes included in the Comprehensive Plan before changes are allowed for traffic flow upgrades. The town CIRP plan is another new item added. This plan allows for water/sewer upgrades to be performed by Town of Marion Force Account. Mr. Reed stated he had received suggestions in meetings with various staff members and these were reviewed and have been included in the updates. Due to the boundary adjustments, some maps had to be changed reflecting the adjustment. Mr. Reed informed planning commission members most changes to the plan were in the goals and objectives part. This section lists the changes that have or are occurring in the town.

Mr. Reed asked if members had questions or comments. Some members had questions regarding wording they felt might need to be changed, and questioned other areas where they feel new programs may need to be highlighting more. Mr. Reed explained that some wording was State Code and other wording neither he nor his staff had changed but was taken from the old Comprehensive Plan. He also emphasized to members that changes may be made to the Comprehensive Plan as needed, with approval from Town Council. He informed members there may be changes that will have to be made as early as March, but these will not have to wait until the next review. If members have other changes they would like to have made, he requested they send those to him as soon as possible. Members requested the new section for Marion Downtown and Economic Development be placed at the front of the Comprehensive Plan. They feel this reflects several positive changes that have taken place in the Town of Marion, and are still taking place.

With no further discussion Mr. Rush stated the Comprehensive Plan Draft will be on Town of Marion web site on Tuesday, November 14th. A Joint Public Hearing with Town Council for public input has been set for Monday, November 20th in council chambers at 5:30pm. This will be for public comment only, and no vote will be taken at the meeting.

Chairman Wolfe inquired if there would be a meeting in December for Planning Commission. Mr. Rush stated if it is necessary, he or town staff will notify members.

Upon motion, Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Ramsey, and a vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman

Secretary