

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Marion Planning Commission held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building on September 9, 2019 at 5:15 pm.

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cameron Wolfe, Jim Barker (arriving late), Bob Ramsey, Ben Reedy, Trey White and Alice Freeman Planning Commission Members; Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Bill Rush, Assistant Town Manager/Town Engineer Cecil Hicks, Deputy Town Clerk Anita Catron, Town Attorney Mark Fenyk (arriving late), Police Chief John Clair, Police Sergeant Rick Billings and Smyth County News Representative Stephanie Porter-Nichols.

**ABSENT:** Kimberly Austin.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Wolfe called the meeting to order.

**INVOCATION:** Cecil Hicks.

**VISITORS:** Charles Hayden and Avery Cornett.

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:** The meeting was called to order with 5 voting members present, the Commission has a quorum.

**MINUTES:** Upon motion of Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Reedy and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting June 10, 2019 were approved as written. Messrs Wolfe, Freeman, Ramsey, Reedy and White voted affirmatively.

**REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:** No Report.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:** No Report.

**REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES:** No Report. (Mr. Barker arrived).

Chairman Wolfe turned the meeting to Mr. Rush for discussion and review of listed agenda items.

Mr. Rush stated he would like to discuss an item, not on the agenda, but needing review from members. He had a town citizen call regarding the zoning regulations for boarding houses. He cannot find a clear definition for this. Discussion ensued. Mr. Rush requested members to review this for a later meeting discussion.

**BLIGHT AND VIRGINIA STATEWIDE BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Mr. Rush reviewed the blight situation and discussed the code enforcement for consideration. He turned the meeting to Chief Clair and Sergeant Rick Billings for discussion on these issues. Chief Clair stated he has had experience in dealing with blight in the past and discussed the tools that may be used in identifying the different types of blight in a community, and enforcements that may be used, if the Property Maintenance Policy, Town Property Maintenance Code and Authorizing Resolution are adopted. Sergeant Billings explained as the town enforcement officer, he will be dealing with residential properties and be responsible for part 3 of the code, and all that is included under that section. The county still handles parts 1 & 2. A discussion

ensued regarding these policy updates and ways to recoup payment for any necessary clean-up by the town.

**QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR ADDITIONS:** With no additional discussions, Mr. Rush stated no recommendation is needed at this time. A Joint Public Hearing with Town Council has been set for Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 that will allow for public comment regarding the adoption of these updates. Planning Commission will then make their recommendation to Town Council.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Upon motion of Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mrs. Freeman and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm, with a reminder that all members are needed for the Joint Public Hearing.

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Chairman

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Secretary