TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Special Council Meeting
Marmet, West Virginia
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 6:00 PM

- **CALL TO ORDER**
- **INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- **ROLL CALL of MEMBERS -** All present except for Councilperson Walker

- Discussion of Leasing Annex Building – Mayor Armentrout – Mayor introduced Executive Director of Charter Schools Barry Holstein who grew up in Hernshaw and attended Marmet Elementary who informed council and citizens present about Phalen Learning Academy. He introduced Kristin Bowles Principal and Kristy Williamson Vice President of Growth and Strategy.

  School is a non-profit organization overseen by the Department of Education and the WV Professional Charter School Board. Mr. Holstein will be making site visits. School has a 5-year contract to be a charter school. School will be tuition free with free lunch and breakfast for children kindergarten through 5th grade. School is planning on helping/providing transportation. The school will offer a summer program for children along with summer school. There will also be an adult program free of charge for anyone age 18 or older with no age limit. Adult Education Program will offer GED, SNAP training courses, work with employers for specialized training courses, as well work with individuals transitioning out of their job. There will also be short term (4 to 6 week) certification programs.

  Funding is provided by Federal, State Title I and II Program along with employers and other philanthropy funding.

  Presently WV has 8 charter schools including 2 virtual schools. Phalen Learning Academy has 21 academies across the United States including 3 High Schools. School expressed eventually they would love to have a middle and high school in the area.

  Principal explained the school will follow Kanawha County School Calendar to help accommodate parents with children in other Kanawha County Schools.

  Several questions were asked from council and from the public on how many schools Phalen has and what the ratio of students per teacher. Which the principal answered not sure on the ratio yet but will follow state guidelines and do what is best for the children. Questions were asked who can apply. The response was anyone. Applicants don't need to live in Kanawha County but local children were going to be given preference.

Questions were asked about funding. There was a question regarding playground equipment which the school responded they are purchasing new playground equipment.

Principal stated the children were addressed as scholars instead of students. They like the idea of the Police being on the property and the Fire Department being across the street. Mayor stated there will be certainly an office for a Resource Officer.

Town Attorney is presently working on the lease. Motion to approve the lease the Annex to Phalen Learning Academy was made by Councilperson Lyttle. Second was made by Councilperson Morgan. All present voted yes.

- Discussion regarding hiring of Municipality Judge – Mayor Armentrout – Postponed to next meeting. Mayor explained previous judge has her own law practice and it was discovered it is an ethics violation so judge had to resign.

- **GOOD AND WELFARE**
  - Council - None
  - Public - None
- **ADJOURNMENT** – Motion made by Councilperson Morgan. Second made by Councilperson Stone. Meeting adjourned.

Mayor: _____

Recorder: _____

Marmet Town Council Voting Record

Date: 3/5/26

Item: Approval to lease Annex Building to Phaken Learning Academy

Motion: Lyttle

Second: Morgan

Vote:	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason For Abstention
Councilperson Barley	✓			
Councilperson Lyttle	✓			
Councilperson Morgan	✓			
Councilperson Stone	✓			
Councilperson Walker				Absent
Recorder Teresa Long	✓			
Mayor Frances Armentrout	✓			