



**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Regular Meeting**

**December 6, 2021 7 PM**

**Marshville Town Hall**

**118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103**

**Regular Meeting Minutes - Zoom**

**In Attendance:** Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan, Council Members Paulette Blakeney, Re-elected Member Gary Huntley, Margaret Bivens, and Ernestine Staton. Newly Elected Member Monaca Marshall

**Staff in Attendance:** Town Manager Franklin Deese, Town Clerk Ann Sutton, Administrative Assistant LaKeysha Medlin, Town Attorney Bobby Griffin, and Police Chief Matt Tarlton

**Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Smith. Council Member Huntley gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance. 7 pm

**No Public Comments**

**Adoption Regular Meeting Agenda:** Mayor Larry Smith added an item concerning the Beaver Lane VFD. It will become 8b on the current agenda. Council Member Staton made a motion to approve the plan with the addition. Council Member Blakeney seconded this. All Ayes

**Adoption of Consent Agenda:**

- a. August 2, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. August 16, 2021, Work Session Minutes
- c. September 20, 2021, Work Session Minutes
- d. September 27, 2021, Special Called Meeting Minutes
- e. October 4, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- f. November 15, 2021, Work Session Minutes

Council Member Staton made a motion to adopt the consent agenda with one change. The change is to correct the name of Jamal Patrick to Jamal Kirkpatrick in the August 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes. This motion was seconded by Council Member Blakeney. All ayes.

A motion was made by Council Member Bivens to move into closed session. Council Member Blakeney seconded this. All ayes. Newly elected Council Member Marshall was invited to stay.

Closed Session Personnel G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) 7: 09

*G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.*

**Action resulting from closed session 7:15 pm:** The Council agreed to the new contract for Manager Franklin Deese. A motion to approve the contract was made by Council Member Staton and seconded by Council Member Bivens. All ayes.

**Discussion concerning ARPA Funds:** Town Manager Deese explained some of the uses of the ARPA Funds that had been presented to him by the Council. These items were suggested:

- Upgrade Technology - \$30,000
- Upgrade Communications with the Community - \$30,000
- Facade Grants for Businesses - \$40,000
- Low Wealth Communities - \$65,000 (Goodlife Company help for school students)
- Building Upgrades/Upkeep - \$25,000
- Premium Pay - \$51,000 over two years

Town Manager Deese would like approval for the Premium Pay so this pay would be part of the Christmas bonus. Council Member Staton would like a breakdown of the Premium Pay. Town Manager Deese offered the breakdown amount for Premium Pay as follows:

- Employed with the town for 6 months or less - \$500
- Employed with the town for 6 months or more - \$1,000
- Department heads - \$2,500

Council Member Staton made a motion to approve Premium Pay that will be paid from the General Fund. This amount will be replaced by ARPA funds once a budget amendment is approved. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens. All ayes.

**Discussion/Action concerning CERRI documentation (Resolution/MOU):** The Town of Marshville received a grant for evaluation and development ideas for our downtown. The Council was presented a resolution asking CERRI to work with us in the evaluation. In addition, the MOU states what CERRI will do as part of the work with the town. Council Member Bivens made a motion to approve the resolution and the MOU. A second was made by Council Member Huntley. All ayes.

**ADDED – Beaver Lane VFD Funding:** Mayor Smith spoke with the Beaver Land VFD board in October. Mayor Smith said that we need to be clear about what we expect from each other. We budgeted funds to give the VFD in the 2020-2021 Budget Year. \$35,000 is no longer available. Council can move to provide them with the funding through a budget amendment. Town Manager Deese said that we also have \$17,500 budgeted for the current year. Town

Manager Deese and Council asked to see the budget because we are not paying our people, but we are giving money to the VFD to pay their employees. Council Member Staton said that we need to see the budget and then we can decide what the town wants to do. Mayor Smith reiterated what was needed from Beaver Lane VFD to have consideration for payment of Town of Marshville's budgeted amounts. Town Manager Deese would like a copy of the 2020-2021 and 2021 to 2022 budget, a breakdown of employees and their pay, and if the VFD is receiving ARPA Funds. Council Member Staton would like for them to come to a meeting. She would like to make sure we let them know we are not against them. Council Member Huntley said we have not proof as to how the funds are being spent or if they need it.

**Swearing-In Ceremony for newly elected Council Members:** Monica Marshall, newly elected Town Council Member; Gary Huntley, renewal as Town Council Member; Larry Smith, renewal as Mayor. All sworn in.

### **Town Recognized Mayor Pro-tem Morgan's Service to the Community**

#### **Delegating Elected Officials Assignments:**

Council Member Ernestine Staton was elected the Mayor Pro-tem. Council Member Huntley was nominated but declined. The motion was made by Council Member Huntley and seconded by Council Member Blakeney. All ayes

CRTPO representative will remain Ernestine Staton with Paulette Blakeney as the alternate. COG representative will be Mayor Pro-tem Staton with Mayor Smith as the alternate. A motion was made by Council Member Staton with a second by Council Member Huntley to approve Council Member Staton as the CRTPO and COG representatives. All ayes. A motion was made to make Mayor Smith the alternate to COG and approved by all. Finally, a motion was made to keep Council Member as the CRTPO alternate. All approved this decision.

Council Member Marshall will be the board liaison for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The motion for this was made by Council Member Staton and seconded by Council Member Blakeney. All ayes.

**Discussion/Action concerning the December 20th Work Session:** A motion was made by Council Member Bivens to cancel the December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Work Session. Council Member Huntley seconded the motion. All ayes.

**Manager's Comments:** Town Manager Deese said the town would have a Christmas luncheon on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Town Hall will be closed for the afternoon.

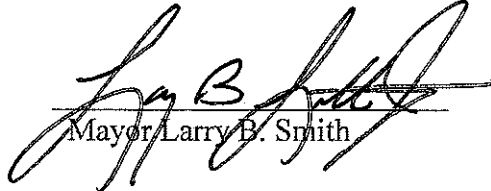
#### **Council Comments:**

Council Member Bivens let all know the Marshville Museum had their Christmas luncheon. Council Member Blakeney wished all a happy holiday and was glad to see all. Council Member Huntley asked all to have a nice holiday and stay safe. Council Member Staton welcomed newly elected Council Member Marshall. Council Member Marshall said she was glad to be on the Board.

**Mayor Comments:** Mayor Smith had no comments and wished all a happy holiday.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Council Member Huntley to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bivens made a second. All ayes. 8:45 pm

Approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2022.

  
Mayor Larry B. Smith

ATTEST

  
Ann Sutton, Town Clerk