



Town of Marshville Town Council Work Session

Monday, January 24, 2022 7:00 PM

**Marshville Town Hall, 118 East Union St., Marshville, NC
28103**

Regular Work Session Minutes

Present: Mayor Larry Smith; Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton; Council Members Paulette Blakeney, Monaca Marshall, Margaret Bivens, and Gary Huntley

Staff Present: Franklin Deese, Town Manager; Ann Sutton Town Clerk;

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council Member Huntley gave the opening prayer. Everyone stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review/Discussion Parks Master Plan: Town Manager Deese sent the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to Council and the Parks Advisory Committee. He wanted to make sure there were no questions. The plan will be presented for approval at the February 7, 2022 meeting.

Discussion about Cemetery Policy: Town Manager Deese said all should have a copy of the Cemetery Policy. It has been a while since the policy has been reviewed. Headstones in the cemetery are an issue. Our policy says that headstones are only allowed to be in certain areas of the cemetery. Town Manager Deese would like only ground-level markers in the entire cemetery in the future. Also, Town Manager Deese has a copy of Town Cemetery Guidelines that he found from another town. He would like for all to consider these. Our policy does not say anything about benches. He would like this included in the Cemetery Policy. Council Member Staton asked if someone had a husband buried in an area that allowed headstones, would the wife be able to have a headstone? Town Manager Deese said yes, the wife would be grandfathered in. Any new section going forward will be required to have a flat marker. Mayor Smith asked about the police monitoring the gates at the cemetery. The Police Department is responsible for opening and closing of the gates.

Discussion about Town Seal: Town Manager Deese presented some ideas of what our seal could look like. He would like the council to think of ideas for seals for the town. This will not happen until we have a branding consultant under contract.

Council Discussion on Spring Cleaning: Council Member Bivens sees trash and litter around Marshville. Council Member Staton also sees these issues around town. Many areas need help. Mayor Smith says we need to get some energy behind the cleaning effort. Council Member Staton will come up with some ideas and dates for a community clean up. She will look for community groups to help. Town Manager Deese will check with the schools and Sheriff's Department for helpers.

Parks and Recreation Discussion: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee is having a hard time filling the positions for the committee. Council Member Staton would like the town to consider looking for members from the ETJ. This consideration will require a change in the Committee By-laws. Town Manager Deese will bring the by-laws to the next meeting to consider the change. Mayor Smith mentioned that Mark Gosnell will be leaving in two weeks. Town Manager Deese said he will be looking for someone to take his place.

Town Manager's Comments: Town Manager Deese mentioned that we did have a COVID incident last week. All have come back to work with negative responses to testing. Town Budget's will begin soon. He asked if we would like to have a budget retreat. Council Member Staton would like to start the process earlier than last year. Mayor Smith agreed. Town Manager Deese will have a budget calendar next meeting. Council Member Huntley asked about the lake property. Town Manager Deese said that Arp Engineering is working on the drawings for the pier. Town Manager Deese has not heard about the progress of the drawings.

Council Members Comments:

Council Member Bivens no comments.

Council Member Huntley mentioned former Council Member Dora Bridgers passing. Council Member Staton spoke of the Meeting with East Union Middle School. In addition, Council Member Blakeney and Council Member Staton have been meeting with CRTPO via ZOOM.

Council Member Marshall had no comments,

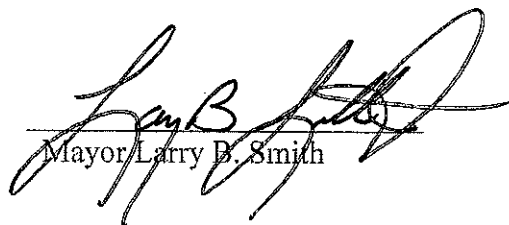
Mayor Comments: Mayor Smith was able to visit Kentucky's tornado ravaged area. Mayor Smith mentioned that Chief Tarlton had sent everyone Marshville Police Department's statistics for all to see. The Planning Board has two vacancies, one from the ETJ and one from the town. Mayor Smith mentioned that the ABC Store needed more storage space. Town Manager Deese thought the old Police Department would be suitable for this. There would be a need for some upgrades to the old police building. Mayor Smith asked how the old Cleaners building was looking. Town Manager Deese said renovations were complete, but no data lines were installed. It is possible to rent the building out. We need to figure out the best fit for the building.

Adjournment: Council Member Bivens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Huntley seconded the motion. All agreed. 8:06 pm

Approved this 17th day of February, 2022.

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk


Mayor Larry B. Smith