



Town of Marshville Town Council Work Session

Monday, March 21, 2022 7:00 PM

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

Work Session Minutes

Council in Attendance: Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Staton, Council Members Margaret Bivens, Monaca Marshall, and Paulette Blakeney. Council Member Huntley is in attendance.

Staff in Attendance: Town Manager Franklin Deese and Town Clerk Ann Sutton.

Call to Order, Invocation, and Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Larry Smith called the meeting to order. Mayor Smith gave the invocation, and all recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments Received by Email: There were no public comments.

Adoption of the Agenda: Town Manager Deese would like to add a discussion on the Town Council tour of the town. This will be added to the agenda. Mayor Pro-tem Staton made a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Blakeney seconded the motion. All ayes.

Closed Session 143-318.11. (a)(3) – Attorney: A motion was made by Council Member Bivens and was seconded by Council Member Marshall. All ayes.

To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton to move back into an open meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens. All ayes.

Masks Off/Optional Discussion: Mayor Smith started the discussion by asking if wearing a mask in the meetings was necessary. The Mayor said that we can go almost anywhere without a mask now. Mayor Smith assumes that everyone is vaccinated. Mayor Pro-tem Staton noted that wearing a mask should be optional for meetings. Mayor Smith agrees. Council Member Bivens felt it should be an individual decision to wear a mask in the town meetings. Council Member Marshall and Council Member Blakeney both said it should be optional. Town Manager Deese said that wearing a mask could be optional. However, when someone comes inside the Town Hall from outside, such as a presenter or a citizen, they should wear a mask until we can get in a space where we are all more separated. Town Manager Deese said that if it is a consensus that the Council makes wearing a mask optional, that will be for the Council in this room. No vote is needed. If we extend that to the citizens, we must vote. Mayor Smith said masks should be

optional for the Council as long as we are social distancing. All agreed that wearing masks should be optional for the Town Council as long as social distancing continues. Town Manager Deese was instructed to come up with a policy for citizens who come into Town Hall.

Parks and Rec Advisory Committee: Town Manager Deese said that several weeks ago Council discussed changing the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee by-laws to allow people from the ETJ to be on the committee. Town Manager Deese recommended that the current committee be dissolved. Then, we could start a new committee, set up new by-laws, and add language to include ETJ citizens as a part of the committee. Town Manager Deese has started a resolution. He has given a copy of the Parks and Rec Committee By-laws to the Parks and Recreation Director. Town Manager Deese will also provide a copy of the old by-laws to Council for review in case they would like to add anything.

Town Tour Discussion: Mayor Smith said this item came out of the discussions at our budget retreat. Council had suggested we have a "Windshield Tour" of the town to identify areas that need attention. Council Member Bivens thought we should have a tour. Mayor suggested that this would be a meeting. Mayor Pro-tem Staton said this would be an opportunity to review our streets and prioritize the needs of the roads in the town. Mayor Smith said that we could look at our buildings and think of what we should do to them. Town Manager Deese suggested the dates of May 14th or May 21st. 8:30 am

Town Manager Comments: Common Heart has a program on Financial Literacy as a part of the Getting Ahead program. The first graduation will be at Marshville United Methodist Church on Wednesday, March 23rd at 6 pm.

Town Manager Deese will be putting a few dollars in the budget to get a skirt for a table that can be used for events such as Juneteenth. The table does not have to be manned by just elected officials. Staff can be there. It will be an opportunity to pass out information and talk with people in the community.

Town Manager Deese addressed training for police officers. Police officers are required to go through 27 hours of training every year. There is a list of required training, including mental health and diversity training. Town Manager Deese has a list of police training opportunities. He will give the list out later.

The Union County Board of Education is requesting a bond be placed on the ballot for this year's election. The General Obligation Bond will be around one hundred forty-nine million dollars. Some of the bond dollars will be allocated to the Forest Hills and East Union School building project.

The Planning Board will have two public hearings coming up for rezoning. One public hearing will not be able to be presented due to no community meeting. Our Town Ordinance requires a community meeting prior to a public hearing. One community meeting will not take place in time for the hearing. Our Land Use Administrator, Mr. Wells, said that people are calling about businesses and housing. Town Manager Deese said that we need to review some of our ordinances and improve on them, such as the mural ordinance.

Wingate University will have a seminar about tiny houses. Town Manager Deese will probably go to the seminar.

Deese will research the surrounding towns to see what they charge for System Development Fees. Then he will bring back a number that he thinks is appropriate for the fees. The Council will be the ones to decide how much the fee should be.

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 2nd in the park from five until eight pm. Bookbags and school supplies will be given out. The Council is welcome to help if they wish.

August 27 will be Dancing in the Street from six to nine pm.

September 17 is the Randy Travis Festival. Town Manager Deese asked if the Council would like a table at the festival. Council Member Bivens said she thought we should. Mayor Pro-tem offered to help at the table. Mayor Smith felt having visibility was essential, but he did not sign up to sit behind a table. Town Manager Deese said the table could be manned from ten to twelve. The table could be left up with cards and pens on it for folks to pick up. Public works can take the table down at the end of the day. The Council decided they wanted a table at the festival.

The Town Clerk has registered the Council Members Huntley and Marshall and Mayor Smith. They should have received an email with instruction on how to take the training.

We received an email from Union County concerning the 9th Annual Union County Heritage Festival from nine am to four pm at the Ag Center. It is on the same day as the Randy Travis Festival.

Council Comments:

Mayor Pro-tem Staton missed the last CRPTO meeting. There is a CRPTO meeting scheduled for Wednesday, and she will be there. Mayor Pro-tem said she enjoyed the movie at Movie Night in the Park.

Council Member Huntley all to remember the children who lost their lives. He asked all to stay cool.

Council Member Blakeney was glad to see everyone. Stay safe.

Council Member Bivens asked Code Enforcement to get moving on the policing of the community.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Smith asked that Council get a list of what the Code Enforcement Officer is doing in the town. He also requested a financial report each month. Mayor Smith asked about the progress of the natural gas line. The Town Manager will speak with Mr. Miller, who is over the Monroe Natureal Gas Department, what the status is.

Mayor Smith asked how the events are staffed. Town Manager Deese said that was Lakesha Medlin's and Allen Jackson's job. Public Works comes in as necessary. He also said that the town is working on a comp-time policy.

The COVID 19 emergency status will end on August 14th. Mayor Smith asked what the plan for the expiration of the order is. Town Manager Deese said we can no longer have virtual meetings once the order is lifted. We can still have people watch via ZOOM, but the meetings will have to be open to the public.

The Mayor will not be at the meeting on August 15th.

City Vision will be two and one-half days in April in Wilmington. If anyone would like to go, let him know.

Council Member's Comments:

Mayor Pro-tem Staton said that Common Hearts had a walk through the park and used our trails. They are looking forward to seeing what more we will be doing in the park. Mayor Pro-tem Staton attended the CRTPO meeting. There was nothing that pertained to our area. But, there is a lot of information to digest at each meeting.

Council Member Marshall had no comments.

Council Member Blakeney attended the Zoom meeting for CRTPO.

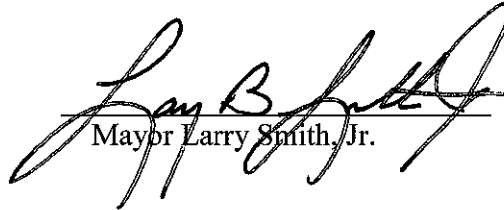
Council Member Bivens said the ditches need to be cleaned out. Town Manager Deese has contacted LKC for a stormwater study.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton said that she could no longer be both CRTPO representative and COG representative. Therefore, she will need to be replaced. This will take place at the next Regular Meeting.

Mayor's Comments: The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 9, 2022, from 10:30 am to 12:30 am.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton made a motion adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bivens seconded this. All ayes. 8:36 pm

Approved this 1st Day of August, 2022.


Mayor Larry Smith, Jr.

ATTEST


Town Clerk Ann Sutton