



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, July 6, 2021 7 PM

Marshville Town Hall

118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103

Regular Meeting Minutes - Zoom

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

Staff Present: Franklin Deese, Town Manager; Ann Sutton, Town Clerk; Town Attorney Bobby Griffin on Zoom

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Mayor Larry Smith. Council Member Huntley gave the invocation. Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: None

Adoption of Agenda: Additions were made to the Consent Agenda. The additions included a vote to accept the funds for the VW Charging Station. The other addition to the consent agenda was a budget amendment to move money to the Community Development Department for additional funding in Code Enforcement and Streets and Highways for paving. This will not change Fund Balance. Additions were made to the Regular Agenda. Added to the agenda was a discussion and action concerning our Social Media Policy. A motion to adopt the agenda with changes was given by Council Member Staton and seconded by Council Member Huntley. All Ayes.

Closed Session: A motion was made by Council Member Bivens to go into Closed Session and seconded by Council Member Blakeney. All Ayes.

Closed Session per General Statute § 143-318.11 (a) (3)

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.

Moved out of Closed Session at 8:06 pm.

Discussion and Action from Closed Session: Council Member Staton made a motion to direct Attorney Chuck Kitchen to begin negotiations with Pluris to build a wastewater treatment plant which will be owned by Pluris, to provide sewer treatment for the Town of Marshville, and to bring a contract back to the Council for further review. Council Member Margaret Bivens seconded the motion. All ayes.

Discussion of Beaver Lane Volunteer Fire Department: Town Manager Deese opened the discussion by saying that we have asked the Beaver Lane VFD to release their budget to us and, they have not done so. The VFD said they had sent everything they were going to send the town and would not send anything else. Therefore, town staff was directed to hold the 2020-2021 budgeted donation of \$35,000 until the town received the VFD budget.

Mayor Larry Smith felt there were bad feelings between the VFD and the town. He said we have to improve our communication. We need to give them a checklist of what we need from them. We need to be as clear with the VFD as we expect them to be with us.

Council Member Morgan pointed out the VFD already receives money from the Town of Marshville through taxation. So, an additional donation to the VFD feels like a double tax.

Council Member Bivens said that we had asked the VFD to come and present their thoughts on why we should include a donation to the VFD each year. But, unfortunately, no one has come to us.

Council Member Staton does not want anyone thinking that we have not reached out to the VFD. We have asked them to come in. We have asked them for their budget many times. The Council is accountable to the public. We need to do everything right.

Town Attorney Griffin suggested that we come up with a policy for non-profit funding.

This item was tabled for another time to discuss. The motion was made by Council Member Station and seconded by Council Member Blakeney. All Ayes.

Discussion/Action from Resolution Declaring Official Intent to Reimburse: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan to accept proceeds from an installment loan with Truist to repay the town for the purchase of real property. The motion was seconded by Council Member Staton. All Ayes.

Discussion/Action from Resolution for Accepting American Rescue Plan Act Funds: A motion was made to approve receipt of ARPA Funds. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan made this motion, and Council Member Bivens seconded it. All Ayes.

Social Media Policy: Town Manager Deese presented a Social Media Policy that addressed behavior on our social media sites. The policy explains what is and is not acceptable behavior on our sites. We can block persons who do not follow the policy. The policy is based on a template

from the School of Government. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan and seconded by Council Member Bivens. All Ayes.

Manager's Comments: Town Manager Deese let all know that we have a new contract with a company to mow our cemetery. The company will mow every other Saturday and more often if needed. And, Union County Chamber of Commerce sent a plaque recognizing the Town of Marshville as being a member for over twenty years.

Council Comments:

Council Member Bivens thanked Town Manager Deese for a job well done.

Council Member Blakeney was glad to see everyone. She said the July 4th celebration was very nice and asked all to be safe.

Council Member Huntley said the fireworks were very nice. He asked that all have a safe week.

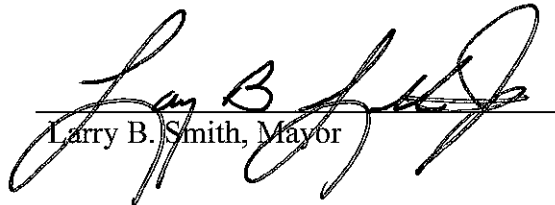
Council Member Staton said the July 4th celebration was awesome. She enjoyed the training on the American Rescue Plan. She said the Parks and Recreation Board is working hard.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan agreed with Council Member Staton on the committee.

Mayor Comments: Thanked all for coming.

Adjournment: Mayor Pro-tem Morgan made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens. All Ayes. 8:55 pm

Approved this 15th day for November 2021.


Larry B. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk