



**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Work Session**

**November 15, 2021 7 PM**

**Marshville Town Hall**

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

**Work Session Minutes - Zoom**

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

**Staff in Attendance:** Town Manager Frank Deese, Town Clerk Ann Sutton

**Call to Order:** Mayor Larry Smith called the Public Hearing to order at 7:00 pm.

**Invocation:** Given by Council Member Gary Huntley.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** All gave the pledge.

**Public Comments:** Susan Drake presented the council a letter that addressed some of the history and culture of the American Native tribes. Her desire was for all to remember our North American Indians and their needs.

**Adoption Work Session Agenda:** Council Member Staton made a motion to adopt the Work Session Agenda. Council Member Blakeney seconded the motion. All ayes.

**CERRI Presentation (Jeff Emory):** Jeff Emory is from the NC Department of Commerce. He will be working with us on the CERRI program. CERRI stands for the Community Economic Recovery and Resiliency Initiative. He is part of the NC Main Street & Rural Planning Center. The CERRI plan is to help Marshville with an Economic Recovery Plan. The first step is to form a committee of citizens, shop owners, and stakeholders to work with the CERRI program. Lakeyshe Medlin introduced some of the community members who hope to work with CERRI in the economic recovery. These are Council Member Blakeney, Marquita Garmon, Beth Venn, and Cice Summers. Mayor Smith asked how many people would be in the workgroup. Mrs. Medlin hoped to have 10 to 12 people. Mr. Emory plans to start working with the committee in March 2022.

**America Rescue Plan Act Presentation/Discussion:** Town Manager Deese gave a brief presentation of the important points of ARPA. The town could use some of the ARPA monies for COVID response for public health and economic impact, premium pay, and infrastructure investments. The town did not lose much revenue during the pandemic, so we can not request ARPA funds to replace lost revenues. Marshville is in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT). The town will have access to more opportunities than other communities that are not in the QCT.

Town Manager Deese asked that each council member come back in December and offer ideas on spending the ARPA funds.

Town Manager Deese also mentioned that the State of North Carolina received ARPA funding. The State will use its money for distressed local utility systems, infrastructure needs, broadband, lead and asbestos abatement in schools, and rural downtown transformation.

**Manager's Comments:** MLK Committee has canceled all their events for Jan 2022. Town Clerk Sutton asked if we wanted to cancel the Work Session on December 20<sup>th</sup> since that was Christmas week. That will be voted on at the next meeting.

**Council Comments:**

Council Member Bivens said the Veteran's Day Ceremony was very nice.

Council Member Blakeney said that it was nice to see everyone and to stay safe.

Council Member Huntley asked that all stay safe.

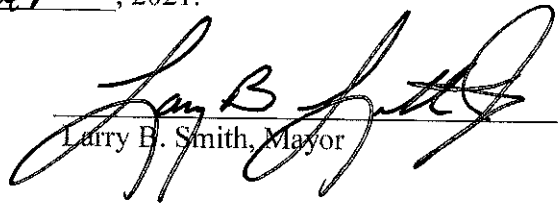
Council Member Staton wanted all to think of a date in March or April of next year to have a clean-up day.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan showed street pictures of a town she visited in the last week. The picture presentation gave council members an idea of what we could do to improve our streets. She also suggested we have a costume exchange at Halloween next year. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan thanked everyone for their support of the years. And she would miss everyone.

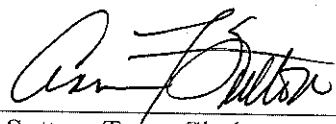
**Mayor Comments:** Mayor Smith asked that we check with the newly official, Monica Marshall Streater, concerning her desires for the swearing-in in December. He wished all a good Thanksgiving holiday. Mayor Smith referred back to the letter from Susan Drake. He wanted all to remember the American Indian Tribes. Mayor Deese asked about an employee celebration. Town Clerk Sutton mentioned a drop-in luncheon for employees on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Adjourn:** Council Member Bivens made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Huntley seconded the motion. All ayes.

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021.

  
Larry B. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST

  
Ann F. Sutton, Town Clerk