



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Regular Meeting**

February 7, 2022 7 PM

Marshville Town Hall

118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103

Regular Meeting Minutes - Zoom

In Attendance: Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton, Council Members Margaret Bivens, Monaca Marshall, and Gary Huntley. Council Member Paulette Blakeney was absent.

Staff Members: Town Manager Franklin Deese, Town Clerk Ann Sutton, Police Chief Matt Tarlton, and Town Attorney Bobby Griffin.

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

Public Comments: (via email)

Rusty Johnson would like the doors open to the public for Town Council meetings. The opening of the meetings to the general public is important to keep the public involved and interested. There are plenty of meetings throughout the county that are open to the public. Mr. Johnson stated the work session was not posted on the town website or social media until he called town hall the day of the meeting to ask about the agenda. Then it was posted that afternoon. Another reason to open the meetings to the public in person. He also asked the council to please fill vacant seats on the Planning Board, Board of Adjustments, and the Parks and Rec Advisory Board. He would love to see people on those boards so recommendations to the council can be made effectively.

Diane Amundsen:

- 1: I would like to see the Mayo's letter reinstated in the water bills as we do not have a resource to get information out to the public that is reliable.
- 2: I think we need directional signage to the charging station.
- 3: Potholes have become extremely bad AGAIN on S. Elm. I have seen several near collisions by people trying to miss these.
- 4: Speed on S. Elm has also increased AGAIN.
- 5: Would love a report from committees we have and also department reports at the meetings. Also presentation of new hires so we know who actually works for the town.
- 6: Would like to know what council people have individually planned to accomplish for their terms.
- 7: Status on our missing employee positions as we are starting into a new year with limited support to care on any ideas that were in the works.

Regular Meeting Agenda: Town Manager Deese would like to delete the Closed Session. He would like to add a discussion and action for the purchase of parcels 02313001-80 and 02313001-90. This property will be used for a new pump station. Council Member Marshall would like to add a discussion for the Juneteenth event. These items were added. Mayor Pro-tem

Staton made a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Bivens seconded the motion. All ayes.

Adoption of Consent Agenda:

Minutes for Approval

- i. December 6, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes
- ii. January 3, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes
- iii. January 24, 2022, Work Session

Approval of Park Master Plan – the Town Manager Deese mentioned that the Park Master Plan had a few grammatical errors that will be fixed.

Council Member Bivens made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda contingent on grammatical errors being fixed in the Park Master Plan. Council Member Huntley made a second to the motion. All ayes.

Presentation by Chief Tarlton: Chief Matt Tarlton presented the most recent police reports to the council. Chief Tarlton said that the police reports were much the same as last year at this time. The department has made an effort to reduce direct contact with people. The Union County jail has asked that we not arrest anyone who is not violent to keep the spread of COVID down at the jail. Therefore, more citations have been issued. The number of phone calls per month is about the same as a year ago. Once again, if the phone calls are of a non-violent nature, citations are issued. These changes seem to be more community oriented and are showing good results.

Discussion/Action on a "jake brake" policy: Mayor Smith has had a few calls from citizens concerning the noise from trucks on Hwy. 74. So he asked to discuss a "jake brake" policy again. NCDOT sent Town Manager Deese information on jake braking. NCDOT said that we would need to enforce it if we put up signs. NCDOT said the enforcement could cause more jake braking. Council Member Huntley explained that the jake brake was a manufactured part that is part of a truck engine. It is placed in the engine for safety purposes. The jake brake will help slow down a truck in the case of an emergency. Town Attorney Griffin said that Fairview and Midland have a policy and signs on the roads for "no jake braking." The town could take with those towns for information. The majority of the council thought it best not to create a "jake brake" policy. Therefore, this issue will not have any action.

Discussion concerning Parks and Recreation Committee By-laws: The Parks and Recreation Committee wants to include citizens from the ETJ on the Committee. Council Member Marshall said the Committee has a hard time keeping members. Town Manager Deese said we are trying to get people interested in the Committee. Mrs. Lakeysha Medlin has made a flyer to take to the churches. The flyer has been placed on the website, so there is an effort to get people interested in a committee position. We will need four people from the town added to the Parks and Rec Committee. Then a vote to change the by-laws can be made to include people from the ETJ.

Planning Board and/or Board of Adjustment Vacancies: Town Manager said the town had one application for the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustments. The applications are from Nancie Mandeville. There are two vacancies for citizens within the town limits. Mayor Pro-tem Staton made a motion to appoint Nancie Mandeville to the Planning Board and the Board of Adjustments. Council Member Huntley made a second to that motion. All ayes.

Property Acquisition: Town Manager Deese has presented the council with a resolution authorizing the town manager to sign the purchase agreement to buy the properties 02313001-80 and 02313001-90 for \$295,000. This property will be used for a pump station. The number of acres is 32.591. Council Member Bivens made a motion to adopt the resolution to authorize Town Manager Deese to purchase parcels 02313001-80 and 02313001-90 for \$295,000 to improve the town's sewer infrastructure. Mayor Pro-tem Staton seconded the motion. All ayes.

Juneteenth Discussion: Council Member Marshall received a flyer that said the Juenteenth event would be from 10 am until 2 pm. Council Member Marshall thought the town was going to have fireworks for this event. Town Manager Deese explained the timing for the event changed to coincide with other area events so people could leave one event and move to another (the events would not be overlapping). Council Member Marshall stated that money was budgeted for fireworks for Juneteenth. She asked where the money was? Town Manager Deese said the money was still in the budget for Juneteenth; it will not be used for fireworks. There was some confusion as to who is on the Parks and Rec Committee and the Community Planning Committee. Town Manager Deese said the Parks and Recreation Committee is for the parks only. The Community Planning Committee is for the events. Lakeysa Medlin is our community organizer. She is recruiting volunteers. Mr. Deese expressed the fact that he spoke with the Parks and Recreation Committee to let them know that they only need worry about park events such as baseball tournaments, etc. Town Manager Deese will work with the current volunteers to let them know they can be a part of both the Parks and Rec and Community Planning committees if they desire.

Manager's Comments: Town Manager Deese presented the council with a list of the times and dates of the town events. These dates are to let all know what is coming up. The artists and ideas may change for the event, but the dates will stay the same.

Budget Calendar was presented but is subject to change as needed. Town Manager Deese said department heads would be available for questions at the next work session. Also, we will review our goals from the previous year and see how we will go forward. He would like for all council members to bring their ideas to the meeting.

Town Manager Deese gave the council information from the School of Government that provides us with an opportunity to have a college graduate work the town for a year as an intern. Council Member Bivens made a motion to allow Town Manager Deese apply for the LFNC Intern Program. Council Member Marshall seconded this. All ayes.

In response to the public comments, Town Manager Deese will check the potholes on South Elm Street. He will ask the police to set up a watch on S. Elm Street for speeders. Town Manager Deese said he has looked at signage for the charging station but is unsure if the signs have been ordered yet. Mayor Smith will try to add a message to the newsletter each month. Town Manager Deese commented on making the meetings open to the public again. He said that the choice was for the council to decide. He presented a drawing of the size of our meeting room. If the six foot limit was still in place, only six people would be allowed in. We have a very small room. Mayor Smith agreed with Mr. Johnson (public comment). He said we could consider a larger venue. Mayor Pro-tem Staton thought we could consider allowing citizens to come in and make comments and then have them leave. Council Member Huntley asked about the lake property. Town Manager Deese said the engineer is working on the pier drawings, and we should have them in a couple of weeks. Town Manager Deese is working on finding a contractor to build the

pier. Council Member Staton would like to know what Mrs. Amundsen needed in response to #6 of her public comments. Mrs. Amundsen just wanted to know what each council member hopes to accomplish in their terms of office.

Council Comments:

Council Member Bivens would like to push to have the town cleaned up.

Council Member Blakeney is glad to see all. She asked if we get money from our ABC Store?

Town Manager said we had not gotten any money from the ABC Store. The police have received a distribution. Town Manager Deese will contact the ABC Commisioners. Mayor Smith would like an annual report from the ABC Store.

Council Member Huntley hopes all have a Happy Valentine's Day.

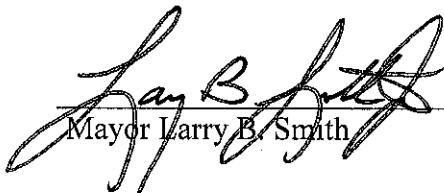
Council Member Marshall had no comments.

Council Member Staton sees us going forward. She is excited.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Smith asked about the LGC letter we needed to send in for the audit. Town Manager Deese said it had been sent but has not received any response. Mayor Smith asked if we had heard from the LGC concerning the sewer contract. Town Manager Deese did get an answer. He is reworking the numbers the number to send back to them. Town Manager Deese is also working on a grant for \$3,000,00. The grant will help with the numbers he will present back to the LGC for approval of the contract. Mayor Smith asked if there was an update on the Stegall park property? Town Manager Deese has not heard from the attorney lately. He will reach out to him to get an update.

Adjournment: Mayor Pro-tem Staton made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bivens seconded the motion. All ayes.

Adopted this 4th day of April, 2022.


Mayor Larry B. Smith

ATTEST


Ann F. Sutton, Town Clerk