



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Special Called Meeting
for Public Hearing and Closed Session
Tuesday, June 9, 2020
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union Street, Marshville, NC 28103**

Public Hearing for 2020-2021 Budget (Zoom)

In Attendance: Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan, Council Members Margaret Bivens, Gary Huntley, Ernestine Staton, Paulette Blakeney (late due to work issues)

Staff in Attendance: Town Manager Frank Deese and Town Clerk Ann Sutton

Open and hold Public Hearing regarding the Town of Marshville 2019-2020 Budget.

Public Comments limited to the topic of the 2019-2020 Budget and limited to 2 minutes:
Nancie Mandeville, 610 Olive Branch Road, raised the following concerns for the proposed 2020-2021 Marshville Town Budget:

1. Now more than ever, we need to support our emergency departments. Mrs. Mandeville requested the town not cut the \$45,000 funding for Beaver Lane VFD. It could jeopardize one position in the department. It is important to think about public safety.
2. Concerning the increase in all board stipends, though it is not an unreasonable increase amount, if we have to cut budgets for public services, Mrs. Mandeville suggested that we not increase stipends for board members.
3. Concerning the Randy Travis mural, Mrs. Mandeville feels the cost of \$4,000 for the mural is not a necessity given the economy and needs of the community. We would be better served in other areas.
4. Mrs. Mandeville disagrees that there should be a \$1.00 increase in garbage cart fees.
5. Water and sewer fees are going up with an Anson increase of 8% for water and an increase of 13% for sewer. Town Manager Deese said there was extra money in the Enterprise fund to offset these increases for a year. But, in a year, what will the cost be to customers? The community needs to know what the true cost will be to them.

Close Public Hearing on 2020-2021 Budget with a motion by Council Member Huntley and seconded by Council Member Staton. All ayes. 7:10 pm

Fire Chief Lee from the Beaver Lane VFD: Mayor Larry Smith asked what the funding from the town meant to the VFD. Chief Lee said that in 2018 the town gave the fire department \$45,000 for a new position. The position is still there. The money is needed to maintain that position. If the fire department loses \$20,000 in funding, the position will go away because the VFD cannot fund it. The county funds four positions, and the town funds the other one. Mayor Smith asked

about EMS. Chief Lee said that there is not a position at the town anymore. All EMS are placed at various areas of the county. The staffing at the fire department has five people in the daytime and four at night 24 hours a day. These positions are all part-time. There is always a need to have at least four people in case of a fire, one to drive, one to direct, and two people to man the water hose. Council Member Staton asked if \$45,000 was used to pay just for one position. Chief Lee said that included in the \$45,000 was salary, insurance, worker's compensation, taxes, etc. Chief Lee will send county information concerning what Union County pays to Marshville VFD. Council Member Blakeney asked the chief if the land the fire department bought could be sold. Chief Lee said that it could, but if the fire department wanted to expand in the future, the land was necessary to accommodate that expansion. Mayor Smith thanked Chief Lee for coming.

Budget Changes and Discussion: Town Manager Deese mentioned that the propane grant did not go through. This will cause the fuel line items will go up.

Mayor Smith started the budget conversation. He sees these things on the table; \$4,300 for compensation, \$4,000 for a matching grant, and \$20,000 for the fire department. Those items are about 1.5% of the total General Fund. Mayor Smith sees the Randy Travis mural as a positive for the town. He also thinks the fire department should be funded in some way. The board is currently receiving a stipend that is much less than it was 25 years ago. Mayor Smith does not feel that would be a wrong decision to increase the compensation. Town Manager Deese said that the only increase in the Planning Board stipend was for the chairperson. Town Manager Deese said Chairperson Susan Drake was in the Town Hall every week working with our Planning Administrator on various items. Mrs. Drake works very hard for the town as it's representative for planning.

Town Manager Deese would like all to advise him on any changes. He did remind everyone that since it is a Zoom meeting, the town has 24 hours to express their thoughts on any of the items presented. The council cannot vote tonight due to the fact this is a remote meeting. General Statutes would allow Council to vote on the meeting tonight, but since this is a remote meeting, Council cannot. It has to wait 24 hours.

Council Member Staton said that we should think of giving the fire department the amount budgeted. Mayor Smith would give the full \$45,000 to the fire department. Town Manager Deese reminded the council that back in 2018, we took money from the Parks and Rec Department to give to the fire department. The town was not staffing a full-time Park Director at that time. The fire department budget item was not debated in the 2019-2020 budget. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan brought up the fact that we do not know what the new fire tax will bring to the fire department. Mayor Smith did speak with Patrick Nilan, Assistant County Manager, and Mr. Nilan felt like the amount of tax money collected for fire service will be what the county thought it would be in it's earlier presentation. Council Member Staton did remind all that the expected fire tax from citizens in the town would fall under the \$100 fire fee of previous years. Council Member Staton said that we should have never funded the extra fire department position for two years if we were not going to continue to pay for that position. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan suggested we split the difference. Council Member Bivens felt we should give the fire department the full \$45,000. Council Member Blakeney felt they should not get the full amount, and Council

Member Huntley felt we should meeting them half-way. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan to fund the Beaver Lane Fire Department with \$35,000 for the 2020-2021 Budget Year. The motion was seconded by Council Member Huntley. All ayes.

Town Manager Deese asked if Council and Planning Board compensation would be agreed upon as shown in the new budget. Presently the compensation is approximately \$8,300 a year. It would increase to \$11,500. Council Member Staton made a motion to approve the compensation amounts for Council and the Planning board as presented at this time. Council Member Huntley seconded the motion. All ayes.

Town Manager Deese clarified the fee schedule. The fee schedule included an adjustment to the baseball field rental. He also brought attention to the holiday schedule for the Council meetings. If the meeting falls on a holiday, would we go to the next day or go to the next week for the meeting. All felt like the meeting should go to the next day after the holiday.

Mayor Smith asked for clarification on the new charge for garbage and recycling carts. Currently, we charge \$.92 per cart per month. If that cart gets damaged, the customer is responsible for the cost of the replacement of that cart. Council felt that was too much of a burden to the customer. To mitigate that cost, it is suggested that the council add \$1.00 a month per cart to the cart fee schedule. This would make the fee per cart \$1.92 per month.

Council Member Staton brought up the cost for non-residents for cemetery plots. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan felt like the cost was not enough. She raised a motion on the floor to increase the cost for a cemetery plot for non-residents to \$2,000. A second to the motion was given by Council Member Staton. All ayes.

Mayor Smith state that there would be a Special Meeting next Monday night for the sole purpose of voting on the 2020-2021 Town of Marshville Budget.

The Special Closed Session: The Closed Session was opened by Mayor Larry Smith with Council Member Huntley giving the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

A motion was made to adopt the Closed Session agenda by Council Member Staton and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan. All ayes.

A motion was made by Council Member Mayor Pro-tem Morgan to move into Closed Session. A second was made by Council Member Gary Huntley. All ayes.

Closed Session per G.S G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) *To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or*

removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.

A motion to move out of Closed Session was made by Mayor Pro-em Morgan and seconded by Council Member Huntley. All ayes.


Discussion/Action as a result of the Closed Session: A motion was made based on the Town Manager's completion of his six month probation period in January of 2020, to increase his current salary by 2%. This decision will be retro-active to January, 2020. The motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan to approve the increase and seconded by Council Member Huntley. All ayes.

A motion was made by Council Member Staton to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Council Member Paulette Blakeney. All ayes. 10 pm

Approved this 8th day of September, 2020.


Larry Smith, Mayor

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk