



Town of Marshville Town Council Work Session

Monday, August 19th, 2019 7:00 PM

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

Work Session Minutes

Attending: Council Member Ernestine Staton, Council Member Margaret Bivens, Council Member Norma Carpenter, Interim Town Manager Franklin Deese, Clerk/Finance Officer Ann Sutton, Chief of Police Matt Tarlton

Call to Order: at 7:04 pm, Invocation given by Council Member Huntley.
Pledge of Allegiance given by all

Public Comments:

Diane Amundson, 1018 Hasty Road. She asked about the Mayor Pro-tem and who would take her place if she was not here. Interim Town Manager Deese said that the meeting would probably be postponed if the Mayor Pro-tem could not be there. Ms. Amundson also asked about the Town Manager position posting and if we got any resumes sent in yet. She was told that the job had been posted and we had several resumes. Mrs. Amundson said she would like for new employees to be introduced to the public. Mrs. Amundson has also heard a lot of bad things about Marshville. If you see something wrong, let's talk about it. We need to come together to get problems solved together instead of having separate entities complaining. Concerning the excess town land by the park, Mrs. Amundson would hate to see that given away because we need sidewalks over there and the proposed Bike Pedestrian Plan has sidewalks there. Ms. Amunderson said she would like to see the ABC Sign to be taken down and put it somewhere else. It looks like the ABC Store is promoting everything that is on that sign.

Fern Shubert, 505 S. Elm Street. She said we have so many plans. Most areas in this town do not have sidewalks. We need more sidewalks. We need sidewalks to the park. We don't have excess land for sidewalks. Safety first for the kids going to and from the park. We have major stormwater problems. Please prioritize fixing those things that are broken.

Adoption of the Agenda:

No additions. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Motion made by Council Member Staton and seconded by Council Member Huntley. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Discussion of Bike/Pedestrian Plan :

Interim Town Manager Deese explained that he met with Curtis from CRTPO to get help to write a grant. In order to apply for the grant (Federal Grant), we need to decide which items we want to apply for. The Council was asked to go to page 109 in the Pedestrian Bike Plan and go

through them one by one. Any federal grant that is applied for will need a match of 20%. The Council looked through the plan information.

The Council looked at the Pedestrian Bike Plan for places that needed work. Interim Town Manager Deese first directed the Council to the crosswalk at East Union Middle School. The suggestion was to put a median refuge island for pedestrians with a HAWK signal and a high visibility marked crosswalk. The Council would like for Interim Town Manager Deese to pursue this grant. Also, this same idea was suggested for Elizabeth Avenue and Hwy 74. The Council asked for this to be included on the list of grants to apply for.

Interim Town Manager Deese has spoken with NCDOT about putting a sidewalk on East Union Street going towards the park. The road is wide enough and it would slow down traffic a bit. NCDOT has been resistant to this. Mayor Pro-tem said she had tried that before, and the citizens did not want that. The Pedestrian Bike Plan stripes the street without adding a sidewalk and allows the pedestrian to walk on either side of the street. Does the Council want Interim Town Manager to pursue a grant to stripe the road going down Union Street? All agreed.

The Council feels like West Union Street is too narrow to do a project on.

The next project is on Park Drive with stripping for pedestrian walking. All agreed to have Interim Town Manager pursue a grant for this.

Interim Town Manager also felt that the little stripe of land that the town owns going up to the park, should not be given away. We could use that as a walking or sitting area for people coming off the trails. We could put a soft-fence up to let folks know where property lines are. We also would like to put a walking area in the wooded area.

Last plan is main street. This maybe too much money for us at \$720,000. Interim Town Manager will talk to Gary Hall to see what it would cost for him to imprint Main Street with a design. The Interim Town Manager was not asked to pursue this grant.

Union County Land Use Retreat:

Town Manager Deese is to give a presentation at the Land Use Retreat. He asked the Council how do we see Marshville Growing? Planning Board Chair Susan Drake, Carina Soriano, and Mayor Pro-tem Morgan will be going to this retreat. Town Manager Deese asked if Council agreed with the following scenario. Town Manager Deese sees Marshville growing as a service town to service industry and residents Susan Drake commented that our downtown will thrive with restaurants and walkability and service.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan said more people will be shopping online. The ideal store for a small town is one with online shopping and walk-in service.

August 28th and 29th will be the retreat.

Manager's Report:

The Booster Pump Station on Mr. Laney's property, getting ready to be removed. It will take seven months to finish the project. Mr. Laney's property will be put back the way it was.

National Night Out was a success. Officer David Dobbins did a great job, and the Town made the Monroe newspaper.

Valerie and Interim Town Manager Deese went to the park and found some drainage issues. All six dugouts need replacing. #1 and #3 dugouts will be repaired first. We have an estimate at \$5,500 per dugout. The concession stands needs some cleaning. East Union and Union Academy want concession stands. Interim Town Manager Deese said he would like a percentage of concession sales.

Interim Town Manager met with Robert Miller concerning natural gas. Mr. Miller is one of the engineers for the City of Monroe. Mr. Deese had concerns about Natural Gas Pipeline on the lefthand side of the road when coming from Wingate. Interim Town Manager Deese went to every business and asked if they used natural gas or electricity. Most of the businesses on this end use electricity. The City of Monroe has a plan to bore up under the road at Elizabeth and Elm to get gas to other side of road. The Chinese Restaurant and Bojangle use gas and are excited about it. Interim Town Manager Deese asked about boring under Unarco for a gas line to service the old Radio Shake and Subway. Mr. Miller will look into it.

The natural gas people will put the property right back as it was in the beginning. The natural gas people will send out letters for community outreach. The Union County Board of Commissioners will need to reach out to Monroe if they want gas at Marshville Elementary. Gas people plan for a line down Main Street back to Hwy 74. Interim Town Manager Deese said it was a good meeting. Bivens Steele knows the most of anyone about where things are in town, and I will get his number for Mr. Miller. We do have a copy of the plans in the Town Hall.

Town Manager Deese getting a lot of complaints about houses, buildings, etc. in the community. We do not have an ordinance that allows us to file a civil penalty. If the council would like, I can put one together. The civil penalty could be \$50 per day. The Council asked him to put a policy together for civil penalties.

We have to replace the cooling systems in the town hall. It will take about two days.

At the last meeting, Katherine spoke of Small Town Main Street (STMS). Interim Town Manager Deese met with her. We are no longer a designated STMS town. The Town Manager opted out of the program last July, We have to reapply for STMS. Interim Town Manager did speak with our STMS Consultant, Cherry Adams. She said there is another program. So he contacted Jeff Emory of the NC Dept. of Commerce, who is in charge of the Southeast District that is working with a program similar to SMTS. Mr. Emory came in and felt the assessment done five years ago has many good parts that will still work for Marshville. Interim Town Manager Deese will study that and move forward.

The new school champions signs are up and paid for. Interim Town Manager paid for the signs

The COG Meeting was attended by Town Manager Deese. Mr. Deese gave the Council a copy of the FY20 work plan for their review. Geraldine Gardner is now the Executive Director. Centralina Economic Development Commission has launched a website that will let folks know what jobs are in the region based on a questionnaire. CEDC asked if we would ask the library to let them come teach people how to use the website for jobs? www.centralinaedd.org is the site.

Also at the COG meeting, Mr. Braid Panovich, a meteorologist from NBC, spoke about Doppler radar. Interim Town Manager Deese spoke to citizens about the fact that we were in a very low radar coverage area. There are radars around, but they are privately owned so they do not share the data with other weather management people. Interim Town Manager Deese gave a short presentation. What COG wants to do is place radars in Hickory, Monroe, and Thomasville. That would give us better coverage and our town will be safer. He asked all to contact their congressmen to ask that they make sure new radars are implemented.

Pike Energy was called. Interim Town Manager Deese will need to meet with them to see if we can get better lighting in the town.

All the paperwork for the Randy Travis Festival has been signed and taken care of.

We have a pool policy in which we charge for water but not sewer. We do not have a sod policy. A gentleman came to Town Hall saying that he put down new sod and he would like to pay for water, but does not want to pay for sewer. Mr. Deese will look at creating a sod policy.

Police Chief Matt Tarlton gave some information to Interim Town Manager about a charging station grant. Mr. Dees has found two companies in North Carolina that have charging stations. Interim Town Manager Deese found out that Monroe has a charging station. He said that Level 3 chargers give full charge in about 2 hours. The charging station would be \$40,000 plus other costs. VW has a settlement going on. They have to give millions of dollars to the state. There is a grant for a charging station. Carina says we are a very good candidate for the funds. Grant applications are due September 30th. We will look at Carolina Council of Governments (CCOG) for help with grant writing. People will Google to find charging stations. It would bring folks to Marshville.

Interim Town Manager said that Council needs to have a discussion about the Form of Government. What is the feeling of the board? Council Member Staton said we need to discuss it. We are underpaying managers. That is why they are leaving. Council Member Staton wants to think about it. We need to make sure we can uphold our decision. Town Manager Deese will get information for all to read. When will be a good time to discuss? The discussion will be at the next meeting, September 9th.

Council Members' Comments:

Council Member Bivens thanked Interim Town Manager Deese for all his hard work.

Council Member Carpenter stated that National Night Out was a great success and hopes everyone has a good labor day. She thanked everyone for coming.

Council Member Huntley thanked the policemen for the fine job they do. He also thanked the Interim Town Manager for all the information he gave. He asked all to have a safe Labor Day.

Council Member Staton said we might need to get some electronics in here to save paper. We need to move up in technology. Council Member Staton said that people are pulling their cars up onto our sidewalks. They do not need to pull up on sidewalks. I don't think this problem has been resolved. The sidewalks will not last long if they keep pulling up on them.

Council Member Staton wants to see more events in the park. We need to continue finding something to offer to our families.

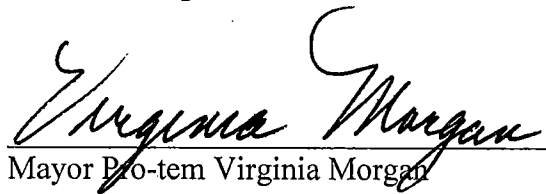
Interim Town Manager Deese said he met with Jim Chapin, park director in Union County. He found out that Union County has a meeting for park directors quarterly. Union County has several events that can be brought to the park for free. Also, the appraisal for the park land as a whole piece, not individual parcels, came in at \$400. The survey will be more.

Mayor Comments:

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan thanked the police for an excellent National Night Out. She also thanks Mr. Deese. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan announced that early voting has started.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Council Member Carpenter to adjourn and seconded by Council Member Staton. All agreed.



Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan



Town Clerk Ann Sutton