



Town of Marshville Town Council Work Session

Monday, September 23, 2019 7:00 PM

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

Work Session

Attendance: Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan; Council Members Gary Huntley, Margaret Bivens, Ernestine Staton

Staff Attendance: Interim Town Manager; Finance Officer/Clerk Ann Sutton

Call to Order by Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan. Invocation by Council Member Huntley. Pledge of Allegiance by all

Public Comment:

Diane Amundson, 1018 Hasty Road, Marshville. How come the Small Town Main Street (SMTS) was not revitalized? Interim Town Manager Deese explained the council did not know that they were not a designated town. This never came to the Board. It was not continued. It never came before the Board. Diane said if people knew about it, someone might have stepped up. Town Manager Deese said he was told that we would have to restart all over again. STMS is not looking to continue the program.

Concerning the transfer of the Utilities, who will read our meters? Town Manager Deese said that Union County will read meters. Our boys may need to help them locate the meters a couple of times.

All the folks are concerned about the leaf truck. Rumor has it that the leaf truck will be put up for sale. Town Manager Deese said he did not know anything about the leaf truck being sold.

Marlene Griffin, 317 N. Elm Street, was concerned about the leaf pickup. *What's Up Marshville* - on Facebook said the leaf truck will be sold. The gossip mill said that Interim Town Manager Deese said he was moving to Wingate. Interim Town Manager Deese stated that is not true. The property in Wingate will be a rental property. Ms. Griffin expressed concern about the Form of Government change, she does not know much about it, but she would like to see the one that is best for the town. Lastly, Public Works sprayed the grass around the sidewalks. Please don't spray the grass. It looks horrible in front of her house.

Friankie Horne, 604 S. Elm Street, questioned the pick up of leaves. The best thing is to have them vacuumed. If you do decide to sell the truck, can we get some money back for the sale of equipment? Most properties that are nice in town are owned by older people. Younger people don't care. Couches and recliners on porches make our town look bad. Ms. Horne asked how

many people have applied for the Town Manager position? Clerk Sutton said we had about 10 applications. Ms. Horne wants to make sure that the applicants have a college education.

Linda Gibson, 612 South White Street, said she works hard to keep her yard clean. She is not able to carry her leaves to the street in bags. Marshville is a small community with a great opportunity to grow. South White Street does not have sidewalks. We need to clean up the town to entice people to come in. Interim Town Manager Deese said there are restrictions and we have a Code Enforcement Officer. He is limited on what he can do. We need you to come into Town Hall and make a formal complaint so the Code Enforcement Officer can act on the complaint.

Barbara Simpson, 6911 Austin Church Road, said she was concerned about the leaves. Bobby Griffin, her brother, asked the Council not to sale the leaf truck. Please consider the elderly who cannot bag leaves for themselves. Our town is made of senior citizens, they are the ones fighting for this town, and we need to support them. What are the requirements that you are looking for in the applicants for the Town? We have got to do something to get someone who can move the town forward. We need to put more money into the salary to get a qualified person.

Tammy Melvin, 1144 Forest Drive, said she has been in Marshville for 25 years. She was concerned about the leaf issue. She has about 5 acres and lots and lots of leaves. We always get our leaves to the road and our limbs. Our neighbors don't always take care of their yards. She is concerned that if we do not keep the leaf truck, the leaves will pile up and clog up the drains. What is going on with the meter readers? My bill was doubled this month. She came to Town Hall to check on her bill, and found out that the meter was read wrong. Ms. Melvin said she wants to be informed in the town is considering selling the leaf truck. Interim Town Manager Deese stated that the town is not planning on selling the leaf truck and it is not on the agenda to discuss.

Gail Kiker, 905 Forest Drive, said it is time to call every board member concerning item #5. To me, the choice of Town Manager has nothing to do with a degree. I do not want the taxes raised to get a Town Manager with a degree. The Council does not need to leave their jobs to run the government under an Administrative Form of Government.

Adoption of the Agenda:

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Bivens made the motion, Council Member Huntley seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Discussion of Policy vs. Practice Concerning the Pick-up of Leaves and Limbs by Public Works:

Interim Town Manager Deese had a call from a citizen who cut a tree up. He dragged his limbs to the road for the Town to pick up. Interim Town Manager Deese said that we do not have a policy to pick up leaves and limbs, it is a practice. We need a policy for limbs and leaf pickup. Council Member Staton said we need a policy instead of a practice. A policy will say what must be done by the town. Council Member Bivens found a document that stated what the town will do during leaf season. Interim Town Manager will work on a policy and bring it to the Council for approval. Council Member Staton asked if this will include all leaves? Can we take this out of the Waste Pro contract since they are supposed to pick up leaves? Interim Town Manager Deese explained we negotiated a price with Waste Pro, but it is just part of their service and not

specific to the contract. Interim Town Manager Deese stated he would speak with neighboring towns and see what their policies are regarding leaf/limb and debris pickup.

Discussion of the Form of Government:

Interim Town Manager Deese said this was on the agenda for discussion. Council Member Staton said she wants to leave the Council/Manager form of government as is. She does not want to be over a department. That is a lot of work if we take over guidance for a department. We would have to increase our stipends. Get a good manager and let the manager do the work. Council would have to get training for things that we do not have knowledge of. Council Member Huntley would like to get this out of the way and quit spinning our wheels. Council Member Gary Huntley would like to have the Council/Manager Form of Government. Council Member Bivens agreed with Council Member Huntley. However, she could work with either form.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan gave her turn to speak to Larry Smith (who is running for mayor). Mr. Smith is used to the Administrative Form of Government from his previous service. He said you do have to work harder. He finds value in the interactions that the Council has with the departments. He would like the Administrative Form of Government. It is all about what the Council wants to do. Duties can be divided up to the Town Manager.

Mayor pro-tem Morgan said that we need to list out what the manager can do and what the board can do.

Manager Deese said he would put action on changing the Form of Government on the next agenda.

Manager's Report:

Interim Town Manager Deese is still looking into the Fast Charge Grant. Someone from Duke Power is coming the scout out some spots. Mr. Deese is going to show him the area behind the old BC Moore and the place behind the old cleaners. Duke will be coming sometime next week. It has to be on our properties. If it is not, you have to get the property owner's permission.

We are working on the Sewer Inventory Grant. Mr. Deese is working on the application of discretionary funds.

Interim Town Manager Deese has a meeting with NCDOT in Albemarle. Town Manager Deese will first ask for a sidewalk on Union Street up to the park. If he gets resistance from NCDOT, he will ask for striping. Also, going forward we will be able to use CDBG grants for sidewalks.

We continue to try to get our customers to understand that bills need to be paid by the 15th. There is no grace period. Bill is due when you get it and needs to be paid on the 15th.

Interim Town Manager Deese is working with Union County concerning the water/sewer transition. Interim Town Manager Deese spoke with Union County last Thursday. They have an aggressive plan of getting the citizens notified. There is an application that has to be filled out to get water/sewer from Union County. Our citizens should be getting a packet from Union County beginning October 1st. Union County would like to come to a meeting night and have refreshments available and applications available to sign up. Interim Town Manager Deese is

still fighting to get the rates dropped on January 1st. On January 1st, we become a Union County customer; we should be paying Union County rates.

NAACP sent an invitation to the annual banquet. It is October 19th at the AG Center. He would suggest that everyone buy their own ticket.

Interim Town Manager Deese spoke with Council Member Staton about the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee. He would like to talk with Council Member Bivens about the Beautification Committee.

Interim Town Manager Deese is talking to health insurance companies for better benefits.

Meet with NCDOT and took the gentleman around to look at our streets. Showed him Elm Street, White Street, and other streets. Interim Town Manager Deese has not heard back from him yet but will try to touch base with him. He did ask for some of the orange reflectors that go on top of speed signs to help slow down traffic. If it works, we can ask for more.

Interim Town Manager went to the CRTPO meeting in Weddington for Council Member Carpenter. There is no new news to tell concerning that.

Contacted Anson Express. Interim Town Manager has a meeting this week with them. Interim Town Manager Deese would like to see a paper here. He would like to, if nothing else, to get a page.

Interim Town Manager Deese is going to the South Piedmont Community College for a Chamber meeting. There will be people there to give us a legislative update.

Charlotte Planning and Development is having a meeting to discuss high impact, low-cost community projects for less than \$10,000.

Last week he was at the Parks and Rec Conference. He found out the Partif Grant is awarded in August. So, we missed that, but we can certainly start to apply for it. Interim Town Manager Deese found out they will pay for half of the land that you buy at the time you purchase it. In other words, you get the grant and then you buy the land. As luck will have it, I was sitting at the dinner table with the director of the Partif Grant. I told him that we needed the grant and we needed the land now. The gentleman said that we need to write a letter, he may be able to give us a retroactive waiver on the Partif Grant and the Water Fund. He can't guarantee the grant.

Interim Town Manager needs to ask for a special meeting. The Land Use Plan makes a reference to our Technical Specification and Standards Manual. What planning wants to review the right of way specifications in the manual. Plan. Currently the right of way is 60 ft. Planning wants to add a 50 ft and 40 ft right of way. Interim Town Manager Dees is asking for a call of a special meeting on Thursday at 3:00 pm or Friday at 3:00 pm for a short meeting to work through this right of way problem. All agreed to Thursday at 3:00 pm. We will have a quorum.

Council Members' Comments:

Council Member Bivens said the Randy Travis Festival was wonderful.

Council Member Huntley would like to see more things in the park and thanked the citizens for coming.

Council Member Staton also said we need to have more things in the park and enjoyed the movie night.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan thanked Town Manager Deese for all the hard work.

Town Manager Deese wanted to thank the Public Works and Police for all their work for the Randy Travis Festival. They worked extremely hard.

Adjournment:

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Council Member Bivens, seconded by Council Member Huntly. All Ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.



Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan



Town Clerk Ann Sutton