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# TOWN OF MARSHVILLE

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**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, November 19, 2018, 7 PM  
MARSHVILLE TOWN HALL**

**Work Session**

**Present:** Mayor Frank; Council Members Margaret Bivens, Norma Carpenter, Ernestine Staton, and Gary Huntley; Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan

**Staff Present:** Scott Howard, Town Manager; Ann Sutton, Town Clerk/Finance Officer; Chief of Police Matt Tarlton; Emily McCallum, Park and Rec Director

**Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Mayor Franklin Deese. The invocation was given by Council Member Huntley. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by everyone.

**Additions to Agenda:**

Mayor Deese asked to add a Closed Session Meeting to discuss personnel. Motion to approve addition by Council Member Staton and all agreed.

**Agenda Adoption:**

Motion to adopt the agenda with the one addition given by Council Member Ernestine Staton. Second made by Council Member Norma Carpenter. All agreed.

**Public Comments:**

Bryan Perry of P.O. Box 705, Marshville, NC, thanked the Council for all their hard work. The decision that has been made for the Town will benefit all the citizens. (This concerns the transfer of the Town utilities to Union County.)

Chad Whitely, 5415 Gilboa Road, Monroe, Thanked the Council for their decision. He knows it was a hard decision. We support the board members and will back you up. (This concerns the transfer of the Town utilities to Union County.)

**Discussion and Decision on the Fire Tax Method:**

The Beaver Lane Fire Department was not present tonight. Town Manager Howard said the Chief of the Fire Department prefers the hybrid method of fund the fire department. That would have Union County pay \$300,000 for the town and the balance needed for the fire department of \$315,000 would come from the citizens. Town Manager Howard

reminded Council that the Marshville Fire District includes citizens outside the town limits. Council Member Staton said that 80%/20% scenario was what most fire departments wanted. Town Manager Howard said that the cheapest tax suggestion would be the countywide fire tax since Marshville has low property values. Mayor Deese said that the Chief of the Fire Department knows more of what is needed and wanted than he does. Council Member Huntley asked if we would still be donating to the fire department. Town Manager said the fire fee is totally different than the donation to the fire department. The donation would be totally up to the Council at budget time. Chad Whitley stepped up to say that this hybrid method was the choice that would have the least effect on the citizens. Mayor Frank Deese recommended adopting the hybrid method at the next meeting, December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Sonya Huntley Over/Under Utility Bill**

Mayor Deese reminded all of the history of this discussion. Ms. Huntley's meter reading was mixed up with her neighbor's meter reading. This caused Ms. Huntley's bill to be low and the neighbor's bill to be high. Ms. Huntley has a large bill is due now. School of Government says that there are laws stating that regardless of the wrong bill being sent, the customer is responsible for the payment of the water used. Mayor Deese said he has read everything from the School of Government and understands what it says, but he still does not believe Ms. Huntley should pay when it was not her fault. Mayor Deese asked about a previous time when this happened to another citizen. Mayor Deese asked if that citizen paid the full amount. It was confirmed that Mr. Larry Laney was requested to pay the town, through a payment plan, of \$2,362.76. Since it was discovered that there is a statute of limitations of 3 years, Mayor Deese requested that the town re-calculate the amount due based on the limitation. Once that is complete, Ms. Huntley is to come in and tell us what she can pay each month. Then, the town can go forward with collecting. Council Member Staton said that we need to abide by the law. Council Member Bivens said it was our mistake, not the citizen; Ms. Huntley should not have to pay. Mayor Deese said that since the Council has made a decision, let's send her a new letter asking her to come in within 10 days and tell us what she can pay. The law is clear and the Council met and came to an agreement on what to do.

### **Motion to Enter Into Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) at Marshville Town Hall Meeting Room**

To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or an 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.

Motion made by Council Member Gary Huntley and second by Council Member Staton at 7:38 PM.

Motion made to come out of Closed Session at 8:00 PM by Council Member Staton and second by Council Member Bivens.



**Manager's Comments:**

Getting last reimbursement North West Sewer Basin Project. Town Manager submitted an application for a TAP Grant. Bike and Pedestrian Open House December 6<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Deese requested the Town Manager check with NCDOT to get the stippling done near the Expressway.

**Council Comments:**

Council Member Bivens asked for help getting rid of the junk cars on Booker Street. Other member spoke of the tree lighting will be November 30, 2019.

Council Member Staton and Emily McCallum will meet on Friday's when necessary to discuss things for the park.


**Adjournment:**

The motion was made to close the meeting by Council Member Staton and second by Council Member Norma Carpenter.

Minutes approved on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2019.

  
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Franklin Deese, Mayor

ATTEST

  
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Ann Sutton, Clerk