



**Town of Marshville**  
**Public Hearing on the**  
**2021-2022 Town Budget**  
**Tuesday June 15, 2021 - 7:00 PM**  
**Marshville Town Hall, 118 East Union St., Marshville, NC**  
**28103**

**Public Hearing**

**Present:** Mayor Larry Smith; Council Members Paulette Blakeney, Ernestine Staton, Margaret Bivens, and Gary Huntley

**Absent:** Mayor Pro tem Virginia Morgan

**Staff Present:** Franklin Deese, Town Manager; Ann Sutton, Town Clerk

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

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Council Member Huntley gave the opening prayer. Then, everyone stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Open Public Hearing regarding the Town Budget:**

Mayor Smith requested a motion to open the Public Hearing regarding the 2021-2022 Town Budget. Council Member Staton made a motion, Council Member Bivens seconded. All ayes. Motion passed unanimously. Public Hearing opened.

Mayor Smith stated that Eric Bezant was signed up to speak (via Zoom) and gave him 3 minutes to address the Council.

Mr. Bezant did not speak.

Manager Deese explained that there had been no comments concerning the budget through email, and there is no set limit as to the time to have the public hearing open.

Mayor Smith entertained a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Council Member Bivens made a motion, Council Member Huntley seconded. All ayes. Motion passed unanimously. Public Hearing closed.

Manager Deese explained that the tax rate had been dropped to .49 cents, and he would change the budgeted encumbrance amount. In addition, he would have the entire budget ordinance emailed out to the Council Members by Monday.

**Discussion/Action from Public Hearing:**

There were no comments from the Public Hearing.

**Manager's Comments:**

Manager Deese explained that the town was on the front page of the Enquire Journal for the 111 acres purchased at Stegall Lake and for the Museum anniversary.

Manager Deese then asked the Council if they would like to add a discussion on the reopening of Town Hall to the public to the agenda for the June 21st Town Council Meeting.

Mayor Smith stated that he feels it is time to discuss that topic.

Manager Deese said he would add that topic to the agenda and stated that is pretty much all of his comments.

#### **Council Member Comments:**

Council Member Bivens stated she was concerned that on Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, there was only one police officer on duty, and he was busy with an accident and wanted to know why only one police officer was on duty.

Manager Deese explained that on weekends there are normally two officers on duty, however this was an isolated incident in which one of the officers recently had surgery and had to have stitches. While on patrol, the stitches broke loose, and the officer had to leave to have the stitches fixed. Again, this was an isolated incident; however, two officers are scheduled to work at all times.

Council Member Bivens stated that is unacceptable, and there always needs to be two officers on duty.

Manager Deese apologized and stated he would coordinate with Chief Tarlton to have a contingency plan in place.

Council Member Blakeney discussed the CRTPO meeting and hoped everyone has a blessed week.

Council Member Huntley wished everyone a safe and prosperous week.

Council Member Staton explained that the Council needs to be present with the Mayor around 10:30 am at the Juneteenth celebration to raise the Juneteenth Flag. Towards the end at 12:30 – 1:15 the news reporters will be here, and the Council will be recognized again so everyone needs to leave and be back during that time frame.

Manager Deese also explained that the town would recognize Juneteenth as a holiday, and Town Hall will be closed that Friday.

Council Member Staton explained that Marshville is one of the first municipalities to recognize Juneteenth as a holiday and that she is looking forward to bigger and exciting things for Marshville.

#### **Mayor Comments:**

Mayor Smith reminded everyone that June 26<sup>th</sup> is the Pre-July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration, and fireworks will be at the Municipal Park. Mayor Smith went on to remind everyone that Wingate University won the national championship in baseball. Mayor Smith congratulated Manager Deese and the Parks and Rec director for the closing on the new Lake Property.

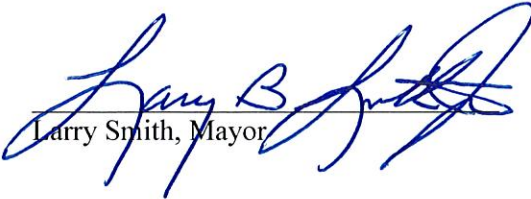
Council Member Staton congratulated the Parks and Rec Director Mark Gosnell for all he has done with the municipal park and with all of the festivities the town has had.

#### **Adjournment:**

Mayor Smith requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Staton made a motion,

Council Member Bivens seconded. All ayes. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Approved this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021 by:

  
Larry Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Ann Sutton, Town Clerk