



Town of Marshville Special Called Budget Meeting

Monday, May 24, 2021 - 6:00 PM

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

Special Called Meeting Minutes – Zoom

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

Staff in Attendance: Town Manager Franklin Deese and Town Clerk Ann Sutton,

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Smith. Council Member Huntley gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda: Town Manager Deese asked to add a Closed Session related to the budget and call for a Public Hearing. A motion was made by Council Member Station to adopt the agenda. Council Member Gary Huntley seconded the motion. Council Member Bivens arrived. All said aye.

Discussion of 2021-2022 Town Budget: Mayor Smith directed all to the new proposed budget and summary sheet. Town Manager Deese added \$5,000 to the Maintenance and Repairs – Buildings to evaluate the museum roof, the old Tobacco Shop, and to finish the old cleaners building. He also put money in to evaluate the old firehouse. Town Manager Deese added \$1,000 to the budget for the Community Signs. Town Manager added \$10,000 for another speed sign and two trailers, (we have one speed sign already). Town Manager Deese took \$5,000 out of the Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Repairs making that \$10,000. He added \$50,000 for the Lake Park Development.

The Town Manager began the discussions on the Enterprise Fund. He mentioned that all salaries would have a cost of living increase of 2.5%. No salary increases were made in 2020-2021. Group insurance only went up 3% this year.

Mayor Smith asked if there is another grant to become available for a water asset and inventory assessment? Town Manager Deese said that yes, there will be a grant coming up. Manager Deese has put money in the budget to either do a smoke test on the water system or to pay for a match if we receive a grant.

Anson County raised the water rate by 8% last year. We did not increase the rate percentage last year. This is reflected in the 2021-2022 budget.

A discussion was had on Ready Read Meters. Ready Read Meters are electronic water/sewer meters. They will systematically keep track of water usage and send the information directly to our utility software. No one will have to read meters again. The meters will warn us of leaks

and other problems. Town Manager Deese is planning to finance the meters. We can have them in service within approximately six months. The employees that used to read meters will now be available to work in the park and do more leaf and limb pickup. Council Member Staton thought it would be a good idea to move forward on the installation of the Ready Meters. All agreed.

We are no longer renting uniforms from Cintas. Instead, we have bought the employees' pants and a couple of vests each. So we are saving money, and the employees like it much better.

Town Manager Deese mentioned that we had vandalism at the park. We may have the internet sooner than later at the park. The cameras may not be there until the new budget year.

Anson sewer costs increased by 13% last year. As a result, we are showing an increase in this year's budget.

A brief review was done on the General Fund. Town Manager Deese asked what the council wanted to do about Beaver Lane VFD. No one has contacted the town from the VFD to request money. Council Member Huntley would like to keep the amount of \$35,000 budgeted for them in 2020-2021. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan would like the amount to be lower. Council Member Staton thinks the amount should be zero. Mayor Smith felt that we need to help the relations between the town and the VFD. Council Member Blakeney suggested \$17,500 may be appropriate. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan, Council Member Staton, and Council Member Blakeney agreed to budget \$17,500 for the VFD tentatively. Town Manager Deese asked Mayor Smith if he could reach out to the VFD and ask about annexing the property Pilgrims Pride helped them obtain? Mayor Smith will see if he can talk with the VFD and see if some agreements may be made to help relations.

A council member asked to have a speed hump placed on the driveway beside Town Hall. So, some money has been placed in General Government to pay for that.

Town Manager Deese put \$100,000 in Capital Outlay – Buildings to start saving for a government center. Mayor Smith felt the year of a property revaluation was not the year to start saving for a government center. Council thought it best to take the amount out.

Town Manager Deese reminded all of the costs for the park internet, the fireworks for Juneteenth, new LED street lights, and the increase in maintenance and repair for streets. In addition, \$50,000 was set aside in Parks and Recreation to start development of the park properties. These items were discussed at the last budget meeting.

Closed Session: A motion to go into a Closed Session was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan and was seconded by Council Member Staton. All ayes. § 143-318.11. (a) (4)

To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body, including agreement on a tentative list of economic development incentives that may be offered by the public body in negotiations, or to discuss matters relating to military installation closure or realignment. Any action approving the signing of an economic development contract or commitment, or the action authorizing the payment of economic development expenditures, shall be taken in an open session.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan to come out of the Closed Session. This was seconded by Council Member Bivens. All ayes.

Discussion/Action from Closed Session: None

Call for Public Hearing: A motion was made to call for a Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Town Budget on June 15th at 7 pm by Council Member Staton with a second from Council Member Bivens. All ayes.

Town Manager Comments: Town Manager Deese had no comments.

Council Member's Comments:

Council Member Bivens apologized for being late.

Council Member Blakeney thank the Mayor and Manager for their hard work. She asked all to stay safe.

Council Member Huntley reminded all of the need to evaluate the Town Manager. He thanked the staff.

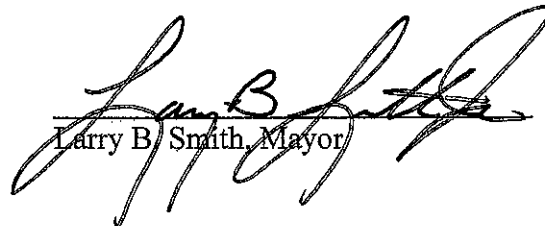
Council Member Staton told all that she was still attending the CRTPO meetings.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan participated in the COG meeting and will have handouts for the next meeting.

Mayor's Comments: Memorial Day Service on Monday, May 31st, at 11:30 am at the cemetery. The Forest Hills High School Senior parade was nice. He reminded all of Juneteenth on June 19th and the 4th of July on June 29th.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Council Member Bivens to adjourn the Special Called Meeting. Council Member Staton made a second. All ayes. 9:15 p

Approved this 6 day of July 2021.


Larry B. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk