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# TOWN OF MARSHVILLE

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## **TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2021 6 PM MARSHVILLE TOWN HALL**

### **Special Called Meeting Minutes - Zoom**

**Present:** Mayor Larry Smith; Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan; Council Members Margaret Bivens, Paulette Blakeney, and Gary Huntley. Ernestine Staton absent

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

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

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

**Adoption of Agenda:** Motion to adopt agenda given by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan. All Ayes.

#### **Closed Session per GS 143-318.11 (a) (3):**

*To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.*

A motion to go into Closed Session was made by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan. All said aye.

#### **Closed Session per GS 143-318.11 (a) (5):**

*To establish, or to instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken by or on behalf of the public body in negotiating (i) the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property by purchase, option, exchange, or lease; or (ii) the amount of compensation and other material terms of an employment contract or proposed employment contract.*

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

**Discussion/Action from Closed Session:** A motion was made by Council Member Blakeney to authorize Town Manager Deese to sign the contract for the purchase of the Stegall Lake property, approximately 111.25 acres, in the amount of \$750,000. A second to that motion was made by Council Member Huntley. All ayes.

**Discussion of 2021-2022 Town Budget:** Town Manager Deese reviewed a summary of the 2021-2022 Budget with Council. He requested that board decide on the tax rate and tell him any changes that need to be made. He will work on the budget message, the ordinance, and the budget so the public can have it on Thursday.

Town Manager Deese cut the Tower Revenue by half. The contract with AT&T may be reduced, so he is taking a conservative approach.

The summary shows a reduction to the VFD donation to \$17,500. Town Manager Deese showed Council the following:

- Union County will be giving the Beaver Lane VFD \$311,424 for operating revenues.
- Local taxes collected for the VFD will be \$465,837.

Mayor Larry Smith spoke of the importance to improve the relationship between the town and the fire department. He recognized the double taxation issue. Mayor Smith said that it is in our interest to help the fire department. We need to come together as a community.

Council Member Bivens felt the fire department should come and address the board. Council Members Blakeney, Bivens, and Huntley said that \$17,500 would be an appropriate amount to give the fire department.

Town Manager Deese has placed money in the budget for the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments. This is important because the Board of Adjustments is a Quasi-Judicial.

Town Manager Deese will include money in the budget for park cameras, surveillance, and internet for the park. He has put aside \$10,000 for a truck for Code Enforcement. We need increased mowing in the cemetery. We have purchased cemetery software and will have a survey done, so this is included in the budget. Town Manager Deese has put aside money in the budget for Main Street Beautification.

Town Manager Deese is adding money to Public Buildings to have the town buildings evaluated and check the roof on the museum. Money has put aside money to put up two public information signs for the downtown and the park.

Money will be set aside for Streets and Highways for new streetlights if necessary.

The Police Department would like to purchase two trailers and one more electronic speed sign. The trailers will supply power to the one speed sign we have and the new one we will buy.

\$50,000 from Powell Bill Fund Balance will be used for town owned roads improvements and repairs.

In the Parks and Recreation Department, money will be added for more activities in the park. \$50,000 will be added to Parks Capital Outlay to begin development the new property we acquire. A budget increase in Land Acquisition will be made to pay for debt service. We will also look at putting cameras at Stegall Lake.

Last year Anson County increased the costs for water and sewer last year. Town Manager Deese said water costs increased by 8% and sewer costs increased 13%. We did not increase our rates last year to reflect that increase. We need to do the increase this year. Also, we will look at the AIA grant for water in the new year. And money is set aside for the finance the payment for of new Ready Meters.

Town Manager Deese used a spreadsheet to supply information on what our tax rate will produce in dollars. Revenue neutral rate is \$.43 per \$100 of assessed property value. The current rate is \$.51. \$.01 creates \$20,000. Mayor Smith thinks that it is important to drop the rate one or two cents.

Mayor Smith agrees that it will take money to get the town where we want it to be. But, it is important to think of the citizens.

Town Manager Deese discussed the fee schedules. The tampering fee was increased to \$50 and cemetery plots are now \$1,500 for citizens and \$2,500 for people for out of town.

**Town Manager Comments:** Town Manager will complete the budget information and have it ready for the public on Thursday.

**Council Comments:**

Mayor Pro-tem had no comments.

Council Member Huntley reminded all that we need to evaluate the Town Manager.

Council Member Blakeney thanked everyone and told all to have a blessed week.


Council Member Bivens said the cemetery looked nice.

**Mayor Smith:** Mayor Smith thanked all.

**Adjournment:** Mayor Pro-tem Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Council Member Bivens. All ayes. 8:55 pm

Approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2021 by:

  
Larry Smith, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Ann Sutton, Town Clerk