

**Town of Marshville
Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 26, 2016
Marshville Town Hall
201 W. Main St., Marshville**

Special Meeting

Council Members Present: Mayor Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan, Council Members Jim Rowell, Norma Carpenter, Ernestine Staton, and Margaret Bivens.

Staff Present: Town Manager, Fern Shubert; Town Clerk/Finance Officer, Tonya Johnson; Public Works Director, Bivens Steele; Chief of Police, Matt Tarlton

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm by Mayor Franklin D. Deese, stating that the purpose of the special meetings is (1) for a closed session and (2) for a budget work session. The invocation was offered by Mayor Deese. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by everyone.

At 3:10 pm Council Member Rowell made a motion to go into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6). The motion was seconded by Council Member Staton and passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Open Session – 3:16 pm

There was no action as a result of the closed session.

FY2016-17 Budget Planning, Visioning and Goal Setting

Town Manager Shubert opened the budget discussion meeting. A draft copy of the proposed 2016-2017 Meeting Calendar was distributed. The possibility of moving the July 2016 meeting to the second Monday in July was discussed since the first week of July is a holiday week.

A FY2015-16 Budget vs. Actual report was distributed. Town Manager Shubert reviewed the report with council, discussing both revenues and expenditures to date in both the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund. Discussion ensued regarding various line item expenditures as each departmental budget was reviewed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan brought up the discussion of an incentive program for police officers. The goal is to make a more educated and proficient department. Years ago it was intended to offer a similar program for every department with a goal to increase the education levels of the staff. A handout of the proposed program was provided. Chief

Tarlton commented on his experience with the program. Council Member Staton questioned why a raise in pay would be given for a degree in a non-related field. Mayor Deese commented that he doesn't see this as a council function. He recommend that Chief Tarlton include this in his budget request/proposal for council's approval/disapproval.

Discussion ensued regarding capital outlay items and sidewalks in Marshville. Mayor Deese stated that he spoke with someone about a Sidewalk Plan for the Town of Marshville that would illustrate where it is feasible to place sidewalks. Mayor Deese agrees with Council Member Bivens that sidewalks are needed. However, he feels they should be systematic and should connect to something. Discussion ensued. Town Manager Shubert reminded council members that Marshville has a Pedestrian Plan. The town just doesn't have the money to do all that the plan calls for. Council Member Staton requested a list of town sidewalks. Council Member Staton expressed concern that there is no sidewalk leading to Pilgrim's Pride to accommodate folks walking to and from work.

Council Member Rowell pointed out that the Small Town Main Street Committee is finally getting things done. Powell Bill money has been allocated for a sidewalk project. Council Member Rowell stated that the problem with sidewalks has always been about getting property owners to grant easements.

Mayor Deese commented that some of the issues with the school (roads, etc.) should be taken up by the school board. Discussion ensued. The council discussed representation at a school board meeting on behalf of East Union Middle School and Forest Hills High School.

Town Manager Shubert reviewed the Sanitation department (5800) and reported that expenses are in check. The finance officer mentioned that revenues could be reduced by the end of year due to the opt-out option for recycling. The manager reported that the town will be going out to bid for solid waste services this year. The contract was extended last year for a one year period. The manager stated she would like to implement a pull off recycle center and thinks it would be a service to the town. Mayor Deese commented that if recycling is part of a contract then the town would have to pay the vendor for that service. Mayor Deese recalled discussions about the town having its own recycle center and how the town could make money. Discussion ensued regarding who would derive benefits from the recycle service.

Town Manager Shubert reviewed the budget for the Parks and Recreation department (6200). The council was reminded that the large appropriation in capital outlay was for the purchase of the property at 809 E. Union Street to expand the park.

Enterprise Fund discussions

The finance officer informed the council that a budget line item will be added in department 8280 – Water Operations for contributions to debt service. This line item will account for loan payments for capital improvement projects that will have to be repaid. Town Manager Shubert distributed a spreadsheet reflecting amounts billed by Union County for sewer treatment charges. The manager discussed that it appears that the town

has been overcharged by Union County.

Council Member Rowell asked the Director of Public Works, Bivens Steele, about a monthly flow report. Bivens stated that Union County owns both meters. The town reads and monitors the meter at Ridge Run. Union County reads the West Meter (at Cemetery) and the meter at Hwy. 205. Director of Public Works Steele stated that it is an automated reading system (reading transmitted).

Town Manager Shubert stated that Union County seems to have decided that they are going to wait it out. The manager suggested that she and Mayor Deese talk with the County Commissioners to ask for an explanation of charges rather than dealing with Union County staff. Mayor Deese expressed that the issue needs to be discussed a bit more. Mayor Deese suggested that he and the manager may need to attend a public meeting.

Town Manager Shubert pointed out that Wingate is proposing a 5% sewer rate increase. Discussions returned to flow metering. Director of Public Works, Bivens Steele, reported that in the early 1990's a meter was installed at Ridge Run as a means to check Union County. It was estimated that a new metering station would likely cost an estimated \$100,000. Director of Public Works Steele stated that the town's meter will peg at 400 gallons per minute. Union County claims that during heavy rains the town is flowing more and there is really no way to argue with the county. The manager stated that the county appears to be making up numbers. Discussion ensued about prior sewer issues with the county.

Director of Public Works, Bivens Steele, stated that the big argument is that the town's meter will not work to capacity. The town's argument is that the contract states that Union County is to meter the flow. Union County claims that its meter will measure that amount. Council Member Rowell asked if the town could send everything to Anson County. The Director of Public Works replied that the town would need two pump stations. It would be costly but it could be done.

Town Clerk/Finance Officer Johnson reminded council of a special meeting on March 19, 2016 at 9:00 am at Town Hall. Discussion ensued about future budget work sessions. It was the consensus of the council that the meeting on March 19, 2016 be cancelled. A budget work session date would be decided at the March 7 council meeting.

Council Member Rowell informed council of a forum with the Monroe -Union Economic Development Group, the Marshville Chamber of Commerce, the Town Council, and N-Focus Planning and Design. The suggested meeting dates are March 21, April 4, or April 15. It was the consensus of the council that the meeting be held on April 4, 2016 at 11:00 am. The meeting will be at Kate Clyde's Catering on East Main Street and will include lunch.

Council Member Staton requested to continue discussion of the Parks & Recreation Department. She stated that she has been told that other places handle recreation programs for Marshville. Council Member Staton reported that some folks are unaware of any programs for Marshville. She expressed concern that Marshville has nothing to offer

the children and youth. Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan commented that once a Parks and Recreation person is hired then the town can go from there. Mayor Deese clarified with Council Member Staton that she desires to see funds set aside for programs.

Adjourn

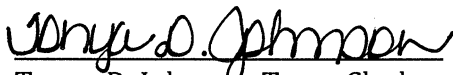
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Rowell. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens and passed by unanimous vote. There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 5:12 pm.

These minutes approved this 4th day of April, 2016.

By: 

Franklin D. Deese, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tonya D. Johnson, Town Clerk