



Town of Marshville Town Council Meeting

Monday, March 13, 2017, 7:00 PM
Marshville Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Deese, Council Member Margaret Bivens, Norma Carpenter and Ernestine Staton. Mayor Pro-Tempore Morgan and Council Member Jim Rowell were absent. A quorum was present.

Staff Present: Town Clerk/Finance Officer, Tonya Johnson and Chief Matt Tarlton.

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The special meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Frank Deese. The invocation was given by Council Member Bivens and everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of Agenda for the Meeting

A motion was made by Council Member Carpenter to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Staton and passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion of FY2017-18 budget planning sessions/retreat

Mayor Deese stated that the council needs to set dates for budget work sessions and budget planning for FY2017-18. Council Member Carpenter commented that the dates needs to be after March 25th due to scheduling conflicts with other members of the council. The town clerk passed out April calendars to assist with scheduling.

Mayor Deese provided names of the folks that the former interim town manager had planned to invite to a budget retreat. The list included Richard Smith, Susan Drake, Bill Lester, Chris Plate and Marty Wilson. Discussion ensued regarding setting a time and date to invite these folks to come and present information to the council. Mayor Deese suggested calling a special meeting on Friday, March 24, 2017 from 3 until 6 pm to hear from the aforementioned folks. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the council to call a special meeting for Thursday, March 23, 2017 at the Community Center from 3 until 6 pm for budget discussions. The alternate date will be Friday, March 24, 2017 from 3 until 6 pm at the Community Center. Mayor Deese agreed to contact the folks mentioned above to check their availability on these dates. The town clerk suggested also adding FY2017-18 budget discussion to the regular meeting agenda for Monday, April 3, 2017.

The town clerk/finance officer reviewed rate study sheets with the council. The rate study was recently performed by Marty Wilson with NC Rural Water. Mr. Wilson presented several scenarios for the council to consider with regards to the water and wastewater rates. Discussion ensued. Mayor Deese recalled that Ricky Bourne, Public Works Director, has some data received regarding readings from Union County. It was requested that this information be made available to the council at the March 23, 2017 special meeting.

Chief Tarlton provided a summary explanation of the budgeted items for the police department. Discussion ensued concerning the need for a new police car and body cameras.

Chief Tarlton also discussed proposed ordinance penalties/citations. The chief pointed out that the town's ordinance imposes state citations. The proposed revision(s) would impose civil penalties/citations that would be paid at Town Hall. This would likely result in an update to the town's ordinance book and may need to be discussed with Richard Smith and Yvonne Janssen. Mayor Deese commented that he doesn't think a \$10 fine

will deter folks from parking in a handicap space. Council Member Carpenter commented that if the ordinance is going to be enforce then the fines need to be lowered. Discussion ensued.

Chief Tarlton informed the council of a grant opportunity for the police department through the Governor's Highway Safety Program. He explained that the grant will cover personnel and equipment. In the first year the grant will pay 85%, 70% in the second year, and 50% in the third year. If the town applies for the grant for additional personnel, after the third year the town would pay 100% of the personnel costs for the position. Discussion ensued regarding the entrance from Hwy. 74 into East Union Middle School and how it might be affected by increased traffic volume from the new Hwy. 74 Bypass.

Discussion regarding the Town's form of government

Mayor Deese recalled that the town's form of governance came up at a recent meeting. He asked if the council prefers a manager or an administrator. Mayor Deese commented that he prefers the council-manager form of government, stating that he feels it works best. Mayor Deese added that Marshville hasn't had the best luck this far with managers. However, if Marshville could get a seasoned manager, Mayor Deese stated that Marshville will be fine. Mayor Deese stated that the council needs to advertise for town manager, or make a decision on the form of governance.

Mayor Deese reported that he spoke with Frayda Bluestein at the UNC School of Government regarding changing the form of government for a short period of time and then changing back. Mayor Deese commented that he would support switching to an administrator while searching for a town manager. In the meantime the council must hire an interim town manager. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Deese reported that he spoke with the former, retired manager from the City of Albemarle. He is currently considering assisting another town but said he would keep Mayor Deese informed. Council Member Staton commented that the issue with an administrator is that the council would be responsible for oversight of all the departments and the council may not know what it is doing. It could be a mess. Mayor Deese stated that the council would have to define how it is going to operate if it changes to an administrator form of government. Mayor Deese stated that he thinks the department heads would report to the town council.

Council Member Bivens stated that Marshville needs to get the right manager. Council Member Carpenter commented that the council should advertise for a town manager and see what's out there. She prefers the council-manager form of government. Council Member Carpenter stated that it seems to her that past managers haven't done a very good job of reporting to the council. Mayor Deese stated that the council can do some training and/or workshops. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the council that the majority prefers the council-manager form of government. Mayor Deese emphasized that the council needs to move forward to hire an interim manager.

Adjourn

There being no further discussion, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Bivens. The motion was seconded by Council Member Staton and passed unanimously.

These minutes approved this 3rd day of April, 2017.

By: _____

Frank Deese, Mayor

Attest: _____

Tonya D. Johnson, Town Clerk