
TOWN OF MARSHVILLE

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TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020 7 PM MARSHVILLE TOWN HALL

Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Staff Present: Franklin Deese, Town Manager; Ann Sutton, Town Clerk/Finance Officer; Matt Tarlton, Police Chief; and Town Attorney Bobby Griffin

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.

Public Comments:

Jim Yanacsek, 7025 Misty Pond Road, had questions about the mess on 401 E. Union Street. He questioned whether or not we were doing anything to clean it up. Mayor Smith said that the town was aware of the property and we are taking steps to improve the situation.

Diane Amundsen, 1018 Hasty Road, asked why there was no sign on the Monroe Expressway saying you were coming into the Town of Marshville.

Tammy Skinner, 3023 Ansonville Road, came to represent "Be the Village". Last year the Town of Marshville aided East Union School with a 5k run to raise money for the East Union students to go on an end of year trip to Washington, D.C. She would like to have the fund raiser again this year to help next year's students with this trip.

Ray Finnegan 812 Allen Drive, also questioned the property at 401 E. Union Street. He wanted to see if there was an update. He will keep coming back to each meeting to express his desires to see the property is cleaned up.

Adoption of Agenda:

Town Manager Deese asked to add a Code Enforcement Up-date to the agenda. A motion to add this to the agenda was made by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Council Member Staton. All agreed.

Town Manager Deese asked to add a Closed Session to per General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (3) to consult with an attorney concerning the Union County contract with Marshville. He also requested a Closed Session discussion concerning the purchase of parcels #02114148, #02114148A80, #02114148B, #02114148A90. Mayor Smith asked to place these discussions after the Mayor's Comments at the end of the agenda. A motion to approve was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan and seconded by Council Member Staton. All agreed.

Mayor Smith asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the additions. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan made the motion and Council Member Staton seconded it. All agreed.

A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan to adopt the consent agenda. This was seconded by Council Member Bivens. All agreed.

Monroe Expressway Presentation:

Mr. William Cooksey of the Turnpike Authority made the presentation. Mr. Cooksey gave us a quick history on the project. There has been strong traffic growth of up to 20,000 travelers a day over the 2019 period. Most traffic was found during the summer months. Of those travelers, approximately 1,600 are trucks. Mr. Cooksey said the Turnpike Authority planned to put Wrong Way pavement markers on the expressway. Council Member Huntley asked why there were no signs on the Expressway for Marshville. Mr. Cooksey did not know why, but said he would look into the reason. Mayor Smith asked if the Turnpike Authority was an independent business. Mr. Cooksey said the Turnpike Authority was a business within the NCDOT as approved by the General Assembly. Mayor Smith asked how the rates worked for tolls. Mr. Cooksey said the toll is used to pay off the debt, maintenance, and operations. So, the toll will be adjusted every January 1st based on need. The Town Manager has a digital copy of this presentation.

Code Enforcement Update:

Steve May is the Town Code Enforcement Officer. He is a retired police officer and works one day a week. Last year he had 112 cases. Since July 1, 2019, he has had 64 cases. He has been able to get a lot of properties cleaned up. Police Chief Tarlton has been a lot of help. Mr. May address the property at 401 E. Union Street. He said that he is working with a landlord that is not willing to do anything. Mr. Robert Pounce, the landlord, does not seem to understand that the property is his responsibility. Since there are children involved, DSS has been called several times and a case has been opened. It was noted that we could use our minimum housing standards to go to court and have the landlord fix the property. Many ideas were brought up, but all would cost money. Council Member Bivens said that it is not the town's job to cleanup other people's property. A motion was made by Council Member Huntley and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan to have Town Attorney Griffin, Town Manager Deese, and Code Enforcement Officer Steve May work together to see how the town's ordinances can best be used to remedy the 401 E. Union Street problem. All agreed.

Marshville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board By-laws:

Town Manager Deese brought pages 3, 4, 6, & 7 of the Marshville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board By-laws back for discussion.

Article 4, Section 1- Wording changed to assure that no Open Meetings Laws were broken.

Article 3, Section 4 – Parks & Recreation Board can go to conferences and training. Travel must be approved by the Town Manager prior to the trip to guarantee reimbursement.

Article 5, Section 8 – All Parks and Recreation Advisory Members can miss no more than three consecutive meetings and not more than five meetings at any time during the year before they will be asked to leave the advisory board.

Article 9, Section 2 – Changed the wording to reflect vacancy and removal policy.

A motion was made to adopt the Marshville Parks and Recreation Advisory Board By-laws as adjusted at this meeting by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan and seconded by Council Member Staton. All agreed.

Manager's Report:

Town Manager Deese received an email from Christine Hubush with NCLM will be coming down to share the NCLM short session meeting concerning their goals and legislative priorities are. These meetings and very informal. NCLM would like to meet with all or a few officials to see what our legislative priorities are as well as share the short session goals are for NCLM. They would like to come on the afternoon of March 17th or morning of March 19th. Mayor Smith, Town Manager Deese, Council Member Bivens, and Mayor Pro-tem Morgan will go on March 19th for breakfast.

We received a grant from the NC Highway Safety program from which we were able to hire Office Adam Moore. Because of his work and attention to details, Officer Moore was able to get \$7,675 for equipment for the Police Department. Town Manager Deese wanted to thank him and others to do the same.

We just put up a flashing sign to let people know how fast they are going as they come off the Monroe Expressway. It also counts the number of cars in a period and how many were speeding. It gives the number of miles that a car is going over the speed limit. Thank you Chief Tarlton for coming up with this idea and finding the money.

You may see a new F150 around town. This truck runs on propane. We are not buying the truck. We are trying it out to see if this is something we want to do. There is a grant available to help convert our vehicles. The truck should be in town Wednesday.

Town Manager is working on a map to show town property. He showed what he had done on the large TV.

Town Manager is talking with insurance brokers to see if we can get better rates and better coverage.

Town Manager Deese should have a rough draft of the 2020-2021 Budget by May 4th.

Town Manager Deese is working on the speaker line-up for the April 3rd and 4th Budget Retreat. We have a facilitator for that Saturday.

Council Members' Comments:

Council Member Bivens went to a Marshville Museum meeting this morning. Maybe we need an "adopt a street" plan to keep streets cleaned up.

Council Member Blakeney thanked all for coming to the meeting.

Council Member Huntley thanked all for coming out and reminded them of Daylight Savings Time this weekend.

Council Member Staton went to the CRTPO meeting. She is learning a lot and is meeting new people. Council Member Staton wanted the board to switch up the Council members on some of these committees. One or two people are getting burdened by the responsibility and time needed to go to all these meetings. She thinks we should find a way to give everyone a turn at these types of positions. Town Manager says that it takes about two years to learn how this all works.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan thought it would be important to come up with a contingency plan if the corona virus hits our area.

Mayor Smith addressed the 401 E. Union Street property. He said no one is proud of this property. We have limitations as a town. We need to try to be pro-active. Efforts have been made. They have not been perfect, but we have made some progress.

Closed Session:

A motion was made to go into Closed Session per G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3) by Council Member Staton and seconded by Council Member Huntley. All agreed. 8:04 pm.

By: _____

Larry Smith, Mayor

Attest

Town Clerk