



Town of Marshville Town Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 6:30 PM
Marshville Town Hall

Special Meeting Minutes

Council Members Present: Mayor Deese; Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan; Council Members Margaret Bivens, Ernestine Staton and Jim Rowell. Council Member Carpenter called to report she would be absent from the meeting. A quorum was present.

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

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Mayor Frank Deese, who also gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by everyone.

Adoption of Agenda for the Meeting

Council Member Bivens made a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Staton and passed by unanimous vote.

Budget and Fees Discussion

Mayor Deese stated that citizens have been contacting him concerning capacity fees. Mayor Deese commented that several members of the council have discussed offering amnesty to long-time residents with regard to capacity fees. Mayor Deese recommended setting a fixed period of time in which the capacity fees will be waived. Council Member Rowell agreed with Mayor Deese. Town Manager Shubert asked if this would apply to individuals, or churches and businesses as well. Mayor Deese stated that his recommendation would only apply to single family residences. Town Manager Shubert expressed that there needs to be parameters. Council Member Rowell stated that the capacity fee waiver should only apply to single family residences and that a term of residency needs to be determined. Bivens Steele, Director of Public Works, commented that the capacity fee waiver should apply to any single family residence currently on a septic tank that wants to hook on to the town sewer system. Town Manager Shubert reported that N.C. Rural Water will be conducting a rate review in May. She added that the council needs to be certain that the recommended action is legal. Discussion ensued regarding legalities. Mayor Deese stated that he would contact the School of Government as well as N.C. Rural Water for assistance and guidance in the matter. Bivens Steele commented that Union County Public Health requires that new construction connect to the town sewer system if it is available. Union County Public Health also requires residents having a failed or malfunctioning septic tank to connect to the town's sewer system, if available. Mayor Deese stated that he would bring information back to the council.

Town Manager Shubert provided a handout of sewer bill history from Union County, pointing out that bills have increased from approximately \$19,000 to \$37,000 in the period of time that she has been employed by the town. Town Manager Shubert stated that, for budgeting purposes, it is going to have to be determined how much is owed to Union County. A portion of the amount the town is being billed for includes debt service. Town Manager Shubert commented that until the Town of Marshville wins the lawsuit, it is going to have to pass the costs along to the residents. Council Member Bivens emphasized that it is not fair to the residents of Marshville. Council Member Staton inquired that, in the event that Union County and the

Town of Marshville reach an agreement and the town comes out to the good, will the residents receive a refund. Town Manager Shubert pointed out that the town's sewer system has forty years of deferred maintenance. The town may be able to reduce rates, but it would not likely give refunds to residents. Council Member Staton pointed out that many long-time residents of Marshville have been overcharged. Town Manager Shubert stated that everything gets more expensive. The county should charge the town its share of the costs of the system and no more. Mayor Deese stated that it could take a windfall of money to repair the system and keep rates low. Council Member Staton expressed that she doesn't feel that many of the citizens will understand the concept. Instead, they will be looking for a refund. Discussion ensued.

A brief discussion ensued regarding loans to complete various projects. Council Member Rowell asked Town Clerk/Finance Officer Johnson about debt service and capital reserve appropriations. Town Clerk/Finance Officer Johnson stated that there will be some debt service to be paid back in FY2016-17. She also pointed out that until some of the moving parts for the Enterprise Fund are finalized, capital reserve allocations cannot be determined.

Council Member Rowell suggested that the sale of cemetery lots in the new section of the cemetery be included in the FY2016-17 budget projections. To date there has been no marketing for the approximately 225 new lots. Council Member Rowell suggested encumbering fifty percent of the revenue from the sale of cemetery lots into a perpetual care fund. Mayor Deese asked if the lots were ready to be sold. Bivens Steele, Director of Public Works, recalled a discussion from the past regarding rules and/or policies regarding the selling of lots. He stated that, to his knowledge, this is the hold up. Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan expressed her objection to restricting the number of lots that can be purchased by someone. Mayor Deese asked the council if it wants staff to consider additional cemetery revenue. Council Member Rowell suggested budgeting for ten percent of the 225 available lots.

General Fund Revenues

Tonya Johnson, Town Clerk/Finance Officer, provided budget worksheets with revenue and expenditure projections for the General Fund and the Enterprise Fund. She reviewed the proposed General Fund revenues. Mayor Deese asked the manager where the town is regarding the garbage contract renewal. The manager stated that she has been tied up on the sewer issue and does not have that information available at this time. Mayor Deese asked the Parks & Recreation Director for an explanation of the recreation activity fees projection. Eddie Mitchell, Parks & Recreation Director, discussed various events planned for FY2016-17. A business luncheon is planned for May 25th at Kate Clyde's Catered Creations. Tickets for the event are on sale for \$10. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are thirty other events planned for which tickets will be sold to raise money for the Parks and Recreation department. Council Member Staton asked if the events will be cost efficient. Mr. Mitchell responded that he is working to keep costs down as much as possible.

Department 4100 – Governing Body

Council Member Rowell stated that the Beaver Lane Volunteer Fire Department is requesting an allocation of \$74,000. The fire department is trying to have three paid firefighters on duty. Council Member Rowell explained that Union County wants to create a pool of firefighters to assign to various departments. Council Member Rowell asked the council to consider appropriating \$30,000 to the Beaver Lane Volunteer Fire Department for FY2016-17. He added that the town has an obligation to provide fire service to its citizens. Discussion ensued regarding a fire fee and a fire tax. The town manager pointed out that the two are different. Mayor Deese asked if the fire tax is a flat tax. Town Manager Shubert replied that the fire tax is based upon property value. Council Member Staton asked how much money the fire department receives from Union County. Council Member Rowell stated that it receives the amount that the county collects from Marshville. Council Member Staton questioned if the fire department has approached the county to request more money. Mayor Deese suggested that the council increase the fire department appropriation.

Department 4200 – General Government

No significant changes were reported for FY2016-17.

Department 4500 – Community Development

Town Clerk/Finance Officer Johnson pointed out that changes in salaries and related personnel expenses are due to the repositioning of an employee. Freddie Rollins's salary/personnel costs were being allocated 50% to department 4500 and 50% to department 6200. It was determined that this employee performs some job functions specific to the Enterprise Fund. Therefore, Freddie Rollins's salary/personnel costs were reallocated as follows: 25% to department 4500, 25% to department 6200, 25% to department 8280 and 25% to department 8290.

Town Manager Shubert reviewed the N-Focus Planning and Design proposal and discussion ensued regarding how to move forward. Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan stated that the proposal is a lot to pay. She would like for the council to consider a Code Enforcement Officer and suggested that Marshville look into what other towns are doing. Town Manager Shubert commented that there are differences in code enforcement. She added that during his employment, Mr. Thifault was doing nuisance abatement. Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan suggested that, in addition to N-Focus Planning and Design, the town add a part-time Code Enforcement Officer. Mayor Deese asked Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan for clarification.

Department 5000 – Public Buildings

Town Clerk/Finance Officer Johnson pointed out that this department reflects no appropriation for capital outlay for FY2016-17.

Department 5100 – Police

Chief Matt Tarlton presented the police department budget. He provided an Education Incentive Program handout and explained that the purpose is to increase education and to retain good officers. Chief Tarlton pointed out that a new police car is included in the budget. He added that a patrol car has also been purchased in the current year's budget with leftover funds. Chief Tarlton reported that the body cameras have been beneficial and have reduced complaints. Council Member Rowell questioned how to accurately budget for incentive increases. Chief Tarlton stated that there is a four year minimum requirement to obtain Intermediate Certification. Discussion ensued regarding the amount of the proposed incentive increases. Town Manager Shubert asked for clarification. Chief Tarlton explained that the percentage will be added to the officer's base salary upon completion. Town Manager Shubert stated that a flat dollar amount seems to make the incentive more equal for everyone. Mayor Deese agreed. Chief Tarlton was asked to prepare a spreadsheet illustrating the incentive program with both a percentage increase and a dollar amount increase. Chief Tarlton pointed out that for FY2015-16, line item 10-5100-3350, Departmental Supplies, included weapons and ammunition that will be reimbursed by a grant. The proposed budget for FY2016-17 contains no grant funds.

Department 5600 – Streets & Highways

Director of Public Works, Bivens Steele, reviewed the proposed budget for Streets & Highways. He pointed out that the line item for Capital Outlay includes one half of the cost for a new lawn mower. The other half of the mower is being allocated to the Powell Bill department. Mayor Deese asked about the maintenance fee imposed by CSX for the railroad crossing. Bivens Steele explained that the fee has been part of the agreement since the crossing arms were installed.

Department 5700 – Powell Bill

Director of Public Works, Bivens Steele pointed out that the line item for Capital Outlay – Equipment includes one half of the cost for a new mower. The line item for Capital Outlay – Powell Bill Fund includes an allocation for Phase II of the Small Town Main Street project. Mayor Deese asked if the Small Town Main Street Committee will present Phase II to the council since it has not yet been authorized. Council Member Bivens asked if there is money to install curb siding along Elizabeth Avenue. Town Manager Shubert pointed out that Hambrick Street needs to be reworked. Council Member Rowell reported on hearing that the entrance to East Union Middle School may be relocated to Hambrick Street due to plans for the bypass.

Department 5800 – Sanitation

Director of Public Works, Bivens Steele, explained that the decrease in the proposed budget for the Sanitation department is due to the purchase of property during the current year. There is no expected capital outlay planned for FY2016-17. An appropriation of \$27,000 was made in FY2015-16 for a recycle center. Those funds were left in the proposed budget should the council decide to move forward with a recycle center. Mayor Deese asked if the council is still considering a recycle center. Council Member Rowell asked if the town implements a recycle center will it still have to pay Waste Connections for recycling. Mayor Deese also questioned paying \$24,500 for recycling in addition to \$27,000 for the implementation of a recycle center. Town Manager Shubert stated that she needs to talk with Waste Connections and other vendors. Discussion ensued. Mayor Deese pointed out that if the town wants to make money from recycling then why give the residents a recycle can. He stated that he is not opposed to a recycle center but urged council members to think it through.

Council Member Rowell referenced the contract for lawn services and discussed the proposed increases in services. It was emphasized that whichever company the town contracts with, it needs a current certificate of insurance. Mayor Deese suggested that other proposals for lawn services be obtained.

Department 6200 – Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Director, Eddie Mitchell, stated that the park doesn't have any equipment. He stated that he has been talking with sporting goods companies in an effort to obtain sponsorships. Mr. Mitchell commented that the athletic group in Marshville is not making a profit at this time. He stated that he has obtained contracts from the school for the use of facilities and is currently reviewing the document(s). Mayor Deese asked if the school wants the town to pay for the use of the facility as well as perform work at the school. Mr. Mitchell stated that it has come to his understanding that there have been a few problems.

Mr. Mitchell reported that Matt Starling has offered to re-seed the baseball fields at the Marshville Park. Mr. Starling has also agreed to provide counselors/chaperones for the camps. Mr. Mitchell stated that he hopes to see a revenue stream generated from activities at the park.

Council Member Staton questioned why there are no outdoor basketball goals at the park. Mr. Mitchell stated that he has been told there were only problems. Chief Tarlton suggested reaching out to Michael Jordan about sponsoring a basketball facility for Marshville. Town Manager Shubert commented that outdoor basketball courts do not always attract the right kind of problem. Council Member Staton emphasized that Marshville needs to provide something for the youth to do, not just an organized sport. She stated that people complain about kids playing ball in the street. Mr. Mitchell stated that two gymnasiums are being used. Mayor Deese stated that the town has recently purchased land at the park. He suggested the possibility of putting up four goals, both regular and kiddie goals.

Mr. Mitchell stated again that sponsors are being sought to offset or cover the costs of providing activities. Many families can't afford to pay for their child (ren) to participate. Mayor Deese stated he will do

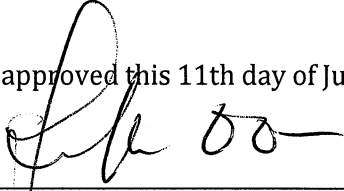
anything he can to help. Heated discussion ensued. Mayor Deese interjected and emphasized that everyone needs to maintain respect.

Council Member Bivens inquired about Bingo for seniors. Mr. Mitchell asked whether Bingo is legal.

Adjourn

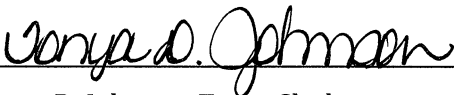
A motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Rowell. The motion was seconded by Council Member Staton. There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

These minutes approved this 11th day of July, 2016.

By: 

Franklin D. Deese, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tonya D. Johnson, Town Clerk

