



**TOWN OF MARSHVILLE**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 7 PM**  
**Marshville Town Hall**

**Regular Work Session**

**Present:** Mayor Franklin Deese; Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan; Council Members Margaret Bivens, Norma Carpenter, Ernestine Staton, and Gary Huntley

**Staff Present:** Scott Howard, Town Manager; Chief of Police Matt Tarlton; Bobby Griffin, Town Attorney; Ann Sutton, Town Clerk; Emily McCallum, Parks & Recreation Director

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

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by Mayor Franklin Deese. The Invocation was given by Council Member Carpenter. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by everyone.

**Public Comment:**

Elaine Mennigke, 1114 Forest Drive, discussed the trash on Forest Drive and Old Peachland Road by the cemetery.

Mayor Deese explained that the town would need to check to see if those roads are owned by the town or if they are NCDOT roads. Mayor Deese then thanked Ms. Mennigke for bringing this matter to the Council's attention.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

Mayor Deese asked if there were any additional items the Council would like to add to the agenda. Council Member Staton made a motion to add a discussion on the park to the agenda, Council Member Bivens seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes. Mayor Deese then stated that he needs to add a closed session to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Morgan made the motion, Council Member Staton seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes. Mayor Deese then requested a motion to adopt the agenda with the two additions. Council Member Carpenter made a motion, Council Member Huntley seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes unanimously.

**Discussion of Marshville Museum using the LED sign for Event Notifications:**

The Council agreed to keep the policy as is. Mayor Deese asked Manager Howard if he would contact Monroe about their sign policy.

**Discussion on Stipend Increase – Council:**

Manager Howard explained what the current stipend is, what the recommended stipend for towns the size of Marshville.

Council Member Staton stated that the town needs to do something because people are not running for office and thinks the increase is necessary.

Mayor Deese replied that he does not believe the Council is doing this for the money, but some appreciation should be shown for the work that is being done.

Council Member Bivens stated she cares more about getting better sidewalks and curbs.

Council Member Staton explained that we need qualified people on the Council and need to prepare for the future.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked Manager Howard what is the average tax per house in town.

Manager Howard estimated the average house is \$83,000 and that the town gets most operating income from sales tax redistribution and that the ad valorem taxes would not keep the town operating for long.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan suggested that finding a mean amount.

Council Member Carpenter stated she does not want an increase.

Council Member Huntley agreed to leave the salary as is.

Mayor Deese stated the consensus is to leave the stipend as is.

**Discussion on Employee COLA & Merit Potential:**

Manager Howard explained that the town has not had a cost of living adjustment (COLA) and that the town is 3.9% behind and proposed a 1.6 increase and a potential merit increase for a total of 3% increase. Manager Howard stated, in his opinion, it would be cheaper in the long run to do cost of living adjustments and merit increases. Manager Howard also stated that the town lost to female Police Officers due to the town not giving COLA raises and that was 20% of the diversity lost. Manager Howard explained there is a lot of turnovers due to pay.

Mayor Deese stated that he thinks that the town needs to evaluate employees every year and consider COLA and merit every year. He also stated to put COLA and merit in the budget and see what happens.

**Discussion on Planning, Zoning, Code Enforcement Officer, & Permit Technician:**

Manager Howard proposed to send Administer Assistant Garrison to classes at UNC Chapel Hill and get him trained for Planning & Zoning since he works and helps the Planning & Zoning Administrator and takes the minutes for the Planning Board. Manager Howard stated that it would take time for the classes and training it would not affect the budget.

Mayor Deese expressed him staying with the town if he receives the training from these classes.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan suggested a contract and take a chance. She also stated that if the town expects to grow then we will need someone in house instead of outsourcing for one day a week.

Mayor Deese stated that we can't do anything right now but outsource, but we can always put money in the budget for training in the future.

Council Member Staton explained that the town needs to figure out a better way to use his time.

Manager Howard cautioned that towns get sued over planning & zoning issues more than other issues and to not go changing policies or having extra meetings regarding planning & zoning.

Mayor Deese suggested putting the planning & zoning administrator's availability on the LED sign.

Susan Drake explained that Planning & Zoning is always evolving and changing and that with the expected growth of the town, it is expected that the do will need an in house planning & zoning administrator in five years.

Mayor Deese agreed that the town needs to stay put with outsourcing that current planner for now.

**Discussion on the Park:**

Council Member Staton explained about a hole in the ground near the dumpster, and there is no caution sign or tape around it and there needs to be some sort of warning that the hole is there.

Parks & Recreation Director McCallum stated that she was going to have some landscaping work done at the park and stated that she would have the hole filled with gravel in the morning.

**Manager's Report:**

Manager Howard explained that everything is still on track with the utility transfer to Union County despite the County getting a new County Manager.

**Council Member Comments:**

Council Member Huntley stated that he enjoyed the egg hunt and that he is looking forward to the Music at the Park and hopes everyone stays safe.

Council Member Staton stated that she is glad that the town is having Music at the Park and hopes a lot of people show up. She also stated that the track program went well and a majority of the kids are from Marshville in the town limits, and they all had a good time.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan did not have any comments.

Council Member Bivens asked how we can motivate people to keep yards clean and asked if the town is tornado and hurricane ready?

Mayor Deese said that the County has a training program for 1<sup>st</sup> Responders.

Council Member Carpenter said that the town is doing a good job keeping up the cemetery. She also asked if the Halfway House on Main Street was vacant and that the roof has a tarp over it. Chief Tarlton said there are still people there.

Council Member Carpenter then wished everyone a blessed Easter.

**Closed Session:**

Mayor Deese requested a motion to go into closed session. Council Member Huntley made motion and Council Member Carpenter seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes unanimously. The Council entered closed session at 8:10 pm.

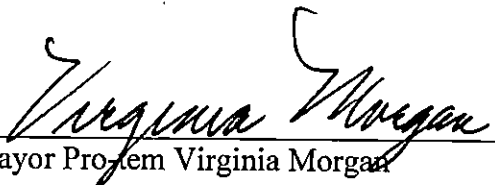
**§ 143-318.11.6 Closed sessions.**

(6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.

No action was taken. Council came out of closed session.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Deese requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Staton made motion, Council Member Carpenter seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

  
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Mayor Pro Tem Virginia Morgan

ATTEST

  
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Attest Ann Sutton, Town Clerk