



Town of Marshville Town Council Meeting

Monday, May 22, 2017, 7:00 PM
Marshville Town Hall

Special Meeting Minutes

Present: Mayor Frank Deese; Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan; Council Members Margaret Bivens, Norma Carpenter and Ernestine Staton. Council Member Rowell was absent due to illness. A quorum was present.

Staff: Scott Howard, Interim Town Manager; Tonya Johnson, Town Clerk/Finance Officer; Matt Tarlton, Police Chief

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Mayor Deese. The invocation was given by Council Member Bivens. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by everyone.

Adoption of Agenda for the Meeting

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

Discussion/Action Regarding Fiscal Year 2017/2018 Budget

Mayor Deese stated that he dropped off some suggested budget revisions in an effort to reduce the proposed budget, and asked the manager and the finance officer to review the suggested changes to determine whether they can be implemented. Discussion ensued.

Department 4100 – Governing Body

Mayor Deese pointed out that line item 10-4100-8100 was reduced to zero. The mayor explained that if this council opts to go with Waste Pro as the solid waste provider, they will provide \$7,000 to \$10,000 in sponsorships to the town. Mayor Deese reminded the council that it will have to decide on a solid waste contractor.

Council Member Staton pointed out that the council only receives compensation for two additional meetings per month. She inquired if this is the case even if the council has more than two extra meetings per month. The finance officer clarified that compensation is only for two additional meetings per month, as previously adopted during the budget process. Discussion ensued. Staff was directed to include a discussion of council member pay on the June 5, 2017 meeting agenda.

Council Member Carpenter questioned if the council elected to increase the Beaver Lane Fire Department allocation for only one year. Mayor Deese recalled that the increase was to fund a position, however, the town cannot afford to give the fire department \$37,000 each year. Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan commented that the minutes from last year do not specify that \$37,000 would be given each year.

Department 4500 – Community Development

Mayor Deese explained that line item 10-4500-0100 was increased for Planning Board member compensation. The increase is from \$25 per meeting to \$50 per meeting. Mayor Deese stated that this only seems fair since the stipend for the council members is increasing. It was also pointed out that line item 10-4500-2610 was reduced from \$5,000 to \$4,000.

Department 5600 – Streets and Highways

Council Member Bivens commented that the town needs curb siding along Carelock Drive and Elizabeth Avenue, as well as near Autumn Care. Mayor Deese stated that the council needs to pull out the Pedestrian Plan and review it because priorities may have changed over time.

Council Member Bivens questioned line item 10-5600-4500 (Contracted Services) regarding a CSX agreement. The finance officer explained that the town pays an annual lease agreement for the crossing at Elizabeth Avenue.

Department 5700 – Powell Bill

Discussion ensued regarding a \$12,500 appropriation in line item 10-5700-3330 (Signage). It was determined that this amount was entered in the wrong department.

On the topic of signs, Mayor Deese commented the he is not opposed to leaving funds in the budget for an LED sign at Town Hall as a means of providing information to the public. The manager stated that he has done some research and American made signs are better than foreign made signs. He informed the council that a demonstration is scheduled for next Tuesday. The manager reported that the sign quotes range from \$25,000 - \$35,000, to \$35,000 - \$45,000. Mayor Deese told members of the council if they are serious about a digital sign then funds need to be appropriated. Discussion ensued. Staff was directed to allocate \$27,000 to line item 10-4500-7300 (Capital Outlay – Other) for a sign.

Department 5800 – Sanitation

Mayor Deese stated that the solid waste contract must be discussed. The two vendors which provided bids are Waste Connections and Waste Pro. Mayor Deese referenced a solid waste cost spreadsheet in council's agenda packets. He pointed out that Waste Connections is the low bidder by approximately \$15,000. Mayor Deese recommended Waste Pro, pointing out that Waste Pro will aid the town in getting its own garbage and recycle cans. Mayor Deese explained the future benefit of better negotiating power since the town already owns its cans. It is a way of branding the town. Mayor Deese reported that Waste Pro will assist with the purchase of cans at cost (\$45.25 plus \$.25 for hot stamp). The cans have a ten to fifteen year warranty. Also, the town will not have to pay interest.

Mayor Deese stated that a five year contract, instead of a three year contract, might reduce Waste Pro's price from \$10.75 to \$9.60. Council Member Staton commented that the cans will be publicity for the town and that Waste Pro's contributions to the town will offset the increased costs. Council Member Staton stated that this council needs to be visionaries for the town. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan asked how broken cans are handled with the current solid waste provider. The manager stated that Waste Connections provides replacement cans. Chief Tarlton asked about the possibility of the town development and implementing a policy which states that the property owner will be provided the first can, however, replacement cans will be at the owner's expense.

Mayor Deese stated that the solid waste contractor should pick up leaves since the town is paying the contractor to provide that service. Staff should not be doing leaf pickup.

Mayor Deese suggested putting the solid waste cart fees on the tax bill and leaving the solid waste base fee on the utility bill. Mayor Deese stated that a decision must be made regarding a solid waste contractor. Council Member Staton made a motion to approve Waste Pro as the solid waste provider. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan. Council Member Bivens asked if the cost for service will increase. Mayor Deese responded that the cost will increase. Discussion ensued. The motion carried with a 3 to 1 vote (Council Member Carpenter opposed).

Department 6200 – Parks and Recreation

Discussion ensued concerning whether the town can save money on contracted services if staff mows. The finance officer commented that the line item for contracted services may go down, however, personnel and related expenses may increase as a result.

Department 8280 – Water Operations

The line item for departmental supplies, 30-8280-3350, was reduced.

Department 8290 – Sewer Operations

The line item for departmental supplies, 30-8290-3350 was reduced. Also, a sewer camera was removed from line item 30-8290-7400 (Capital Outlay – Equipment).

Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan raised another question concerning the fire department. She asked if staff knows how much money the fire department receives from Union County. Chief Tarlton commented that the additional funding requested last year was to pay for a third person, EMT certified, to work on the night shift. Discussion ensued. Council Member Staton asked if the fire chief could be invited to the June 5, 2017 meeting so the council can ask questions and obtain information. The manager informed the council that the fire chief has already requested to be on the June meeting agenda.

Mayor Deese stated that rates need to be discussed. He stated that this council is considering reducing the utility bills by removing the \$9.30 monthly Union County sewer increase. Mayor Deese asked the finance officer to print a copy of his utility bill for illustration purposes. Mayor Deese pointed out that if the \$9.30 is removed, his monthly bill is reduced from \$77.30 to \$68.00. Mayor Deese feels that the citizens will appreciate this. A motion to remove the \$9.30 Union County sewer increase charge from the proposed FY2017-18 fee schedule was made by Council Member Carpenter. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens and passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Deese stated that this council needs to make a decision concerning putting the solid waste cart fees on the tax bill. Council Member Carpenter asked how apartment complexes will be handled. She commented that it appears to make more work for staff. Chief Tarlton suggested that the town's garbage ordinance be amended to require apartment complexes to have a dumpster.

The manager stated that if the solid waste base fee goes on the tax bill the rate will be the same rate for everyone. The cart rates will change based upon whether the owner has garbage and/or recycling, or based upon the number of carts. Mayor Deese stated that putting the solid waste base fee on the tax bill is not the option. Discussion ensued concerning how to make adjustments for changes in services.

Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan asked if the town has enough cash flow to pay the solid waste contractor each month if collections are not occurring each month. Discussion ensued. Chief Tarlton stated that the

town will be paying for approximately eighteen months of expenses for only twelve months of revenue. The lien process was discussed, which is the collection remedy for nonpayment. Finance Officer, Tonya Johnson, stated that currently the town performs monthly cutoffs for nonpayment. The customer must pay the bill in full, including the solid waste fees, in order to have services reconnected.

Council Member Staton expressed concern that insufficient notice has been given to the citizens. Mayor Deese reminded the council that a public hearing was conducted. Mayor Deese stated that he wants to remove the solid waste charges from the utility bill so that the bill is an accurate reflection of water and sewer. The finance officer was directed to communicate with the software vendor to determine if water, sewer and solid waste can be subtotaled on the monthly bill.

Mayor Deese commented that this council has worked through twelve budgets. He stated that this has been one of the most comprehensive budget reviews.

Adjourn

Mayor Pro-Tem Morgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Staton and passed unanimously.

This minutes approved this 5th day of June, 2017.

By: _____

Franklin D. Deese, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tonya D. Johnson, Town Clerk