
TOWN OF MARSHVILLE

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**Town Council Meeting
Marshville Town Hall
118 E. Union Street, Marshville, NC
Saturday, May 25th, 2019 - 9 AM**

Budget 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; Michael Garrison, Administrative Assistant; Chief of Police Matt Tarlton; Ann Sutton, Town Clerk

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:

The Meeting was called to order at 9 am by Mayor Franklin Deese. The Invocation was given by Council Member Huntley. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by everyone.

Public Comment:

Rusty Johnson of 115 Shady Lane informed the Council that he felt it was shady and sneaky that the Town Council were having the special budget work session and a special work session about changing the form of government on a holiday weekend when most people wouldn't be able to attend the meeting. Mr. Johnson went on to state that the current form of government is working fine. Mr. Johnson then stated that he was not happy about having to take time out of his weekend to come and hear what is said.

Mayor Deese stated that the decision to have this work session and the special meeting was not decided last minute but was decided in the first meeting of the month, and the meeting was publicized. Mayor Deese then explained that no matter what happens, there will be a public hearing about what is decided and the public will have the opportunity for the public to view and input.

Nancie Mandeville of 610 Olive Branch Road spoke next. Ms. Mandeville thanked everyone for attending the meeting then stated that her concern about the discussion of changing the form of government. Ms. Mandeville went on to state that researching data from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) shows that the Manager/Council form of government is the most popular form government utilized today and that 59% of cities & counties utilize this structure for its transparency & accountability, and that is what the town needs. Ms. Mandeville went on to state that she does not agree with a Council/Mayor form of government.

Mayor Deese thanked Ms. Mandeville for her comments and went on to explain that North Carolina is not a strong mayor state and that the mayor cannot hire and fire at will and that in a Council/Manager form of government the Council is responsible for hiring and firing applicants.

Margaret Bevington of 603 Olive Branch Road stated that she works at Food Lion mostly at nights and cannot attend the monthly meetings. The only way she hears about what is going on in the town is through a talk at the grocery store. She says she does not get mailers or any notifications about the goings-on in the community. She said she was not notified that people would be out measuring for the new utility line. She also informed that there is no sidewalk on Olive Branch Road for children to walk down & that it is not safe to walk down with truck flying through. Ms. Bevington also stated that her trash is not being picked up regularly.

Mayor Deese thanked those who spoke and explained that the town couldn't get easements to put a sidewalk down Olive Branch Road. Mayor Deese brought up the Pedestrian Plan and said that sidewalks could possibly be placed on Union Street.

Adoption of Agenda:

Mayor Deese asked if there was a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Bivens made motion and Council Member Staton seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Budget Discussion:

Manager Howard discussed a few changes to the budget. Manager Howard discussed the town calendar for the fiscal year. Next, the fee schedule was discussed. Manager Howard stated that the previous Parks & Recreation Director had suggested that the fees for renting the park shelter and the ballfield be lowered and rented for longer blocks.

The board discussed what the fee would be for non-residents to rent the park shelter or ballfield. It was decided that the rental price for the picnic shelter would be \$30 for residents & non-profits, \$50 for non-residents, \$50 for residents to rent the ballfield & \$75 for non-residents.

Mayor Deese warned that the town did not allow people to use the park for profit.

Council Member Staton suggested that a few more picnic tables should be set up in other areas of the park.

Chief Tarlton suggested to set up a few picnic tables across the street in an area with shade.

Mayor Deese wanted to discuss the penalty fees and stated that he did not have a problem with the \$10 late fee, but thought the \$50 delinquency fee was too much.

Manager Howard agreed that there only needs to be one late fee and mentioned that a lot of water meters have been broken and cannot be turned off.

Council Member Carpenter asked if citizens who tamper with their meter could be charged a tampering fee.

Mr. Garrison stated that it is illegal to charge meter tampering fees unless an individual is caught in the act.

Council Member Staton suggested that the meter tampering fees need to stay on the fee schedule in case someone is caught tampering with their meter.

Manager Howard discussed the reasoning behind the billing cycle.

Mayor Deese explained that the base fees are to upkeep the water pipes & infrastructure.

Manager Howard suggested that the town do away with the delinquency fee and have one late fee that has to be paid whether water is turned off or not.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan suggested a late fee of \$25.

Mayor Deese suggested changing the bill due date from the 10th of the month to the 15th.

Council Member Carpenter suggested that the 15th is a better date because many people get paid around the 15th.

Council Member Bivens asked about when the town's dropbox is checked.

Mayor Deese stated that if the payment is not in the dropbox on the 15th, then the customer owes the late fee.

Manager Howard expressed concern that changing the billing due date may confuse people.

Mayor Deese asked the Council Members to think about the proposed fee schedule and to come to the next meeting with alternatives in mind if they do not agree with the proposed changes.

The Council discussed utility bill adjustments. No changes to the policy were made.

Mayor Deese asked for a short recess at 10:37 am.

Session reconvened at 10:57 am.

The Council discussed donations to the non-profit program the Music Guild.

Manager Howard informed the Council that the previous Parks & Recreation director Emily McCallum had met with Dr. Cook on a previous occasion and informed that the cost to perform was going to be too big. Manager Howard also tried to get something in writing from Dr. Cook about what he has done that pertains to the children of Marshville.

Mayor Deese stated that the donation to the Fire Department would be put on hold until he can speak with the Fire Chief.

Manager Howard explained that the Centrolina Council of Governments (CCOG) contract is the same, but has gone up 2%. Manager Howard explained that the code enforcement contract with Benchmark Planning is exactly the same.

Manager Howard went over the general fund and stated that the town does not look like it will be going over budget.

Mayor Deese announced that the Council would take a 30-minute lunch break at 12:15 pm and the meeting would reconvene at 12:45 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 12:45 pm.

Manager Howard proceeded to go over the enterprise fund. Manager Howard explained Budget vs. Actual.

Mayor Deese asked if there were any questions about the projected revenue that is expected to come in for the upcoming fiscal year. There were no questions from the other Council Members.

Mayor Deese asked about what other property the town is leasing other than the ABC Store.

Manager Howard explained about lease the water tower for the AT&T antennas.

Mayor Deese explained that the hope is to take the money earned from the leases and to build a government center. Mayor Deese also asked if the ABC revenue could be made a separate line item to keep up with their progress.

The Council discussed community development and cost of living adjustments for new hires.

Mayor Deese asked if the Council saw the validity in fixing the Affordable Cleaners building. Council saw the validity in fixing it. Mayor Deese stated that the Tobacco Shop building needs to be fixed if the town expects to rent the building. Mayor Deese suggested to up the public buildings budget line item up to \$20,000.

Police budget was discussed. No concerns.

Powell Bill was discussed. No concerns.

Sanitation was discussed. Mayor Deese asked what year is the town in for the garbage contract. Manager Howard said that this is the town's second year, and have one year left in the contract.

Parks & Recreation was discussed. Mayor Deese asked if we really wanted to bite the bullet & add \$20,000 to fix the park buildings. Mayor Deese explained that the Council had asked Emily, the previous Parks & Recreation Director, to get a plan and once there was a plan in place, money would be there for the work from Capital Outlay – Another line item. Mayor Deese suggested moving the \$10,000 over should a plan come up.

The Council then discussed the Enterprise Fund.

Council Member Carpenter asked where would fines come from for the Anderson Project. Manager Howard explained that those dollars are budgeted and would need to pay it while the town still has water & sewer funds.

Mayor Deese explained that when Union County takes over the water & sewer, the County is taking on the liabilities.


Sewer expenses were discussed next. Manager Howard explained that costs from Anson County went up due to Hurricanes & heavy rainfall and will hopefully not be so high this year.

Mayor Deese explained that there would be tentative changes for the first meeting on June 6th. Mayor Deese went on to explain that you are not tied to this budget, and if the Council agrees, we can move to the Public Hearing and ask for public input. The Public Hearing is scheduled for June 17th. That will be the last opportunity to make any changes to the budget before it is voted on.

Mayor Deese asked if there were any comments from the Council. Council Member Bivens brought up about why the budget retreat was chosen for this weekend. Mayor Deese reiterated that this was not done to be underhanded and there was no intent to hide anything and that he does not condone underhandedness. Mayor Deese went on to explain that this meeting was planned and announced at the previous meeting.

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Bivens made a motion. Council Member Staton seconded. Motion passed Unanimously.

Approved this 5th day of August, 2019.



Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan

ATTEST



Ann Sutton, Town Clerk