
TOWN OF MARSHVILLE

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**Town Council Meeting
Marshville Town Hall
118 E. Union Street, Marshville, NC
Saturday, May 25th, 2019 2:47 PM**

Special Meeting

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:

The Meeting was called to order at 2:47 pm by Mayor Franklin Deese.

Adoption of Agenda:

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Staton made a motion. Council Member Bivens seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Changing Form of Government:

Mayor Deese explained that the purpose of this special meeting was to change the town form of government from the Manager/Council form of government to Mayor/Council, or Administrative form of government. Mayor Deese explained that the difference is that responsibility is placed on the Town Council and decides the administrative duties that the Town Manager would have.

Mayor Deese explained that the town used to be run as an Administrative form of government, but was changed when it was discovered that past Council Members were overstepping their boundaries and doing things such as trying to micromanage the police. Since switching to the Manager form of government, the town has gone through seven different Town Managers. Mayor Deese discussed the decisions made under previous town manager got the town in the current lawsuit, and employee turnover has been high. Mayor Deese says this is in no way a reflection of the job Manager Howard is doing. Mayor Deese went on to say he wonders what form of government other towns the size of Marshville and with a budget like Marshville has.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan recommended getting a committee together to determine what duties the manager would need to perform. Mayor Deese agreed.

Mayor Deese explained that North Carolina is a weak Mayor state and that the Mayor does not get to vote on anything unless there is a tie.

Council Member Bivens stated that she does not think there needs to be a committee to do what the council needs to do.

Mayor Deese explained that Thomas Radford was the manager when the town switched to the Manager form of government.

Council Member Bivens explained she feels the town needs to go with an Administrative form of government.

Council Member Staton feels until the town gets larger, she wants an Administrative form of government & goes on to explain that with such a small town size we deserve to know the answer to the goings-on in the town.

Council Member Carpenter stated that under the previous Administrative form of government the town made national news. Council Member Carpenter went on to explain that the Council cannot do damage with a Manager form of government like the previous Administrative form caused.

Mayor Deese reminded that it takes at three-vote majority to pass or not to pass the resolution and there still needs to be a public hearing and that this is not a meeting to change the current form of government. This is just a meeting to discuss the idea of changing the form of government.

Council Member Staton reminded everyone that she was appointed by the people. If the town wants a Manager/Council form of government, she would agree with them. But that her recommendation is to have an Administrative form of government.

Council Member Huntley stated that he is here to serve the town & whatever the town says is fine with him. He is here to serve the people.

Mayor Deese again explained that this is only a discussion and that in order to change the form of government you first have to have a resolution, vote on a resolution, hold a public hearing, after the public hearing then you can vote to make a change or go to the Legislature and ask for a local act.

Council Member Bivens stated that people already know that they are having the hearing to change the form of government.

Mayor Deese reiterated that there is an open meeting and for everyone to hear.

Mayor Deese then asked the Council if they wanted him to prepare the resolution and move on to hold a public hearing.

Council Member Staton voted yes.

Council Member Bivens voted yes.

Council Member Huntley voted yes.

Council Member Carpenter voted no.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan said it is a consensus.

Mayor Deese stated that he would prepare a resolution.

Mayor Deese then asked if there any public comments. No comments.

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to go into closed session as permitted by NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) for discussion of personnel. Council Member Staton made a motion. Council Member Bivens seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Council moved into closed session.

Mayor Deese did not have information to cause a closed session to continue.

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to return to open session. Council Member Staton made a motion. Council Member Huntley seconded. Motion Passed unanimously. Council returned to open session.

Mayor Deese asked for a motion to Adjourn. The motion was made and passed unanimously. Special Meeting adjourned.

This 5th day of August, 2019.

Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan

ATTEST



Ann Sutton, Town Clerk