



## **Town of Marshville Town Council Regular Meeting**

**Monday, May 4, 2020 7:00 PM**

**Marshville Town Hall, 118 East Union St., Marshville, NC 28103**

### **Regular Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan, Council Members Ernestine Staton, Margaret Bivens, Paulette Blakeney, and Gary Huntley

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Franklin Deese, Town Clerk Ann Sutton, Police Chief Matt Tarlton, and Town Attorney Bobby Griffin by phone

**Call to Order:** by Mayor Larry Smith.

**Invocation Given:** by Gary Huntley.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** given by all.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** A motion was made by Council Member Staton to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Morgan. All agreed.

**Consent Agenda Approval:** Motion to approve the consent agenda without Budget Amendments was made by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Council Member Gary Huntley. All agreed.

**First Draft of Proposed 2020-2021 Budget:** Town Manager Franklin Deese presented the first draft of the 2020-2021 Town Budget. Highlights of the presentation are:

1. Some departments will have increases, but Town Manager Deese will continue to talk with department heads to see where reductions can be made.
2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is not expected that revenues will increase.
3. Town Manager Deese spoke of the water tower lease buyout. This is still in negotiations.
4. Sales and Use Taxes are expected to be down due to the pandemic.
5. The ABC Store distribution will not take place this year. That will take place once the store loan is paid.
6. Town Manager Deese would like to increase the cost of cemetery lots for people outside the town limits.
7. Most department changes include an increase in training, education, and travel.
8. The Governing Body has a small increase in the yearly stipend.
9. Department Supplies in the Governing Body increased to include new technology.
10. Town Manager Deese asked the Council to consider a decrease in the donation to the Beaver Lane VFD.
11. James Recreation Camp was discussed. They have been paid this year, and no camp happened due to COVID-19. Town Manager Deese will request the money back.
12. There has been discussion on purchasing a real Christmas tree to be a central focal point for years to come.

13. Money has been added to Community Development as seed money re-establish a Small Town Main Street presence.
14. The Police Department has requested another radar sign.
15. The Town Manager would like to be prepared for a possible Clean Fuel Technology Grant. The grant would require a match
16. The Parks and Recreation Department will begin mowing the ball fields. That will save money.
17. No employees will receive COLA increases or merit increases at this point.
18. We will not renew our Code Enforcement contract with Benchmark. That will be brought in-house.
19. The town will continue to use CCOG for Planning Administrator services.
20. Park Master Plan to continue into 2020-2021.

Town Manager Deese asked that all would review the draft budget and ask questions.

**Manager's Report:** The Council needs to be thinking about how we want to re-open Town Hall once the Governor decides to move out of a State of Emergency. Town Manager Deese updated Council on how the Union County new water/sewer rate increase would have affected the Town of Marshville if Union County had taken our system. The first increase would not have affected the town. The second increase would affect the town rates and bills since the county uses a tier rate structure. Council Member Staton asked Town Manager Deese for an update for the public on the transition of water/sewer to Union County. Town Manager Deese reminded Council that a decision would need to be made soon on the water/sewer transition to the county.

**Council Members' Comments:**

Council Member Bivens had no comments.

Council Member Blakeney asked all to stay safe.

Council Member Huntley asked all to stay safe.

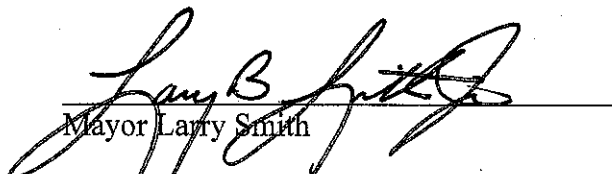
Council Member Staton said that most of the town was looking very nice. There is a curb on Elizabeth Avenue that is broken up. She is concerned that if it rains really hard, the water cannot drain, and some areas may flood. Town Manager Deese has spoken to NCDOT, but there has not been a response. Council Member Staton also asked about the ABC Store use of the Town Sign. This should be discussed again.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan had no comments.

Mayor Larry Smith was sorry for the billing issues and commended the staff for working to help the customers and get it straightened out. He reminded the Council that the Town Manager is past due for his six-month evaluation.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Council Member Bivens to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Staton seconded this. All agreed. 9:50 pm

Approved this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2020.

  
Mayor Larry Smith

ATTEST

  
Town Clerk, Ann Sutton