
TOWN OF MARSHVILLE

est. 1877

Town Council Meeting
118 E. Union Street, Marshville, NC
Monday, June 17th, 2019 7:00 PM

Special Meeting

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

Absent: Mayor Franklin Deese

Staff Present: Scott Howard, Town Manager; Michael Garrison, Administrative Assistant; Chief of Police Matt Tarlton; Ann Sutton, Town Clerk

Public Hearing:

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Council Member Staton made motion, Council Member Huntly seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Simpson, 6911 Austin Grove Church Rd, stated that she attended the June 3rd, 2019 meeting & was appalled by the disrespect & rudeness Dr. Cook directed at Manager Howard for doing the job that the Council Members directed him to do and appreciates the job Manager Howard has done and his composure with Dr. Cook. Ms. Simpson went on to say that being a teacher herself, she questioned what the treatment of Marshville's children would be under Dr. Cook's direction after how he acted. Ms. Simpson went on to state that she noticed that Dr. Cook did not provide a financial statement of where the \$3,000 was spent last and that he apparently was not asked to provide a financial statement by the Council. She also stated that she did not recognize any of the children in the video that Dr. Cook showed and would have rather have seen a financial statement instead. Ms. Simpson said she emailed and spoke with several teachers, principals & school band leaders if they participated with Dr. Cook. Ms. Simpson reported that several responded and said that it seemed like a money-making scheme & that Dr. Cook was very pushy & unprofessional. Ms. Simpson informed that students also did not receive actual book bags full of supplies like Dr. Cook claimed, but instead little drawstring bags. Ms. Simpson ended by requesting that the Town Council remove Dr. Cook's request and instead give the \$3,000 elsewhere.

Tracy Stancil, 6820 Austin Grove Church Rd, also did not appreciate how Dr. Cook acted & appreciated the job Manager Howard has been doing for the town. Ms. Stancil stated that she did not know exactly what JKC does and that she does not agree with the town giving them \$4,000 & should just stick to the \$3,000 that the town gave them last year.

Glenn Shelton, 317 W. Mani Street, stated that the town has lost a lot of quality employees and that instead of donating the \$7,000, the town should be using that money to help fill positions with the town.

Roger Braswell, 520 S. Elm Street, stated that it is not up to the Town Council where to donate the tax payer's money and that it should be up to the individual where their money should go. Mr. Braswell stated that if the Council has money left over, then the town Police and other town employees more or lower taxes. Mr. Braswell's second concern was the failed Anderson Project. Mr. Braswell added that folks in Marshville do not need to pay added taxes for bad decisions made by the Town Council. Mr. Braswell ended by saying that the job of this Council is to manage the business affairs of this town and not to give our money to charity & that any donation requests be struck from the budget.

Nancie Mandeville, 610 Olive Branch Rd, stated that the town has spent time coming up with guidelines about how to handle donation requests and that the town has not followed these guidelines with the last two requests. Ms. Mandeville stated that since the guidelines were not followed, for the Council to strike the donation requests from the budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked if anyone else wished to speak then asked for a motion to close the public hearing. Council Member Staton made a motion, Council Member Carpenter seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan called the Meeting to order. Council Member Huntley gave the opening prayer. Everyone stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan opened the floor for public comments.

Tracy Stancil, 6820 Austin Grove Church Rd, stated that the Town Council just approved the minutes from October 2018 and that the town should not be behind like that. Next, Ms. Stancil said that something needs to be done about basketball goals on the side of the road on Van Eudy Road. Ms. Stancil also reminded the Council that Mayor Deese promised to pay for two track signs.

Council Member Bivens agreed that something needs to be done about the basketball goals in the street.

Approval of the Agenda:

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked if anyone else in the public wished to speak and if any Council Members wished to add anything to the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Morgan then requested a motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Carpenter made a motion, Council Member Huntley seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Voluntary Annexation Request:

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan discussed the property of 1011 Hasty Road (Tax Parcel #02303038). Council Member Carpenter explained the distinction between Hasty Street & Hasty Road. Manager Howard explained that we have the legal description & tax parcel number, the annexation has been advertised for two weeks, and there is no opposition. Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked if there was a motion to approve the voluntary annexation. Council Member Carpenter made a motion. Council Member Huntley seconded. All Ayes. Motioned passed unanimously.

Budget Discussion:

Manager Howard explained the changes in the fee schedule and that when the Council Members are finished with their budget notebooks, to please return them to Town Hall.

Council Member Staton discussed the track program donation. Council Member Staton explained that 40 plus children in the program are from Marshville and were given cleats & t-shirts and that the town received a financial statement on how the money was spent last year and sees the program growing. Council Member stated that Dr. Cook did not present himself well & that the town cannot give money to organizations that don't serve a majority of the town's children.

Council Member Huntley stated that the town needs to first verify what Dr. Cook intends to do with the tax payer money.

Council Member Carpenter said she does not feel the town should give Dr. Cook the money & that since the track lady verified where the money was spent and that the children benefitted from the program.

Council Member Bivens stated that she was not impressed with Dr. Cook and that the town needs to be mindful with how the taxpayer's money is spent. Council Member Bivens went on to state that she has a problem with non-profits & that she felt that the number of African-American students that Dr. Cook showed in the video was a ploy to get her vote for the donation. She also agreed Dr. Cook should not have attacked Manager Howard.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked the Council for a motion to remove the Artist Music Guild's donation request of \$3,000 from the budget. Council Member Bivens made a motion. Council Member Carpenter seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan stated that the citizens stated that the Council should reduce the track donation request by \$1,000 and asked for a discussion on that & for a motion.

Council Members Huntley, Staton & Carpenter agreed that the amount should stay at \$4,000.

Scott Byrum, from the public, cautioned that the Council is setting up a troublesome precedent and that more non-profits will be coming wanting money.

Council Member Bivens agreed with Mr. Byrum.

Council Member Staton stated that a lot of the programs are contracted out.

Ms. Stancil asked if the town has \$4,000 to give away then why not use it to hire someone to help out with town business.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked who was in favor of donating the money to the track team.

Council Members Staton & Huntley voted YES.

Council Members Bivens & Carpenter voted NO.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan explained that students need something more than just football & basketball & voted YES.

Manager Comments:

Manager Howard had been asked to give an update on the Small Town Main Street project and that he had received a letter from the president that the project had dissolved & is in inactive status. Manager Howard explained that there is one façade grant that needs to be voted on. Manager Howard went on to explain that the project can be restarted, but it would require the small business owner to get involved and form the committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked for a motion to approve the budget with changes. Council Member Bivens made a motion, Council Member Staton seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes unanimously.

Council Member Comments:

Council Member Bivens had no comments.

Council Member Carpenter said someone called her and said the town's tennis courts are in bad condition.

Council Member Staton suggested offering more programs to get funding to get courts up to date.

Council Member Carpenter also said citizens are complaining about loud trucks.

Council Member Huntley thanked everyone for coming & for their opinions, and that we may not all agree on everything, but as long as we have respect for one another, there will be peace.


Council Member Staton thanked the Board for being civil. She also stated that Mayor Deese is working on getting the track signs. She also had a complaint that the copy of the County Dog Ordinance was too dark and hard to read.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan discussed an artist residents program to work with the town & schools.


Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Bivens made a motion, Council Member Staton seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Approved this 5th day of August, 2019


Virginia Morgan, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk