



Town of Marshville Town Council Work Session

Monday, May 18, 2020 7:00 PM

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

Work Session Minutes (Zoom Meeting)

Attending: Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan, Council Member Ernestine Staton, Council Member Margaret Bivens, Council Member Paulette Blakeney, Council Member Gary Huntley

Staff Present: Town Manager Franklin Deese and Town Clerk Ann Sutton

Call to Order by Mayor Larry Smith at 7 pm; Invocation was given by Council Member Huntley; the Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Public Comments:

Diane Amundsen of 1018 Hasty Road wondered when the replacement of Betty Preslar, Finance Assistant would take place. She was concerned about the status of the house at the intersection of Olive Branch and Union Street. Mrs. Amundsen wanted to know when the property would be cleaned up. Mrs. Amundsen was concerned about road racing at both ends of Hasty Road. Ms. Amundsen wanted a follow-up on the crumbling pavement on South Elm Street. She asked for the status of the town owned properties that are not being used. And, Mrs. Amundsen asked about the progress of the electric car charging station.

Erin Moore of 711 Olive Branch Road asked for an update on the water/sewer transfer to Union County. She also asked whose decision it was to stop reading meters.

Adoption of the Agenda: A motion was made to adopt the agenda by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Council Member Huntley. All said aye.

Budget Discussions: Town Manager Franklin Deese gave a presentation on the draft 2020-2021 Town of Marshville Budget. Both General Fund and Enterprise Fund were presented. Town Manager Deese pointed out the additional revenue of the Vehicle Conversion Grant, which will be \$25,622. This will be offset by an expense in the Police Department. The grant will be for the conversion of four automobiles to propane gas. This is a matching grant. The Town Manager reduced the Advelorum Tax Revenue for property and motor vehicles to 92.5% because of the unknown amount of receipts due to COVID-19. The donation to the VFD was reduced from \$45,000 to \$25,000. The Cemetery Fees were increased from \$2,000 to \$4,000. He believes that would increase the costs to outside residents for a cemetery lot. The Town Manager would like to increase the stipend for board members' compensation. The mayor's compensation will increase to \$600 every three months. Council members will receive \$350 every three months for all meetings. This would equal \$11,100. Town Manager Deese would like to have a Public Hearing on June 1st. He requested the council give him their budget thoughts as soon as possible.

Council Member Staton wondered if the decrease in the donation to the VFD would eliminate a position at the fire department. Town Manager Deese will call the fire department to find out if a position would be eliminated by a decrease in funding. Mayor Pro-tem Morgan reminded all that the new fire tax would increase the funding going to the fire department.

Town Manager Deese pointed out the health insurance went up a bit. We need to take care of our employees. Town Manager Deese said we can't increase the employee pay right now, so benefits are essential. Town Manager is suggesting an increase in the stipend for the Planning Board and Board of Adjustments. This would be \$50 per meeting for the members and \$75 for the chairman. As requested, Town Manager Deese put money in the Police Department to purchase another electronic speed sign. The James Recreation Camp Donation was moved to Parks and Recreation.

Mayor Pro-tem asked about changing the signs at each end of the town on Hwy 74. Town Manager Deese would like to wait until we determine what we want Marshville to be, such as a theme for Marshville. Town Manager Deese asked if we could take the faded banners on the light poles down. All agreed.

Town Manager Deese discussed the Enterprise Fund. There is a revenue line item to show the Propane Conversion Grant. Also, there is a revenue line item to show the System Inventory Grant. The grant money will show as an expense in Sewer Operations along with a \$30,000 match for our part of the grant agreement. Anson County will increase the cost of water by 8%. This increase will not be passed along to the citizens. Since the town will not have to pay the Anderson Health penalties this year, that will take care of the increase in water and sewer costs. Anson County will increase sewer costs by 13%. Also, an additional \$150,000 has been added to the Enterprise Fund expenses for electronic meter readers, Ready Read Meters. Town Manager Deese gave a short discussion of the Budget Summary page.

Manager's Report: Town Manager Deese passed out information on the Inventory Grant. The Council will vote on the resolution to received the funds at the next meeting.

Town Manager presented the Mural Shop proposal for the Randy Travis mural. The cost will be \$8,000. A private organization will match \$4,000 for our \$4,000 for the mural. Our \$4,000 can be in kind. The owner of the building chosen for the mural, has agreed to give us an easement for 20 years. As for the vacant position, nothing has been posted for the Finance Assistant, yet. We have asked Union County to look at the house on the opposite corner to the Post Office to see if it meets minimum housing requirements. Until we know that it does, no water or sewer will be available to the house. The police will be told of the racing problems on Hasty Road. Town Manager Deese will report again to NCDOT the road problems on Elm Street. The publicly owned building repairs are at a standstill due to the virus.

Right now, the grant funds for the charging stations have been held up due to the virus. Concerning reading the meters during the virus, Town Manager Deese said he made that decision. It was for the health and safety of the employees and citizens. Town Manager Deese commented on Phase 1 COVID-19 meant. He had a listing of what was included in the Phase 1 orders from the governor. He will pass that on to the council. Town Manager Deese discussed the fact that employees are in the Town Hall at various times. When not in the office, employees are working from home receiving calls and addressing problems. If it is necessary for a citizen to come into the office, we make an appointment for them. We try to serve all the people of Marshville during this crisis.

Council Members' Comments:

Council Member Bivens said that she would like to keep the water and sewer system.

Council Member Blakeney wants all to remain safe.

Council Member Huntley reminded everyone of Memorial Day weekend. He would like all to be safe.

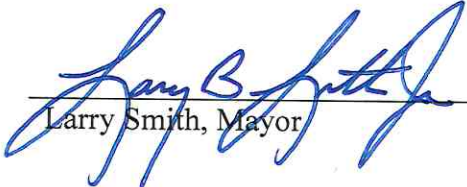
Council Member Staton wants to state on the agendas that "chat" will not be available during the Zoom meetings. She said that the park and trail is looking very good.

Mayor Pro-tem would like to thank Town Manager and staff for all the hard work they are doing. This was the best budget we have had in a long time.

Mayor Comments: The Mayor commented on the water/sewer agreement with Union County. The town has been granted another 120 days to make a decision on the transition. The town is trying to do the best it can to move this forward during this time. Concerning the Enquirer Journal article, Mayor Smith said that some of the information he gave to the journalist was written incorrectly in the newspaper article. The Enquirer Journal has since retracted that in one of the following newspapers. Mayor Smith will inform the council when he has spoken with any news person so the council will not be caught unaware. Mayor Smith wants to thank everyone for their hard work.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Council Member Blakeney to adjourn the meeting. This was seconded by Council Member Huntley. All ayes. 9 pm

Approved this 8 day of September 8, 2020.


Larry Smith, Mayor

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk