

**Town Council Meeting
Monday, July 15th, 2019 7:00 PM
Marshville Town Hall**

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

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance:

Mayor Deese called the Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Council Member Huntley gave the opening prayer. Everyone stood and gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Diane Amundson, 1018 Hasty Rd., discussed the Town LED sign. She stated that it is butting heads with the ABC Store sign that is on top of it. She also brought up the issue of Manager Howard leaving and asked what the time frame is for the replacement.

Mayor Deese stated that this issue will be discussed in a closed session as it is related to town personnel.

Ms. Amundson also stated that since the board is discussing the park and purchasing land, she would like a map of the area of the park that is being discussed.

Mayor Deese asked if the town has changed anything about the electric sign.

Ms. Amunderson stated that it looks like the town is only advertising for the ABC Store and not town events or town related information.

Susan Drake, Planning Board Chair, stated that the sign is out of compliance because of its size.

Mayor Deese explained that the sign has been there before the ordinance.

Ms. Drake thinks that because the town sign is sandwiched between the two ABC Store signs, that creates one big sign that is out of compliance. Ms. Drake then stated that the Planning Board would discuss this and come back with recommendations at a future meeting.

Adoption of Agenda:

Mayor Deese requested a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Staton made motion, Council Member Carpenter seconded. All Ayes, motion passes unanimously.

Presentation of the Marshville Bicycle/Pedestrian Study:

John Cock from Alta Planning & Design gave the powerpoint presentation. Mr. Cock explained that funding for this study came from CRTPO and started in the fall of 2018. Mr. Cock discussed the study that was done, the recommendations, and the results of the surveys that were done.

After the presentation, Mayor Deese thanked Mr. Cock and stated those are good recommendations and asked if there were any questions.

Council Members Bivens and Carpenter discussed the people that have been hit of 74 and the amount of foot traffic.

Discussion of Utilizing section of Park Land:

Manager Howard discussed a narrow strip of land at the park that is too narrow to develop and too put a sidewalk on. Manager Howard stated that a person who lives nearby has been mowing and maintaining that strip of land and needs a decision from the Council about selling this person the strip of land and if so the next step would be getting the strip of land surveyed and find out what it is worth.

Mayor Deese stated that the town can't just offer it to someone, that it would need to be put up for sale so that everyone would have a chance to buy it.

Manager Howard agreed and explained that the town would utilize the upset bid method to use to sell it.

Mayor Deese asked how much land it is.

Manager Howard said it looks about a 4-foot strip, but it's hard to tell.

Council Member Staton stated that she saw it for herself and that it's not a lot of land.

Mayor Deese said to survey the strip to find out how much land it is.

It is the general consensus to have the survey done.

Next, Manager Howard showed a diagram of a small plot of land with adult swings and more tables to possibly add.

Discussion on Land Near Park for Sale:

Mayor Deese discussed the land near the park that a realtor is offering to sell and asked the Council if they would think it would be a good idea to purchase the land.

Council Member Staton said that the Town owns a lot of land already that is not being utilized and questioned the idea of spending taxpayer money on more land.

Council Member Bivens stated she feels that the Town can't afford this anyway.

Mayor Deese stated that it is short-sided thinking and that we need to think in the long term.

Council Member Carpenter thinks that the price isn't bad.

Council Member Bivens asked again if the Town can afford it.

Mayor Deese suggested to at least talk with the realtor and Manager Howard said it will be put on the next agenda.

Manager's Report:

Manager Howard explained that he had been in touch with Union County about the service transfer with a target date of January 1st. As it gets closer to the target date, the town and county will start doing an ad campaign. The water-booster pump project is moving along well. Estimates on the Town owned Tobacco Shop would cost more to fix than the town would get back in rent. The house on E. Main Street is also in bad shape.

Mayor Deese asked how many water & sewer loans the Town had.

Manager Howard named the North West Sewer Basin and the Outfall Project.

Mayor Deese asked if Union County is aware of these loans. Manager Howard confirmed the County is aware.

Council Member's Comments:

Council Member Huntley said he would love to see the Town have a fireworks show for July 4th in the future. Mayor Deese agreed.

Council Member Carpenter stated that she would like to see the cleaners become an exercise/community center.

Council Member Staton stated that she agreed with the presentation that was given and thinks it would be a good idea to implement and thanked Manager Howard for the work being done at the park.

Mayor Pro Tem Morgan recommended reinstituting a park advisory committee.

Council Member Bivens stated that she is thankful for the bike/pedestrian study. She then thanked Manager Howard for all that he has done for the Town.

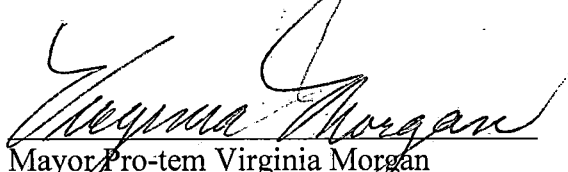
Mayor Comments:

Mayor Deese requested a motion to call a special closed session meeting be called for July 22nd to discuss personnel.

Adjournment:

Mayor Deese requested a motion to adjourn. Council Member Staton made motion, Council Member Huntley seconded. All Ayes. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Approved this 2nd day of December, 2019 by:



Mayor Pro-tem Virginia Morgan



Ann Sutton, Town Clerk