



Town of Marshville Town Council Regular Meeting

Monday, June 1, 2020 7:00 PM

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

Regular Meeting Minutes (Zoom Meeting)

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

Staff in Attendance: Town Manager Franklin Deese, Police Chief Matt Tarlton, Town Clerk Ann Sutton, Town Attorney Bobby Griffin by phone

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

Public Comments Received by Email:

Erin Moore of 711 Olive Branch Road I oppose taking funds from the budget to pay council members. I oppose decreasing the fire budget which would likely decrease the staff by one person. I ask that you do not vote yourselves a stipend increase. I would like to know when the Town of Marshville is going to fix the road from Post Office to Wendy's. That section is not NCDOT maintained but rather is Town of Marshville's responsibility. What is the status of the parkland purchase? I would also add I am against paying for mural at this time.

Although a good idea, it does not show good prioritization skills on the council or manager, when we have roads and water lines that are broken all the time. Mr. Deese might reach out to East Union Middle School or Forest Hills High School art teachers and ask them to collaborate on donating a mural. This would give art students something valuable to do at this time when we are all at home and allow a sense of ownership in our community.

Adoption of the Agenda: Council Member Staton wanted an update on the re-opening of Town. This discussion will become item 6a of the agenda. She also requested an update on the meter readings. This discussion will be item 6b. Council Member Staton made a motion to add these items to the agenda and to adopt the revised agenda. Council Member Bivens seconded. All said aye.

Adoption of Consent Agenda:

- a. Minutes - March 2, 2020, Regular Meeting
- b. Eddie Carrick Audit Contract

A motion was made by Council Member Staton to approve the Consent Agenda. This was seconded by Council Member Huntley. All said aye.

Presentation from Fire Chief of Beaver Lane VFD: The Fire Chief was not able to attend. No one from the Fire Department was able to attend in his place.

Discussions and Questions for 2020-2021 Proposed Budget:

Town Manager Deese entertained questions from the council. Mayor Smith reminded all that the Public Hearing for the 2020-2021 Budget will be Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at 7 pm. Then on Monday, June 15, 2020, there will be a special called meeting to approve the 2020-2021 Budget. Mayor Smith commented on the use of Fund Balance. He said we did not dip into our Fund Balance in 2019-2020. Fund Balance is used to balance the budget. It does not mean that we will use that money during the year. Mayor Smith commended the staff for a job well done.

Town Manager Deese will change some information in the budget. The grant opportunity that we had for the conversion of our gas vehicles to propane vehicles will not happen this year. So, those line items will change in the final budget. Town Manager Deese will go to Garner to see the propane program that Garner has. They were given the grant before NCDOT pulling the funding back. No budget questions were asked of the Manager.

Town Manager Deese asked that the public notify the Town Clerk if they have any questions of the 2020-2021 Town Budget. We will allow the public to talk during the Zoom meeting if there are any budget questions. Town Manager Deese said that most people could have an appointment within one to two days. Calls to the Town Hall almost always have their calls answered or we call the citizen back.

Council Member Staton wanted the Fire Chief or a representative to know how important it is for someone to attend the Public Hearing meeting.

Re-opening of the Town Hall: Town Manager Deese let council know the town is following the Governor's Phase 3 orders. We will not open until the governor says we can. What that will mean as far as the Town Hall doors opening for anyone will be determined then.

Meter Readings: Town Manager Deese hoped that we would have meters read in June. But, we will not be able to read meters again until July. The town has not read the water meters for two months. The last two-billings were for base fees only. Town Manager Deese would like to be able to offer a reconciliation of each citizens' bill. A reconciliation would help the citizens understand where the costs come from once we start reading meters again. We may have to extend our payment plans out to 9 months. The NC Governor says we need to give people at least 6 months to pay their bills, but for those who have paid nothing since February, we may have to help them a little more. Town Manager Deese will make sure the residents know that they have been charged for base utility fees only for the last two months. He will also tell them that they will have to pay for water usage eventually.

Manager's Report: Town Manager Deese will make a few changes in the schedule of fees for the town. We will give people a flash drive when they have requests for information. A bounced check will cost \$35 instead of \$25. A police report will be \$3 instead of \$2. The council did not want to put the cost burden of a broken or stolen cart on the citizens. We will increase the cart fee from \$.92 to \$1.92 to cover that cost. Cemetery plots to outside residents will increase to \$2,000. Parks and Recreation Department has changed some fees for park and ballfield rentals.

Council Members' Comments:

Council Member Bivens spoke of emergency management in the case of hurricanes. We need to have our ditches cleared out just in case of bad weather.

Council Member Blakeney asked that all continue to stay safe.

Council Member Huntley asked that the protest stay peaceful. He wants to see peace in the U.S.

Council Member Staton said the parks looks great. She spoke with Park Director Gosnell and he wants to stay with the Town of Marshville for a long time. Mark Gosnell is going to be good for the town. Council Member Staton went to a rally last weekend. People at the rally were talking about how bad police are. We are fortunate to have a great Police Department who will help us with any problem. She thanked Chief Tarlton.

Mayor Pro-tem Morgan complimented the Police Department. She said they were doing a good job.

Mayors Comments: Mayor Smith mentioned that Olive Branch Road is a NCDOT road and we cannot fix the potholes. He also said that the Randy Travis mural was a unique opportunity for the town and that we received a matching grant of \$4,000 to get it done.

Closed Session for Personnel per G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (6):

To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.

A motion was made by Council Member Staton to go into Closed Session for the purpose of Town Manager review. Mayor Pro-tem Morgon seconded the motion. All said aye.

Motion was made to return to Open Session.


Closed Session Discussion/Action: No action concerning the Closed Session discussions.

Adjournment: A motion was presented to close the meeting and seconded. All ayes. meeting adjourned. 8:45 pm

Minutes approved this 8th day of September, 2020.


Larry Smith, Mayor

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk