



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Work Session Minutes
October 17, 2022 7 PM
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103**

In Attendance: Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton, Council Members Gary Huntley, Paulette Blakeney, and Margaret Bivens. Council Member Monaca Marshall absent.

Staff in Attendance: Town Clerk Ann Sutton. Town Manager Franklin Deese out of town.

Work Session Minutes

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Pro-tem called the meeting to order. Council Member Huntley gave the invocation. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance. 7:00 pm

Public Comments: No public comments.

Adoption Agenda: A motion was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton to adopt the agenda. Council Member Bivens seconded this motion. All ayes.

Presentation from Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated: Several members of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and their auxiliary division met with Council. The purpose of the meeting was to let the Marshville community know that they are here to partnership with the town to help others excel. The Sorority has many focuses such as raising funds for scholarships and other community needs. "Zeta is a community-conscious, action-oriented organization dedicated to transforming the lives of others." Zeta will be happy to work with the town when needed. They are ready to serve and work.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked for examples of the Sorority's work in the county. They have worked with Marshville Elementary in the past. They are currently working with New Testament Adult Day Care every other month to provide relief for staff and family members. In addition, the Sorority works with the Crisis Assistant Ministry and the United Way Day of Caring.

Mayor Smith encouraged Zeta Phi Beta Sorority to reach out to LaKeysha Medlin, the town Community Coordinator. The Sorority was thanked upon their leaving.

Update on the PARTF Grant for the Lake Property: Park Director Allen Jackson gave a rendering of the plans for the lake property. Mayor Smith reminded all that we received a PARTF Grant in the amount of \$350,000.00 to purchase the Stegall Lake property. In addition, he said we have also received a \$500,000.00 matching PARTF Grant for developing a part of the property. Park Directory Allen mentioned that we had one of the highest-rated grant applications in the state. The \$500,000.00 will help pay for Phase 1 of the lake part development. The project

will include the east side of the lake. Money would be spent in the park and include utilities, shelters, restrooms, walking paths, a pier, and playground equipment. The PARTF contract was received last week and will be reviewed before signing. No work can be started before the contract is signed. Once signed, we will send out bids for construction, and then the work will begin.

Mayor Smith asked if the site was secured. Mr. Jackson said we put up a fence, and there are No Trespassing signs. Mayor Smith asked how the water level was at the lake. Mr. Jackson said that the water level was back to normal. Mayor Smith asked when the project may be complete. Park Director said that the project would be completed as soon as possible. Mr. Jackson has thoughts in progress and will have something in place before the property opens. Mayor Smith asked if the Parks and Recreation Committee was involved. Park Director Jackson said the committee meets the last Monday of every month and is very excited about the project. Mayor Smith asked about the pier and the stocking of the pond. Mr. Jackson expected to drain the lake to build the pier. Then the lake will be restocked once the water level is brought back up. Mayor Smith said that he will be meeting with the Marshville Rotary. The Rotary is anxious to help with the creation of the park.

Mayor Smith mentioned the Softball League. Park Director Jackson said there were four softball teams participating. The championship will start tomorrow (Tuesday) night.

Mayor Smith mentioned that many activities were happening in the park such as the upcoming Trunk or Treat and the Soccer League.

Mr. Jackson reminded all that we have basketball goals going up and the court would be paved. In addition, the park has extended its band stage.

Mayor Pro-tem told Park Director Jackson that she would like him to be more involved with the people that come to the park. He is the Park Director, and people need to know who he is.

Everyone thanked Park Director Jackson for bringing the updates to the park to the Council.

Mayor Smith asked Town Clerk Sutton about how the office was doing. Town Clerk Sutton said that we were missing several employees. The town is actively recruiting employees to replace the Accounts Payable clerk and the Utilities Assistant. She mentioned that being short handed has made it difficult sometimes to answer phone calls. However, the employees were doing their best to help all customers.

Mayor Smith asked about some of the high bills being reported. Town Clerk Sutton said she did not know enough about what had happened to give a qualified answer. However, on the computer glitch, it appears that some of the meters are not talking to the software. This is being worked on and hopefully corrected very shortly.

Town Clerk also let Council know that the town was down one police officer. So, we are looking for qualified candidates for the position.

Council Comments:

Mayor Pro-tem Staton mentioned that as Council Members, we are all expected to be in parades, and the Council is expected to be on time for events. She reminded Council to let staff know if they can attend an event. This way Council can plan if someone cannot be in attendance. Also, she wondered if the next time there is a property exchange, we should physically look at the properties involved before making a decision. Mayor Pro-tem is fine that the recent property exchange passed, but she would like to think about a review in the future.

Council Member Huntley said he would see everyone at the Trunk or Treat event.

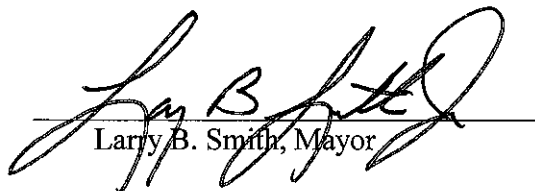
Council Member Blakeney said she was glad to see everyone.

Council Member Bivens had no comments.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Smith said it was nice to meet Mr. Huntley's family member as part of the Zeta Phi Sorority, Inc. Mayor Smith agreed that email, sometimes, is not the best form of communication in reference to being present at events. He mentioned the next Work Session would be on November 21, 2022.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Council Member Bivens to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Huntley seconded the motion. All ayes.

Approved this 5th day of December, 2022.


Larry B. Smith, Mayor

ATTEST


Ann Sutton, Town Clerk