



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Public Hearing
And Regular Meeting
June 05, 2023, 7 PM
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103**

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

Staff Attendance: Town Manager Franklin Deese and Town Clerk Ashlie Vincent

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Member Huntley gave the invocation. All shared the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing Minutes

Open Public Hearing: A motion to open the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Bivens—all ayes.

Public Comments

- Rusty Johnson-115 Shady Lane: Wants changes to the proposed budget access for the public. No full-time public works director. Is the town saving money by having the police chief double as public works director?
- Barbara Simpson-6911 Austin Grove Church Road: Resides in the ETJ and owns businesses and land in town limits. Proposed budgets online in the future; most community members can't be actively involved. Confusion on some increases like an 11.3% increase for added security and additional council community meetings. Explanation of what added security is needed and why. Previous meeting, \$20,000 for a consultant to review the 2035 plan. Why do we need to revisit this? Contracted services – a lot of money is being spent in those areas. 25k consultant for 15 acres for the park. Why not let the Parks and Rec director handle this and have the consultant focus on the lake property?

Manager Deese brought up to the council to consider recessing the public hearing later to allow the council to approve the manager posting the proposed budget online.

Close Public Hearing: A motion to recess the public hearing until June 20th, 2023, was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Blakeney—all ayes.

Regular Meeting Minutes

Public Comments

- Ginger Tucker: Secretary-Treasurer of the Chamber of Commerce. Attended the April 17th meeting with a request for the Randy Travis Festival in grandfathering consideration for the town's special event permitting process for this year. The request was denied. The chamber received the application on May 26th. The Chamber is far into its planning process and feels don't they don't have adequate time to fulfill the application process. Abruptly have to comply with regulations in which they had zero input. Once again asking to have the Randy Travis Festival be grandfathered in for this year.
- Rusty Johnson: He said he could get physical copies in the past. The suggestion is to put the meetings online or on YouTube for citizens who can't attend meetings.
- Tracy Stancill: She mentioned that the notice about the meter tampering policy was included in the water bill. She questioned why couldn't there be a newsletter in the water bill. She asked if anyone knew the meaning of a true Marshville citizen. There was a post on the town's Facebook by someone from Town Hall commenting about what a true Marshville citizen is. She has become aware that the town council and others are not fond of residents of the ETJ. She feels like the wicked stepsister for being in the ETJ, especially when it's put online. The town council should be more transparent with the budget.

Adoption of Agenda: Mayor Pro-tem made a motion to add a discussion about grandfathering in the Randy Travis festival as item 3b. Seconded by Member Bivens—all ayes.

Consent Agenda: A motion to adopt the consent agenda was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Discussion of Randy Travis Festival

Mayor Pro-tem Staton said that due to the lateness of receiving the application, they should work with the Chamber to help the festival progress smoothly. She wished to motion to grandfather in the Chamber's application process for the Randy Travis Festival. She wanted to look at the application and discuss the process. Manager Deese asked what needed to be discussed. He mentioned that no one from the Chamber came to him or the town hall looking to work something out. Mayor Pro-tem Staton said some things need to be explained better. There is confusion with the deadlines. The previous deadline was August, and now it's July 1st.

Manager Deese said he was okay with whatever the council chooses but would look into a liability to protect the town. Mayor Pro-tem Staton offered to have the deadline for vendor information stay at August 1st for this year only. Ginger Tucker said the Chamber has an insurance policy, as the application requires. They will meet with Lakeysa tomorrow and work with the town staff. Mayor Smith expressed the importance of working together to find common ground. This event has been around for many years. He understands the need for the policy but thinks of making a singular exception this time.

The motion to grandfather the Chamber of Commerce Randy Travis Festival for this year as they have before the adoption of the new policy was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Budget Discussion

Mayor Pro-tem Staton apologized to Rusty Johnson for giving him the wrong information about obtaining the budget. Manager Deese said he would get answers to the questions from the public comments. Mayor Smith asked what the added security would be. Manager Deese said it would mostly be cameras around the town hall. Key cards would be too expensive. Barbara Simpson said the line items are confusing for the public. Manager Deese noted ten meetings since January 21st, plenty of time for the public to listen and learn about the budget. Barbara Simpson said she didn't know the public was invited to in-person meetings. She said there is a need for more transparency. She felt there needed to be a better way to inform citizens about the meetings.

Mayor Smith commented on being aware of the difficulty of reaching out to the public and working on ways to do it. Improving the message will be worked on, but it is not as easy as it seems.

Mayor Smith asked about the update on the 2035 plan. Manager Deese said most entities suggest updating every 5-8 years. The 2035 plan was adopted in 2016. An update will help account for traffic from the bypass, future housing development, and potential QT station. A new firm coming in to do the update would cost more. N Focus would be a good choice to use again because they have done the initial plan, and it would cost less to do the update. Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked the manager to look into adding fees for renting the tennis courts. Manager Deese said he would ask Allen for suggestions. He said he was also seeking grant money for resurfacing the tennis courts.

Call for Special Meeting to adopt the budget: A motion to call for a special meeting on June 20th to reconvene the public hearing for the proposed budget and adopt the budget was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Discussion/Action on posting the Proposed Budget: A motion to have the Proposed Budget posted online for the public and printed copies for a charge was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Blakeney. Votes 4 to 1, motion passed.

Cemetery Discussion:

The only vacant area is by the flag pole in the cemetery. Upright headstones are the norm; the policy has yet to be passed to change that. Manager Deese suggests leaving it as is. The council must start thinking about what to do once the cemetery fills up. He will research if the council wants. There will be an issue with maintenance if plot purchases cease. Member Marshall asked how many plots could fit in an area. Manager Deese said he would find out. Member Marshall said the area around the flag pole was wet, so the land near it may not be good. Mayor Smith asked Manager Deese to explore options. He also asked him about the mapping projection. Manager Deese said they are fixing corrections at this point. A professional did a cemetery survey. Public works are doing the leg work. Mayor Smith asked if they are digitizing records.

Manager Deese plots bought now have documentation. Citizens can sell unused plots back to the town. Mayor Smith said the manager should put feelers out for land.

Manager's Comments:

Member Huntley asked for an update on the lake. Manager Deese said they are looking into a sewer system for the lake. Allen is meeting with a contractor. He is also asking for bids for septic tanks. They are looking for landscape architects to make plans for the lake.

Council Comments:

Margaret Bivens: No Comment

Paulette Blakeney: Glad to see everyone and wish everyone a blessed week.

Gary Huntley: Hope to see everyone at Juneteenth.

Monaca Marshall: Thanking the public for their input.

Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton: Thanked Ashlie for having the minutes up to date. Forest Hills groundbreaking was short and sweet. Track Banquet was really nice. Crema Café had its grand opening, and everyone seemed to like it.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Smith said they would look into archiving meetings on YouTube. He commented that times are changing in Marshville with the QuikTrip and housing development in the works. Sewer capacity and bypass allow for growth. There is pressure for everyone to do a good job. Mayor Smith thanked the public for coming out.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Member Huntley—all ayes.

Approved this ____ day of July 2023.

Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk