

**Marshville Town Council
Public Hearings for RHGC Voluntary Annexation
and Barrino Voluntary Annexation
followed by Regular Council Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday, April 21, 2008
Marshville Town Hall
201 West Main St., Marshville, NC**

Present: Mayor Franklin D. Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker, Council Members Ned Beachum, Dora Bridget, Margaret Bivens, and Denise Whitley, Town Attorney Bobby Griffin, Director of Public Works Bivens Steele, Town Administrator Carl Webber, Park Director Alan Thifault, Police Chief Mike Gaddy, and Town Clerk/Finance Officer Shelley Maness.

Public Hearings

Mayor Deese opened the public hearing for the RHGC Voluntary Annexation at approximately 7:00 p.m. There were no public comments.

Mayor Deese opened the public hearing for the Barrino Voluntary Annexation. Vanessa Barrino asked that Council approve the annexation so that her father may return home. There were no other comments.

Regular Meeting

Mayor Deese opened the regular meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m. Council Member Bivens gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Department Head Comments:

PD Thifault reported that the concession stand roll-up window and the new slide would be installed within the next week. The portable pitchers mound and portable fencing purchased with grant funds had both been delivered. PD Thifault noted several upcoming events including a "Pitch, Hit and Run" contest on Saturday, April 26th, "Day in the Park" on May 10th, "Concert in the Park" on Memorial Day weekend, softball tournaments and summer camp. PD Thifault said that the crocheting class being held at the Community Center was going well.

DPW Steele had nothing new to report.

Chief Gaddy mentioned that retired Union County Sheriff's deputy, Mike Simpson, would like to become a Marshville Police reserve officer. Chief Gaddy noted that there were no vacant reserve positions and asked Council to create a new reserve position. He reminded Council that reserve officers work on a voluntary basis and are not paid unless called to duty. Mayor Deese

asked that the issue be discussed at the next meeting. Chief Gaddy reported that the recent break-ins have seemed to slow down since serving several warrants.

Adopt Agenda:

Council Member Bridget made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion about adding two street lights on Mill Street, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker. Vote: All Ayes. (Added as Item #21.)

Council Member Bridget made a motion to add to the agenda a discussion regarding an Economic Development study, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes. (Added as Item #22.)

Council Member Bivens made a motion to add to the agenda approval of a contract for landscape improvements at Old Town Hall, second by Council Member Bridget. Vote: All Ayes. (Added as Item #23.)

Mayor Deese asked to move the agenda item to discuss the Eastern Water Service Area for Union County to immediately follow the presentation by Hobbs, Upchurch. Council Member Bivens made such motion, second by Council Member Bridget. Vote: All Ayes.

Council Member Beachum made motion to adopt the agenda as amended, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included only approval of the minutes from the April 7, 2008 regular meeting. Council Member Bridget made motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Presentation by Hobbs Upchurch regarding J. J. Autry Road water service. Mary Beck of Hobbs Upchurch reminded Council that the Town had applied for a Rural Center grant in December. The grant requires a match of \$150,000, if approved. Mrs. Beck noted that they were able to map where problems exist and noted that the water system is in almost as bad of shape as the sewer system. She recommended a study of the water system. Regarding the citizen request for water service on J. J. Autry Road, Mrs. Beck suggested that the most feasible option would be for Union County to provide the service. She noted that Union County was in the process of running a new water line to Anson County in the vicinity of J. J. Autry Road. She pointed out that it would be easier and more economical for Union County to provide the service, rather than the Town of Marshville. She also stated that the Town would not be able to provide fire protection to J. J. Autry Road without a booster station.

Mayor Deese called for a three minute recess at approximately 7:55 p.m. The meeting reconvened at approximately 8:00 p.m.

Discuss Eastern Water Service Area for Union County, determine if comments are to be sent as solicited by CCOG. TA Webber was asked to put together a letter to inform Union County of the J. J. Autry Road issue. TA Webber encouraged others to write letters as well, pointing out that more letters may have a bigger impact on the County's decision.

Annexation Ordinance, RHGC petition. Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to approve the ordinance RHGC Annexation Ordinance to be effective April 21, 2008, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Annexation Ordinance, Barrino petition. Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to approve the ordinance Barrino Annexation Ordinance to be effective April 21, 2008, second by Council Member Bridget. Vote: All Ayes.

Discuss Vending Machines at Park. PD Thifault discussed several options for selling concessions at the park that included having Coke install vending machines or the Town buying new or used vending machines. PD Thifault also mentioned that someone has volunteered to operate the concession stands for the Athletic Association. It was the general consensus of Council to allow the volunteer to operate the concession stands this season and to budget money for used vending machines in next year's (FY 08/09) budget.

Discuss request by NCLM staff to make life insurance available to employees at no cost to the Town – NCLM staff to present voluntary program to employees. TA Webber noted that the life insurance is portable, meaning that the employee can keep the insurance even if no longer employed by the Town, so long as premiums are paid. It was the general consensus of Council to allow NCLM staff to make the presentation to Town employees.

Discuss request by Sharonview Credit Union to make their services available to employees at no cost to Town – Sharonview staff to present voluntary program to employees. TA Webber noted that this was similar to the previous request except there is no affiliation with the League or local government. He pointed out that Sharonview Credit Union is a federal credit union available to anyone, not just government employees. It was the general consensus of Council to allow Sharonview Credit Union to distribute materials to Town employees, but not to allow a presentation.

Consider request by South Piedmont Community College to hold classes in Marshville Community Center. TA Webber said that SPCC had requested use of the Community Center for the upcoming semester beginning August 18th and ending December 17th. Classes would be held on Tuesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:50 p.m. The classes would not interfere with any activities currently scheduled. Council Member Whitley made a motion to approve the request, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Consider amended Community Room Policy, allowing rent of either or both rooms. It was the general consensus of Council to allow both rooms to be rented, either jointly (at double the cost) or separately. The same fee would apply to both rooms and the small room must be rented to have access to the kitchen. Attorney Bobby Griffin asked if the policy contained language to prohibit weapons. TA Webber noted that weapons were prohibited in all public buildings, but he would add the language to the policy as a reminder. Council Member Bivens made a motion to adopt the new rental policy with added language regarding weapons and to be effective April 2008, second by Council Member Bridget. Vote: 4 to 1 (Council Member Whitley opposed.)

Request to allow religious leaders to use the Veterans Memorial site to hold a National Day of Prayer ceremony on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at noon. Council Member Whitley made a motion to allow religious leaders to use the Veterans Memorial site to hold a National Day of Prayer

Ceremony on Thursday, May 1, 2008 at noon, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker. Attorney Bobby Griffin asked if this action could be interpreted as favoring one group over another, noting that religious groups are prohibited from using the Community Center. Council Member Whitley asked to amend her motion to include language in the response that acknowledges that any and all religions would be allowed to participate, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker. Vote: All Ayes.

Discuss proposed fence at Veterans Memorial. At Council's request to extend the Veterans Memorial fence 60 feet to separate the property from the adjoining business property, DPW Steele suggested purchasing an aluminum fence for approximately \$1,800, as opposed to a wrought iron fence for \$5,400. DPW Steele noted that the fence was for decoration, not security and the money was available in the current budget. Council Member Bridget made a motion to direct DPW Steele to purchase and install the proposed fence at the Veterans Memorial, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker. Vote: All Ayes.

Mill Street Lighting. TA Webber said that a street light study done by Duke Energy shows a need for two additional street lights on Mill Street. The total cost would be \$16.26 per month. Council Member Whitley made a motion to approve the installation of two new street lights on Mill Street as recommended by Duke Energy, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Union County Partnership Economic Development study. Council Member Bivens made a motion to accept Union County Partnership's Memorandum of Agreement for an economic development plan, second by Council Member Whitley. Vote: 4 to 1. (Council Member Beachum opposed.)

Contract with Turf Services for work at Old Town Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to extend the contract to Turf Services, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Comments:

Council Members Beachum and Whitley and Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker had no comments.

Council Member Bivens asked if cultured stone was being used on the "Welcome to Marshville" sign. PWD Steele confirmed that it was.

Council Member Bridget asked if Anson County had increased their water rates. TA Webber said that he had not received any such notice.

Clerk/Finance Officer Maness reported that the volume of Duke Energy payments was more than expected with more than 200 transactions and customers having to wait in line on the previous Friday. C/FO Maness said that Mrs. Haigler and Mrs. Leigh spent the entire day processing Duke payments, unable to do any of their regular duties for the Town. C/FO Maness pointed out that only about 25% of the payments were made by residents living within the Town of Marshville. C/FO Maness informed Council that the Duke payments had come up \$40 short and she reminded Council that the Town was responsible for covering any such losses. In this case, the \$40 would come out of the \$288 that the Town earned in transaction fees for March. C/FO Maness voiced her concern that the additional workload and distractions may lead to more costly errors.

Administrator Webber informed Council that Union County has hired a new manager and a reception to “meet the manager” was planned for Friday, April 25, 2008 at the Union County Agricultural Center from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. TA Webber also noted that the Rusty Piston Tractor Show would be held on Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th.

Mayor Deese said that they were trying to get a facilitator for a retreat tentatively scheduled for May 12th from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

Closed Session.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to go into closed session per N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a)(6) to consider the qualifications, character, fitness, conditions of initial employment of a prospective public employee, second by Council Member Whitley. Vote: All Ayes. Attorney Bobby Griffin, DPW Steele, C/FO Maness and TA Webber were invited to stay for the closed session. All other department heads were excused.

Action taken as a result of closed session, if any.

Council Member Whitley made a motion to offer the public works job to Freddy Rollins contingent upon a pre-employment drug screening and background investigation, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2008.

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____
Shelley H. Maness
Town Clerk