



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, February 6, 2023 7 PM

Marshville Town Hall

118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103

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

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

Call to Order/Invocation/ Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by Larry Smith. Council Member Huntley gave the invocation. All shared the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: Phillip Woods of 318 N. Elms Street commented on the property at 404 N. Elms Street. Mr. Woods asked what could be done about the property and its run-down state. Mr. Woods stated that he noticed broken windows, overgrown vegetation, and a few kids entering the building on Sunday. Mr. Woods commented that the property is an eyesore to the neighborhood. Mayor Smith said the property is on the council's scope and will be looked into.

Adoption of Regular Meeting Agenda:

Town Manager Franklin Deese said he would like to add a discussion and possible action about body shields as item 3b to the agenda. Town Manager also called for a closed session after the Mayor's comments to allow for updates from the Town Attorney, but no further action will need to be taken as item 8b. Mayor Smith requested a motion to adopt the meeting Agenda. Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Station made the motion. Council Member Paulette Blakeney seconded. All Ayes. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and Possible Action About Body Shields:

Police Chief Matt Tarlton came before the council to address the questions about body shields for the police department in the event of an active shooter. Mr. Tartlon shared examples of the vests that the police officers wear daily, explaining the different weights and grading of durability they allow.

Mr. Tartlon said he spoke with the other police officers to see if there was a need for them and concluded there was no need for the body shields because they would reduce mobility. Mr. Tartlon suggested the money that would be used for police training.

Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Station agreed that purchasing body shields would not be needed. Council Member Gary Huntley asked Mr. Tartlon if the two vacant positions had been filled yet. Mr. Tartlon said there is still one more vacancy, and they are working to fill the position.

Discussion of Rezoning RZA 22-04 “Murals” Wording:

Manager Deese reminded the council about the meeting with the Land Use Admin from their last meeting and how the discussion was tabled until after the Visionary Workshop had occurred. Manager Deese asked if there were any suggestions he could pass along before the next meeting with Jonathan Wells. At the workshop, it was agreed upon that they would wait until after the rebranding.

Discussion to amend Fee Schedule adding Community Center Fees:

Town Manager Deese called to amend the Fee Schedule to add fees for the Community Center. The fees would include the four-hour block of use for \$150 and \$50 for every additional hour. There will be a \$150 deposit which is refundable if the center is cleaned and has no damages. If damages do occur, the deposit will be used. If damages occur that surpass \$150, then an additional billing will be charged. The fees were determined by Manager Deese contacting Wingate to ask about their fees to get an idea.

Lakeysha has set up an online application process for renting the community center, but an in-person application can also be filled out. 30% of the fees collected from the individual hosting an event will go to the town.

Manager Deese said there should be a transfer fee for the ownership of cemetery plots. For in-town citizens, the fee will be \$225. For out-of-town citizens, the fee will be \$375. This breaks down to 15 percent of the cost of the plot. Mayor Smith asked how you would prove ownership of the plot. Manager Deese explained that two years ago, they started to use new software for the location and ownership of plots. As it stands currently, the information is as accurate as possible.

Ernestine Stations motioned to approve the Community Center and cemetery plot transfer fees. Paulette Blakeney seconded. All Ayes.

Manager’s Comments:

Manager Deese mentioned that based on the 2020 Census, Marshville is no longer a part of the Charlotte Urban Area. He will determine the pros and cons of staying with CRPTO or leaving the organization. He reminded the council members of the membership renewal with the Chamber of Commerce and the annual dinner. He would need a tally of who will be attending by the 17th. Facilitators from the Visionary Workshop have created a summary and ask the council to review and submit any changes for utmost accuracy. The timber from the tree cut down by the lake sold for \$11,000. In talks to see what is the best sewage system for the lake.

Council Comments:

Council Margaret Bivens suggested council to visit the museum to see the latest art.

Council Paulette Blakeney wishes everyone to have a blessed week.

Council Gary Huntley thanked the public for showing their interest and thanking the staff for their hard work and to have a safe week.

Mayor Pro Tem Ernestine Staton said she spoke with Lakeysha about a trash pickup. Reminder about the work session. She wants bigger board pins (name tags) to be worn. Manager Deese commented that it should wait until after the rebranding. She wants the police chief to look into bypass traffic and excessive speeds of people driving to public safety.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Smith asked about how the water meets have been doing. Manager Deese commented that he is happy with the meters and were a good investment. Accuracy can be helpful with problems. About 90% of meters are installed, and looking into a proposal for business water meters. Everyone is adjusting and happy with the new system. Mayor Smith asked if Manager Deese had heard about the industrial park that Monroe and Wingate were working on. Manager Deese had yet to hear. Mayor Smith recalled Mr. Woods's comments about the property on 404 N. Elms Street and said he would like to get in contact to speak with the individual to have something done to the property.

Closed Session 143-318.11 (a)(3) – Attorney:

To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged.

A motion to go into a closed session was given by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Council Member Gary Huntly. All ayes.

There was no action taken as a result of the Closed Session

A motion to end the closed session was given by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Council Member Gary Huntly. All ayes.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Council Member Bivens and seconded by Council Member Gary Huntley. All Ayes