

Marshville Town Council Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday, July 2, 2007
Marshville Town Hall
201 West Main Street, Marshville, NC

Present: Mayor Franklin D. Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Dora Bridget, Council Members Ned Beachum, Margaret Bivens, and Gail Kiker, 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. Note: Council Member Doug High, Jr. was excused from the meeting by Mayor Deese.

Mayor Deese called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Council Member Bivens gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Rusty Johnson asked Council if anything could be done about the remaining debris left by a house fire on Shady Lane. He was concerned about the safety of children that sometimes play on the property. TA Webber commented that the property was currently under code enforcement and will continue to be monitored.

Department Head Comments:

PD Thifault reported that everything was good at the park. He distributed a handout that listed some of his ideas for the upcoming year. He said that there was nothing on the list that required any additional funding. Council Member Kiker felt that the list should be added as an agenda item.

DPW Steele reported that the Church Street sidewalk project had been started with approximately 100 feet having been poured.

Chief Gaddy informed Council that, in response to complaints of speeding, the radar trailer had recently been set up along Highway 74 and would be there for the next week.

Adopt Agenda:

Mayor Deese requested a motion to add an item to the agenda regarding the replacement of the server in Town Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made such motion, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Council Member Beachum made motion to approve the agenda as amended, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget. Vote: All Ayes.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included only the minutes from the June 18, 2007 meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes

Rezoning of Parcel 02-176-005 from R-40 to RA-40. Having been tabled at the previous regular Council Meeting, consideration for zoning of Parcel 02-176-005 was readdressed. A recommendation was received from the Planning Board to rezone the property to RA-40. Council Member Bivens made motion to proceed with the Planning Board's recommendation to rezone the property from R-40 to RA-40, second by Council Member Kiker. Vote: All Ayes.

Approve Solid Waste Collection contract to continue our services from Allied Waste. TA Webber informed Council that Allied Waste had asked for a new contract that would include the company's name change (from BFI and CCC) and services added since the original contract was signed. The new contract was approved by the attorney and would require no change to the budget. Council Member Bivens questioned an item in the contract regarding recycling asking if there would be an additional cost and if it would help the town acquire grants. TA Webber confirmed that there would be an additional cost associated with recycling plastics and, although he thought that it would be good for the Town to do, he doubted that paying a contractor for such services would help the Town acquire grants. Council Member Bivens made motion to approve the contract, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Fourth of July even planned at Park 12:00 Noon until 2:00 p.m. TA Webber reminded Council that, in years past, the Town has allowed the VFW and the American Legion to hold July 4th events in the parking lot of Town Hall. The organizers of the event asked if the event could be held in the park this year. The park would be available that day and there would be no cost to the Town. There were no objections from Council on this matter. Mayor Deese invited everyone to attend the event.

Discuss resolution in opposition of House Bill 1587 related to Local Government Authority to provide Broadband services to citizens. TA Webber gave an overview of House Bill 1587 and explained that it would not effect the Town of Marshville directly since the Town already has internet service providers. The Bill would prohibit municipalities from providing internet service in towns where such service is not currently provided by a private corporation. Many municipalities and some corporations, such as Google, are opposed to the Bill since it will prevent many citizens from having access to the internet. The League of Municipalities has asked for the Town's support of the resolution. TA Webber clarified that supporting the resolution that opposes the Bill would not require the Town to provide internet access. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget was in full support of the resolution stating that industries should not be able to tell a municipality what to do. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget followed with a motion to support the resolution that opposes House Bill 1587, second by CM Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Discuss ETJ representation on Marshville Planning Board. Mayor Deese explained that the County is responsible for appointing someone to the Marshville Planning Board from the ETJ area. However, there have been no applicants for the position. TA Webber commented that if anyone knew of someone that may be interested, to ask them to apply with the Board of

County Commissioners. Council Member Bivens asked if people were aware of the position. TA Webber responded that it had been advertised by the County.

Approve renewal of contract with eCivis grant locators. Mayor Deese reminded Council that the eCivis grant locator was basically grant searching software. TA Webber stated that the cost was \$2,500 per year and included two access holders. In the past, these included TA Webber and previous Clerk/Finance Officer Scott Howard. Howard's access would be transferred to current Clerk/Finance Officer Shelley Maness. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to approve the renewal of the contract with eCivis, second by CM Bivens.

Council Member Beachum asked if the software would be used on-site. TA Webber responded affirmatively explaining that the software was internet based. Council Member Beachum offered the possibility of hiring or contracting with someone for less money. Council Member Kiker questioned if the Town had benefited from the service in the past. TA Webber said that it had been used for research, but no grants have been awarded to date. He also reminded Council that there has only been one active access holder since Howard resigned and therefore was not being used to its full potential.

Council Member Bivens suggested exploring other avenues. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget commented that it would cost much more to hire someone and that the software provides access to many grants. Mayor Deese remembered a previous discussion by Council regarding salaries and a request for TA Webber to obtain more grants. Mayor Deese also stated that TA Webber has written grants that have not been awarded. He further commented that TA Webber could do it just as well as someone else. Ecivis was just a tool to help him do it. Council Member Bivens acknowledged such discussion, but reminded everyone that TA Webber has many other duties.

Mayor Deese offered that Council had 13 days to make a decision. Council Member Beachum announced that he was willing to try it this year. Council Member Kiker thought that we should renew the contract, but look into the option of hiring someone. TA Webber explained that the software offered an opportunity to explore options based on ideas generated by Council. He was not aware of any opposition to the contract since it was in the budget, which was approved. However, he made it clear that the Town was not obligated to renew. Vote results: All Ayes.

Discuss date of "Ribbon Cutting" even for new CATS express bus service. Mayor Deese announced that the new CATS route had begun that morning and asked if Council would like to conduct a ribbon cutting ceremony and possibly ride the bus to Charlotte. TA Webber noted that CATS would provide transportation back for this special occasion. TA Webber suggested inviting RPO representatives since the route was made available through a grant provided by the their program. In addition, he suggested inviting officials from Anson County that have indicated their support of the route.

After a brief discussion, it was determined that the ceremony would be held at Christ Bible immediately following the return from the CATS bus ride on the morning of Monday, July 9, 2007.

Approve proposed landscape improvements at Old Town Hall; “Certificate of Appropriateness” required from Historic Properties Commission. TA Webber reported that the Beautification Committee had proposed landscape improvements at the Old Town Hall which would include a cobble-stone walk, copper landscape lighting, a cobble-stone landscape wall surrounding a bed of flowers, a three-tiered water fountain, and two maple trees. The proposal requires approval from the Union County Historic Properties Commission. A “Certificate of Appropriateness” has been completed and delivered to the Town’s representative for the organization, Council Member Margaret Bivens. TA Webber reminded Council that the item was budgeted. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to approve the recommendation for improvement, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Replacement of Server in Town Hall. TA Webber reported that he had talked with Southern Software during the budgeting process and has since talked with the City of Monroe’s IT professional who has done work for the Police Department in the past. The server has been making noises and is more than two years beyond the recommended replacement age of five years. The cash collection computer is outdated, still running Windows 98. The Tax Collector and TA Webber’s computers are both running Office products that are no longer supported. A quote of approximately \$7,200 received from the IT professional using state contract material appeared to be about half as much as what Southern Software can do it for. TA Webber stated that although money was not specifically budgeted for this expense, he and Clerk/Finance Officer Maness felt that it could be paid for within the existing budget. TA Webber asked for approval in moving forward with the replacement of the server and two workstations. Council Member Kiker made motion to allow TA Webber to compare bids and go with the lowest bid to purchase a server and two workstations and labor, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Comments:

There were no comments from Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget and Council Members Beachum and Kiker.

Council Member Bivens reported that citizens approached her and inquired about getting crime watch signs posted in their neighborhood. TA Webber responded that it would require citizens getting together and going to the Sheriff. Chief Gaddy agreed stating that it was a very involved process, but also a very good tool for crime prevention.

Clerk/Finance Officer Maness reported that some of the accounting processes have been modified, including how purchase orders are processed. The process has been converted from a manual system to a computerized system using a function of the Citipak software that was already available. C/FO Maness discussed the North Carolina Capital Management Trust as an investment opportunity and agreed to provide information to Council prior to the next meeting.

TA Webber complimented C/FO Maness for doing a great job. TA Webber also reminded Council to convey the message to Marshville citizens that staff is available for them if ever there is an issue to be addressed.

Mayor Deese complimented the entire staff and said their hard work was appreciated. He also mentioned his appreciation for the Council Members.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2007

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____
Shelley Maness
Town Clerk