

**Marshville Town Council Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday, July 16, 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, Doug High, Jr. and Gail Kiker, 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.

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

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Department Head Comments:

PD Thifault informed Council that summer camp was going along good and there was nothing new to report.

DPW Steele reported that there were no problems with the flow to Anson County and the Church Street sidewalk project was almost halfway complete.

Chief Gaddy informed Council that several cases had been cleared up such as the Marshville Apartment fire and the robbery of a newspaper deliveryman. New officer Darryl Gerald was sworn in last week and will continue to be in training for another week or two. Council Member Beachum remarked that he had talked with Mr. Gerald and he thought Mr. Gerald was going to make a very good police officer.

Mayor Deese thanked all the department heads for the good job they were doing.

Adopt Agenda:

Mayor Deese requested a motion to add to the agenda a discussion of the Town sign. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made such motion, second by Council Member High. Vote: All Ayes. (Added as Item #12 on the agenda.)

TA Webber stated that an item might need to be added to the agenda to discuss a meeting with Union County Public Schools on August 13, 2007. Council Member Bivens made such motion, second by Council Member High. Vote: All Ayes. (Added as Item #13 on the agenda.)

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

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included only the minutes from the July 2, 2007 meeting. Council Member High made motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes

Consider request by Habitat for Humanity to waive water and sewer tap fees for house(s) on Allen Circle. Mike Reece, Executive Director for Union County Habitat for Humanity, appeared before Council to request a waiver of water and sewer tap fees for a six-house subdivision planned to be built off of Elm Circle in Marshville. Mr. Reece explained that Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit organization that helps provide homes to low-income families in the area. Only one of the six houses had been approved and was under construction at that time. Since it was near completion, Mr. Reece asked Council to consider waiving or reducing the fees for only that house at this time. He offered the possibility of obtaining Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as a means to get reimbursement for the waived fees. In response to questions from Council Member Kiker, Mr. Reece informed Council that the houses are sold at cost, with Habitat absorbing much of the infrastructure costs; therefore, more families would be helped for every dollar saved. It is expected to cost Habitat about \$150,000 to construct the six-house subdivision, most of which funds come from sales at Habitat's Restore outlet.

Council Member Bivens asked if fees had been waived for any other Habitat houses. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget recalled that the fees were waived. TA Webber confirmed with DPW Steele that there was an existing sewer tap at the location currently being addressed; therefore, Council would only need to consider waiving the \$1,000 water tap fee. Council Member Kiker voiced her concern that fees had not been waived for churches that have asked and that a precedent may be set by doing this. Council Member Bivens voiced her support for waiving the fees. Council Member High agreed that this was a good thing, but felt that Council had to look out for the Town, too. He favored waiving some of the fee amount, but not all. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget stated that this was something very positive for the community. She said, "It shows that we are people that think of others rather than just ourselves. Money is tight everywhere, including Habitat, but they are still able to help others."

Council Member Bivens made motion to waive the full amount (\$1,000) of the water tap fee, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget. Vote: 4 to 1, Council Member Kiker opposed.

TA Webber clarified that the preceding vote did not authorize the resolution included in the agenda package. The resolution stated that funds would be transferred from the general fund to the enterprise fund to cover the cost. The vote simply stated that the fee is to be waived.

Receive terms of lease allowing Cricket Communications to co-locate antennas on water tank. Approve Public Notice establishing upset bid period as required by statute. TA Webber gave an overview of the lease, which was very similar to the existing lease with Cingular. Some changes included providing a 24-hour Emergency Contact and requirement of a 180-day written notice by the Lessee to terminate the contract. The rate structure will start at \$1,248 per month and increases 4% each year. The initial term will be five years with four additional five-year renewal terms for a total of 20 years. Since General Statutes require bidding for

such a lease, TA Webber asked for approval of a Public Notice to advertise for upset bids. Council would be able to accept and execute the lease at the August 6, 2007 meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to receive the terms of the lease and approve the wording of the public notice as presented, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Consider a “field trip” for summer camp program. PD Thifault noted that the summer camp kids and counselors would like to take a field trip. Three places have been discussed including Wingate Pool, which would cost \$50 per hour with a lifeguard on duty. The other two options were Pinky Marsh’s animal farm and Peaches ‘N’ Cream ice-cream stand in Wadesboro. The kids that participate would fund the trip and there would be no cost to the Town. Council Member Kiker thought it was a great idea, but suggested getting written permission slips. Council Member Beachum agreed that the pool and ice cream would be a good thing. Council Member Bivens also thought it was a great idea, but felt it should be left up to the kids and parents to decide where to go. Mayor Deese suggested taking all three field trips, one per week, to finish out the summer camp program. Although no motion was made, it was the consensus of the Council to allow PD Thifault to move forward with the field trips. Council Member Bivens did clarify that permission from parents should be obtained.

Approve expenditure of \$96.97 toward printing of manuals for I-Tree inventory project. Project will commence July 25. \$96.97 equals one fourth of the total cost. TA Webber reminded Council that Marshville and Indian Trail were the only two towns in North Carolina doing the I-Tree project at this time. Twenty- five i-Tree manuals will need to be printed for the volunteers. David Grant, Urban Forester for Union County proposed that the cost be split among the contributors. Since the majority of the volunteers are working on the Indian Trail inventory, Mr. Grant felt they should be responsible for 50% of the cost and Marshville and Union County should split the remaining amount equally. Marshville’s portion would be \$96.97. TA Webber also mentioned that there would be a volunteer course to be held on July 27, 2007 and DPW Steele would be helping out with it. Per Mr. Grant’s request, DPW Steele will take care of providing beverages and breakfast pastries. Council Member Bivens made motion to approve the expenditure of \$96.97 toward the printing of the manuals for the i-Tree inventory project, second by Council Member High. Vote: All Ayes. Mayor Deese recommended that TA Webber ask to have “sponsored by the Town of Marshville” printed somewhere on the manuals.

Authorize Finance Officer to invest in The North Carolina Capital Management Trust (NCCMT). C/FO Maness explained that the Trust was an investment opportunity for the Town currently being used by most local governments in the state. She further explained that the interest rates were higher at that moment than the rates on CD’s currently held by the Town. An advantage to using the Trust would be its liquidity. There are no minimum balance requirements and funds can be withdrawn at any time without penalty. NCCMT also has the highest Standard and Poor’s rating. Council Member High made motion to authorize the Finance Officer to invest in the NCCMT, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Discuss plans for Town sign. Mayor Deese reminded Council that Wingate University had presented the Town with a suggestion to change the sign coming in to Marshville. The Vision

Committee had not issued an official report on the matter, but Mayor Deese had seen a draft and said the committee is also encouraging a change to the sign. Mayor Deese said there was a basic design in place, but they are still seeking some clipart, such as a chicken and possibly lumber, to represent the Town. Mayor Deese requested Council's opinion on the sign and authorization to move forward with the project. TA Webber suggested that the background image could be a wood grain image to represent the wood industry in Marshville. Council Member Bivens reminded Mayor Deese that the Beautification Committee was in the process of developing this project and that it had been delayed because of questions regarding location as it relates to the bypass. Mayor Deese acknowledged his appreciation for their work, but wanted to move forward with the project himself. After some discussion regarding who should be responsible for the project, Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to authorize Mayor Deese to move forward with the project, second by Council Member High. Vote: 4 to 1, Council Member Bivens opposed.

Mayor Deese clarified that the final design would be brought back before Council for approval prior to installation.

Discussion of Union County Public School Meeting. Mayor Deese referred to a letter from Superintendent Ed Davis inviting at least one staff member and one Council Member to attend a meeting on August 13, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. TA Webber had raised the concern that if three or more Council Members decided to attend, there would be a quorum and it would need to be publicized as a public meeting of Council. Mayor Deese planned to attend and asked if anyone else would like to attend. TA Webber asked if the invitation should be extended to any member of the Planning Board since that is primarily what the meeting would be related to. Mayor Deese agreed that it would be appropriate. Council Member Kiker made motion to assign Council Member Bivens as the designated attendee to represent the Council, second by Council Member High. Vote: All Ayes.

Mayor Deese directed the Town Administrator to extend the invitation to the planning board.

Comments:

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

Clerk/Finance Officer Maness reported that the internal process for handling returned checks had been modified to update the existing manual process. In the past, a file was kept of all returned checks, but the customer record was not updated to reflect the actual amount due. The new process involves reapplying the amount of the returned check back to the customer's account in addition to a returned check fee and a late fee, if applicable, upon receipt of the returned check. This would allow the account to reflect the actual amount due to the Town at any given time. Late & reconnect fees will also be added on the 11th day of each month for any accounts that are past due as of that date.

TA Webber referred to several letters that were sent out including one to Countrywide Tax Service reflecting the bill for the cost of the Town to abate the grass problem on Olive Branch Street. TA Webber complimented DPW Steele on the fine job his crew did with the property. Other letters that were put into Council Member boxes for review were letters regarding grass

mowing. TA Webber also mentioned that Marshville First Baptist Church had donated two Autumn Blaze Red Maple trees to the Town of Marshville. TA Webber, DPW Steele, PD Thifault and Mr. Boyce had determined a suitable location in the park for the trees and some of the summer camp kids had already planted them. TA Webber reminded Council that there was a Centralina COG Board of Delegates meeting to be held in Union County on August 8, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Copies of zoning permits for the month of May & June had also been placed in Council's boxes. In conclusion, TA Webber informed Council that he would be on vacation beginning at the end of the week and would not return until August 1st.

Mayor Deese informed Council that Hospice would be having a cookout on July 20th, but that he would be out of town. Mayor Deese did plan to attend the kickoff for the Healthy Carolinians. The Littersweep Fall 2007 was coming up as well.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 p.m.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2007

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____
Shelley Maness
Town Clerk