

**Marshville Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 17, 2007  
Marshville Town Hall  
201 West Main Street, Marshville, NC**

Present: 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 Franklin D. Deese was not present.

In Mayor Deese's absence, Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget presided over the meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget 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.

Department Head Comments:

PD Thifault reported that everything was going well at the park and that there has been a lot of activity. PD Thifault said that Field 1 was being used at least 4 nights per week and that ladies fitness and karate lessons are being held at the Community Center.

DPW Steele commented that everything went smooth at the Boll Weevil festival. He confirmed that there were no problems with the pump station. Council Member Beachum thanked DPW Steele and his crew for cleaning up after the Boll Weevil. He said they did an excellent job.

Chief Gaddy distributed a proposed "In-Car Audio/Video" standard operating procedure for Council to review. Chief Gaddy agreed with DPW Steele in that things went well at the Boll Weevil festival. Realizing there may have been some questions regarding the police commotion earlier in the day, Chief Gaddy informed Council that there had been a chase involving a stolen vehicle. Council Member Bivens commented that the police force also did a great job at the Boll Weevil festival.

Public Comments:

Approximately fifteen citizens appeared before Council to question why their monthly water bills had increased by such a large amount. Most of the citizens present were residents of Crestway Court and Hasty Road. Some residents said their August bills were more than double their average. They were concerned that the problem appeared to be restricted to just their area of town. They were also concerned that the meters were not being read accurately or at all. DPW Steele assured the citizens that every meter was read every month and if there are questions of accuracy the meter could be re-read. DPW Steele also reminded everyone that August is generally a high water usage month due to various factors including heat and children home for the summer. It was also noted that toilet leaks can account for about 300

gallons of water per hour. DPW Steele concluded by stating that a meter will not turn unless there is water flowing through it.

TA Webber confirmed that the issue was not limited to one specific area of town and agreed with DPW Steele that it is not uncommon to have higher water bills in August. TA Webber reported that he has physically gone with the meter reader to do re-reads and rarely finds a misread. TA Webber pointed out that Council had implemented a program some time back that would offer a reduced rate on a portion of the bill if a bill is more than four times the average amount.

There were more statements from the citizens indicating that they were not satisfied with what they had been told. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget acknowledged that the concerns had been heard and that staff would meet regarding the issue and present a report at October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

One final comment from a citizen recognized that the public works department does a great job whenever they are called out.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget called for a recess at approximately 7:55 p.m.

Adopt Agenda:

Council Member Bivens brought up a couple of paving issues to be added to the agenda. However, it was determined that the Town was not responsible for either issue.

Council Member Kiker made motion to adopt the agenda as presented, second by Council Member High. Vote: All Ayes.

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included only the minutes from the September 4, 2007 meeting. Council Member Bivens made motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Request by South Piedmont Community College to locate spring semester of Early Childhood Development classes at the Marshville Community Center. Classes planned for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings starting January. Presentation by Sharon Little, Lead Instructor for the Early Childhood Program. Ms. Little gave some background information about the program and informed Council that it was SPCC's goal to provide a central location for both Union and Anson County students to attend Early Childhood classes in the evening. Classes will begin in January and end May 15, 2008. Twenty to twenty-five students are anticipated to enroll in each class with most of the students enrolled in all three classes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget and Council Member Bivens both commented that this would be a great opportunity for Marshville. Council Member Bivens made motion to allow staff to work out a plan with Ms. Little for the Childhood Development class, second by Council Member High. Vote: All Ayes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget informed Ms. Little that Mr. Thifault would be in contact with her.

Consider request by individual to purchase town-owned property. Aaron Efird. Mr. Efird was not in attendance. TA Webber informed Council that Mr. Efird intended to relocate the two-story house currently located across the street from Wendy's Restaurant. Mr. Efird would like to move the house somewhere in the downtown area for the purpose of operating a business. One of several properties that Mr. Efird is interested in is the Town's property located at the intersection of Olive Branch Road and Main Street. TA Webber asked if Council would be interested in selling the property.

Council Member Beachum stated that he was not interested in selling a piece of the property, nor was he interested in selling the property in its entirety. Council Member Bivens felt that the Town should not sell a property (currently used for storage) just to turn right around and build a new building. After further discussion, Council Member Bivens made motion to retain the property on the corner of Olive Branch Road and East Main Street, second by Council Member Kiker. Vote: 3 to 1 (High voted naye).

Review Voluntary Water Conservation measures implemented by Anson County, consider implementation for Marshville customers. TA Webber pointed out that the Town was not under water conservation measures, although Union County was. TA Webber clarified that the two are entirely different water systems and that Marshville's water is provided by Anson County. A letter was sent from the Governor's Office asking that towns implement voluntary water conservation measures. Union and Anson Counties were both listed as extreme drought counties. Council Member Bivens made motion to ask the populous of Marshville to take on counter-measures to voluntarily decrease their water usage during this drought period, second by Council Member Kiker. Vote: All Ayes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget asked that TA Webber properly advertise the request to voluntarily decrease water usage.

Consider claim regarding damage to vehicle. Ann McCormick via letter. TA Webber informed Council that he had received a phone call from a lady claiming that damage was done to her vehicle on a public road in Marshville. TA Webber asked the lady to submit a letter, but he had not received the letter. No further information was known about the claim. TA Webber said that he would include the item on the next agenda if he receives the letter.

Discuss complaint regarding traffic on W. Union St.; traffic study results and comments from Staff. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget pointed out the traffic study found in the agenda packet and reviewed some of the findings. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget asked what determination staff had made. DPW Steele said that staff felt a speed hump at the crest of the hill on W. Union Street would be a sufficient solution for the location. Council Member Kiker made motion to put a speed hump on West Union Street for the safety of the residents, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

#### Comments:

Council Member Beachum thanked DPW Steele and Chief Gaddy for the great job they did at the Boll Weevil festival.

Council Member Bivens asked if there was any way for the churches that use the cemetery to see about getting the railroad's access road paved. TA Webber responded that the road is privately owned by CSX and there was no access given when the property was acquired.

Council Member High had no comments.

Council Member Kiker complimented Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget for the great job she did leading the meeting. She also echoed the comments regarding Public Works and the Police Department's efforts during the Boll Weevil festival. Council Member Kiker concluded by saying that she was pleased to see Sharon Little and commented that "that's what the 'community' center is supposed to be about."

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget said that she enjoyed the Boll Weevil festival and thanked the Police Department

Clerk/Finance Officer Maness reported that she had researched the sales tax issue related to selling concessions at the park. After talking with the Department of Revenue, it was determined that a simple quarterly report would need to be submitted along with the amount of sales tax collected. C/FO Maness also pointed out that PD Thifault would be able to make the initial purchase of concessions from his current budget, but it was likely that a budget amendment would be forthcoming to allow for this unplanned expense. C/FO clarified that it should have no real impact on the budget since the revenues from the concessions will be used to offset the expenses.

TA Webber was also complimentary of the Boll Weevil festival. He reminded that the Farm City Festival would be held on October 11, 2007 and anyone that planned to attend should let him know. He requested that registration forms be submitted as soon as possible for any Council Member interested in attending the NC League conference in Fayetteville, October 13-16, 2007. TA Webber reported that asbestos was found in the property on 200 S. Carelock Street and that Mr. Luster was requesting bids for removal. A population estimate was received from the Office of State Demographer stating that the certified population estimate of the Town of Marshville was 2,895 as of July 1, 2006. TA Webber thanked the City of Monroe for doing the traffic study free of charge and for always being so responsive to the Town's request for assistance.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:00 p.m.

These minutes approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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Franklin D. Deese  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley H. Maness  
Town Clerk