

**Marshville Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 P.M. Monday, October 8, 2007  
Marshville Town Hall  
201 West Main St., Marshville, NC**

Present: Mayor Franklin D. Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Dora Bridget, Council Members Ned Beachum, Margaret Bivens, Doug High, Jr. and Gail Kiker, 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.

Mayor Deese opened the meeting 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:

Norma Carpenter addressed Council and presented a packet of information concerning a zoning issue on White St. Ms. Carpenter was of the opinion that the Article concerning nonconforming situations contained conflicting definitions. Ms. Carpenter questioned why a permit had been issued to allow a house to be moved on a .43 acre lot located in an area zoned R-40. Ms. Carpenter wanted to know why the issue was not brought before the Board of Adjustment for consideration. Mayor Deese assured Ms. Carpenter that he would read through the packet of information and call her if he had any questions.

Mary Funderburk, Belinda Worthy, Melvin Barrett, Joyce Tanner, Paul Heister, Ricky Henderson, and Ola Mae Taylor each addressed Council concerning their high water bills for the month of August. Some of the citizens felt that meters were not being read properly. Some of the citizens asked for some kind of relief in paying the high bills. Mayor Deese stated that although he was out of town at the last meeting when the issue was first brought before Council, he had been made aware of the situation. Mayor Deese invited everyone to stay for a presentation to be given by TA Webber a little later in the meeting that may address some of their concerns. Mayor Deese pointed out that Council had established a policy some time back that offers a reduction in water bills that are at least four times higher than normal. He felt sure that Mr. Heister's bill would qualify.

Department Head Comments:

PD Thifault said that things had been busy at the park. There had been two events, including a gospel concert, which brought in more than 400 visitors each. There had also been a recent all-day softball tournament. PD Thifault stated that he was currently looking for 9-13 year olds to establish a soccer team. He also announced that there would be a concert on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m. featuring this year's "Gimme the Mike" winner. PD Thifault pointed out that the concert would be family-oriented and include a bike raffle and "trick-or-treat" goody bags for all the kids.

DPW Steele reported that the speed hump on West Union St. was in place. DPW Steele also informed Council that surveyors had been on South White St. surveying for a waterline extension.

Police Chief Gaddy said that things had been relatively quiet with the Police Department. He reported that his department had been focused on working traffic. He also announced that all officers had qualified the previous Saturday.

Adopt Agenda:

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

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included the following items:

- a. Approve minutes from the September 17, 2007 Regular Meeting.
- b. Appoint Clerk Maness as treasurer of the Firemen's Relief Fund for Beaver Lane VFD
- c. Approve new contract with Clark, Griffin & McCollum, LLP to clarify Independent Contractor status
- d. Designate Mayor Deese as Authorized Voting Delegate for NCLM Business Meeting
- e. Set Friday, December 14, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at Ag. Center as date, time and location for Town Christmas party and direct staff to secure same caterer as last year.

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

Town of Marshville Water, Sewer and Trash presentation by TA Webber. TA Webber gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing how the Town's water, sewer and trash operations function, how the rate structure is determined, how bills are calculated and offered suggestions for detecting leaks and conserving water. Mayor Deese thanked TA Webber for his hard work and time put into the presentation, then opened the floor for questions. In response to some of the questions, TA Webber reiterated that every meter is read every month and a number of them are re-read when the numbers seem high. Often times, a second staff member goes along for the re-read for further verification of the meter reading. He explained that meters are replaced about every 15 years and that if a meter was to malfunction, there is virtually no chance that it would err in favor of the Town. Meters slow down over time, not speed up. TA Webber explained that since the meters are manually read, there is room for human error. However, any significant error would likely be detected in the billing process. TA Webber pointed out that if any customer questioned their usage they could request a re-read or verify it for themselves by comparing the reading on the bill to the current reading. A current reading equal to or more than the reading shown on the bill would verify that the reading was accurate.

Vance Gullledge, Public Works Director for Anson County, addressed Council and the public. He stated that the August billing for Anson County was the highest it has ever been. Mr. Gullledge pointed out that his department can test meters (at a cost of \$20 to the customer if the meter turns out to be accurate), but in his more than 20 years in the business he had never seen a meter read more than it should. Mr. Gullledge invited Council and Marshville water customers to come take a tour of Anson County's water facility. Mayor Deese thanked Mr. Gullledge for

attending the meeting and offering his input on the matter. Mayor Deese then called for a five-minute recess at approximately 9:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Review responses to Sidewalk Surveys. Mayor Deese explained that surveys were sent out regarding citizen interest in specific sidewalk projects. TA Webber reviewed the results of the survey pointing out that the surveys were sent to property owners, not tenants and that not everyone responded. Council Member Kiker suggested that the Town should start with the South Elm St. project which had a 100% support. Mayor Deese agreed particularly since the residents of that St. had actually requested the sidewalk. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget moved to direct staff to move forward on the South Elm St. project, second by Council Member Kiker. Vote: All Ayes.

TA Webber asked Council to consider how staff should approach residents opposed to a particular project. At the suggestion of Mayor Deese, Council Member Kiker made motion that TA Webber contact those citizens opposed to the next three projects receiving the most support (which include East Main St., North Elizabeth Avenue and South Elizabeth Avenue) in an effort to gain their support, second by Council Member High. Vote: All Ayes. Mayor Deese added that this should be done by the first meeting in November.

Discuss Park Concessions. PD Thifault announced that Terry Kiker will no longer run a concession stand at the park. He asked Council to allow him to put someone in Concession Stand #2 for the remainder of the season and to operate Concession Stand #1 using Park Department staff. Council Member Kiker moved to allow PD Thifault to handle putting someone in Concession Stand #2 for the rest of the season, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget. Vote: All Ayes.

Discuss vacancy in Public Works Department. DPW Steele requested permission to advertise for a vacant position. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to authorize DPW Steele to advertise for the position, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Consider adoption of Police Department Mobile Video Policy. Council Member Beachum made motion to accept the policy as presented, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget. Vote: All Ayes. Mayor Deese asked Chief Gaddy if the cameras had been installed. Chief Gaddy responded that they were not in, but the policy must be in place before the cameras could be in operation.

Review Code Enforcement updates, consider directing Attorney to execute title search on Taylor property. TA Webber reviewed a code enforcement update from James Luster. Code enforcements on the Bost St. Apartments and Marshville Apartments were in progress and nearing completion. In order to continue code enforcement on the Taylor property located on Highway 74, Mr. Luster recommended that Council request the Town Attorney to complete a title search on the property to confirm ownership status. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to do so, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

#### Comments:

Council Members Beachum, High and Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget had no comments.

Council Member Bivens reported that she had attended the Historic Commission meeting on Tuesday. A Union County Museum Board has been established and Union County has allocated \$50,000 to the museum.

Council Member Kiker was pleased with TA Webber's presentation, but felt that there had been no resolution to the citizens' concerns. Mayor Deese agreed and a discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the board to allow an extension for the payment of water bills that met certain criteria. The extension was for residential customers only with a total amount owed exceeding \$200 (August and September bills combined). Customers meeting these criteria would be required to pay the total amount owed for the water and garbage portion of their bill by the regular deadline (Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>). The balance (sewer portion of the bill) must be paid in addition to November's bill by November 10<sup>th</sup> in order to avoid cutoff. It was pointed out that this was a one time deal to help the citizens of Marshville.

Clerk/Finance Officer Maness reported that the auditors had been in-house the past two weeks and everything seemed to be going well with that process. C/FO Maness also mentioned that tax bills were late arriving, but they did arrive the previous week. C/FO said that staff worked hard to prepare the bills for mailing and that residents should be receiving their bills soon.

TA Webber reminded Council that the NCLM Conference in Fayetteville begins on October 17<sup>th</sup> and reservations had been made for those that had requested it. Other upcoming events included the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, the Farm City Celebration to be held Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at the Union County Ag Center, flu vaccines to be administered on October 12<sup>th</sup> in the Marshville Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m and several blood drives scheduled to be held at the Community Center as well. TA Webber reported that Duke Energy had sent notification that there was fuel petroleum contamination in the ground under the parking lot of the police department. The building was bought from Duke in 1997 and the state recently decided to retest for contamination. Duke Energy will be responsible for any costs related to the cleanup associated with the contamination.

Mayor Deese passed around a final draft of the new Marshville sign that incorporates several industry icons including poultry, lumber, cotton, and the railroad. There were no objections to the design. Mayor Deese stated that he would be moving forward with the next step of the project which is to determine the design of the structure itself. Mayor Deese thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget for presiding over the last meeting in his absence. Mayor Deese closed by thanking everyone for enduring the long, but necessary meeting and for doing what they did for the citizens to let them know the Town cares.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 p.m.

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

---

Franklin D. Deese  
Mayor

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