

**Marshville Town Council  
Regular Meeting  
7:00 P.M. Monday, November 19, 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, 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. Pastor Alex Martin gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Beverly Smith appeared before Council and discussed the events leading up to and following the arrest of her son who was involved in an altercation on Saturday, November 17, 2007. According to Ms. Smith, the following events transpired after the arrest:

Ms. Smith was told that the other person involved in the altercation was not arrested. Ms. Smith proceeded to bail her son out of jail. Later that evening, the individual involved in her son's altercation was in the neighborhood revving his car motor and spinning tires. Ms. Smith reported this to the police and was told that there was nothing that could be done. Ms. Smith saw an officer talking to her neighbor on the day following the arrest. The officer pulled off before she was able to make contact with him. Ms. Smith's neighbor remarked that the officer appeared to dislike her son based on the comments he made. Ms. Smith called Police Chief Gaddy to report the comments allegedly made by his officer. Chief Gaddy told Ms. Smith that he would talk to the officer and get back with her. When Chief Gaddy asked the officer about the comments, the officer denied making them. The officer said that Ms. Smith instigated the situation by getting her son out of jail.

Ms. Smith asked Council to take this situation seriously and thanked them for the opportunity to tell her story.

Mayor Deese stated that her allegations were serious and that he would discuss the matter with Chief Gaddy and get back in touch with her.

Department Head Comments:

PD Thifault reported that he was making arrangements to have Santa Claus in town at two different locations on December 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. He also stated that he was working on a PARTF grant to turn the parcel of land behind Dr. Henry's office into a "green" park to include benches, trash cans and a walking trail in a fenced in area. He asked Council to notify him if there were any objections to moving forward with such project. PD Thifault informed Council that a grant from Union County may be a better source of funding for such a project and the PARTF grant could then be sought for a larger project. PD Thifault planned to hold a skate park meeting on

Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Center at which time a committee will be established.

PD Thifault also mentioned that he has allowed some senior citizens, primarily those that find the Tuesday/Thursday fitness class too rigorous, to use the Community Center free of charge for exercise purposes on Mondays and Wednesdays. At least one senior was given a key to the building. One of the seniors asked PD Thifault if she could place an ad in the paper to let other seniors know that the building is available for light exercising. When the ad was printed it appeared as though a second aerobics class was being offered which was not accurate. PD Thifault asked to continue allowing seniors access to the facility free of charge on Mondays and Wednesdays. PD Thifault acknowledged that he would be on duty serving hot cocoa at the Community Center after the tree lighting ceremony on Friday night. There were no objections to PD Thifault's request to serve light refreshments.

Council Member Kiker responded that, although she had no problem with seniors using the facility, there were some concerns from citizens regarding the fact that some seniors had to pay to use the facility. Council Member Beachum had heard some of the same concerns, but more specifically that most of the non-paying users were not residents of Marshville. PD Thifault pointed out that they were paying for an instructor-led fitness class.

Mayor Deese told PD Thifault that he just needs to be consistent and not give the impression of playing favorites. He also asked that PD Thifault keep a roster of all users and note whether they are residents or non-residents.

DPW Steele reported that plans are ready for the White Street waterline project. After talking with Hobbs, it was decided to wait until January to send out bid requests to avoid the holidays. DPW Steele said that his department is in the process of putting up Christmas lights and decorations and they would be done before Thanksgiving.

Chief Gaddy confirmed that it had been a busy weekend. He said that his department was working on a joint grant with Wingate to upgrade from a low-band radio system to an 800-megahertz radio system. Mobile video cameras are scheduled to ship on November 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be installed as soon as they arrive. Chief Gaddy reported that he was escorted in the parade by Officer Darryl Gerald driving the new Dodge Charger patrol car. Mayor Deese asked to meet with the Chief the following morning.

#### Adopt Agenda:

DOT representative Bryant was unable to attend the meeting to discuss the Comprehensive Transportation Plan as indicated on the agenda. Mayor Deese requested to add to the agenda a discussion of a grant for the North Side Sewer Project. Council Member Beachum made motion to add the item as requested, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget. Vote: All Ayes.

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

#### Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included only the minutes from the November 5, 2007 public hearing and regular meeting. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All Ayes.

Presentation by Vision Committee. Mr. Alex Martin gave an overview of what the Vision Committee had accomplished thus far. Mr. Martin presented Council with a handout and reviewed the State of Values and Vision as established by the Vision Committee. Four values were outlined detailing what is currently being done regarding each value and the Vision Committee's goals for each value in the future. The four values discussed were: Quality of Life, Childhood Education and Development, Tourism/Communications and Development. Of all the goals established, the Vision Committee's only immediate recommendation was for Council to consider moving forward with a Town website as quickly as possible. Mr. Martin suggested that a Vision Committee member be involved in the development of the website.

Mayor Deese thanked Mr. Martin and the Vision Committee for the effort they had put forth. Mayor Deese assured Mr. Martin that he would review the information presented.

Adopt Resolution Exempting Professional Services related to South Elm Street sidewalk project from the requirements of G.S. 143-64.31. TA Webber informed Council that the surveyor used on several projects in the past has estimated a cost his services to be in the range of \$5,000, well below the \$30,000 threshold for bidding requirements. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made motion to adopt the resolution exempting professional services related to South Elm Street sidewalk project from the requirements of G.S. 143-64.31, second by Council Member Kiker. Vote: All Ayes.

North Side Sewer Project. TA Webber reminded Council that the grant funds to run the pipeline to Anson County were distributed by the NC Rural Center. The Rural Center will distribute an additional \$100 million this year on an application basis for infrastructure improvements. TA Webber attended the mandatory meeting in Raleigh that was required to apply for the grant. The next step is to submit a letter of intent no later than November 30<sup>th</sup>. It does not require a lot of detail, but a project must be identified.

DPW Steele explained that about 60% of Marshville's sewer flows to the lagoons located on the south side and can be sent to either Anson or Union County. Flow to the north side can only be sent to Union County. The lagoons allow sewer to be held and then pumped at a more suitable time. DPW Steele said that since a lot of money was spent to improve the south side last year, he wanted to focus on the north side this year. Improvements will include spraying manholes and slip-lining more lines. Mayor Deese clarified that this would help reduce the amount of rainwater that may otherwise flow to Union County.

TA Webber explained that the grant will be a dollar for dollar match. Mrs. Beck of Hobbs recommended not spending this year's \$70,000 budgeted for sewer rehab and instead carrying it forward to next year's budget, when the grant would be effective. With next year's allocation of \$70,000, this would account for \$140,000 in matching funds for a total of \$280,000 to be spent on the project.

Council Member Bivens made motion to direct staff to complete the letter of intent for the grant to be mailed to the NC Rural Center, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget. Vote: All Ayes.

Comments:

Council Member Beachum commented that the Christmas parade was nice and he enjoyed it.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget asked Mayor Deese what kind of response he received from business owners concerning decorating their storefronts for Christmas. Mayor Deese said that he did visit with all the businesses on Main Street and Union Street and gave them a letter informing them of the parade and Christmas tree lighting in addition to encouraging them to participate by decorating their storefronts. He said that the recommendation seemed to be well received with many having already decorated or with intentions to do so.

Council Members Bivens, High and Kiker had no comments.

Clerk/Finance Officer Maness reported that she had received an email from the auditors that stated the financial statements would not be ready by December 1<sup>st</sup> as a result of being their last entity audited this year, as opposed to being the first as usual. The email explained that the financial statements are written in the order in which the fieldwork is completed and notification would be given as soon as possible as to when the statements would be ready. The email also explained that the contract would need to be amended to reflect the new date and assurance was given that the delay would not reflect badly on the Town. C/FO Maness also mentioned that she would be spending a lot of time away from her desk this week to provide assistance at the front desk as Tax Collector Carolyn Haigler was scheduled to be on vacation.

Administrator Webber said that the Christmas parade went well and was well attended. The weather was nice and there was a variety of entries. Having attended Union County's Christmas parade also, TA Webber suggested that Council consider being in their parade next year.

TA Webber reviewed a letter he received from residents on JJ Autry Road, which is approximately one mile outside the city limits of Marshville. The letter stated that the residents of JJ Autry Road are having difficulty with their well water and asked if the Town might be able to provide some kind of relief. TA Webber reminded Council that the existing waterlines that lie outside city limits were most commonly funded by those requesting the service or grant funds. The cost to run a waterline is in the range of \$100,000 to \$200,000 per mile.

Council Member Kiker said that when she talked with some of the residents they seemed willing to help pay for some of the cost. DPW Steele said that before a decision could be made to extend a waterline to JJ Autry Road, it would first have to be determined if there will be adequate pressure after the waterline goes in on White Street.

Council Member Bivens asked if this area was included in Marshville's area of ETJ. TA Webber explained that JJ Autry Road was right outside of the ETJ area. Council Member Bivens also asked if there was grant money available for such a project and TA Webber confirmed that monies were available on a dollar for dollar basis. Council Member Bivens felt that the Town should look into providing water service to the people of JJ Autry Road.

Council Member Bivens also mentioned that a lady on Chamber Street or Faulkner Street is having trouble getting into her driveway. Council Member Bivens felt that the Town should do something to solve the situation. TA Webber recalled that the situation involves a private driveway not a road maintained by the Town. Council Member Bivens remarked that it was not

all private property and that something should be done because the lady lives in the city limits and pays property taxes.

Mayor Deese directed TA Webber to report back at a later meeting regarding the water issue. Mayor Deese also commented that the Town does need to prepare for growth in this area and realize that it will take money to do so.

Council Member Bivens asked if there were any grant funds available other than the ones the Town usually seeks. TA Webber responded that it is harder for Marshville to get grant funding since the Town is located in a Tier 5 county.

TA Webber reported that he would work with PD Thifault on the grant application from Union County and bring back to Council a proposed project for their approval. A draft of the standardized zoning regulations as proposed by Union County Public Schools was provided to Council for their consideration. TA Webber said that he will try to schedule a representative from UCPS to give a presentation on the matter at a future meeting. TA Webber noted that the Town hosted an Energy Conservation workshop on November 14<sup>th</sup> which was well attended by various entities from Stanly and Union Counties. He also pointed out that the Energy Assessment agreement had been executed and mailed. TA Webber said that he and Mayor Deese planned to attend Mayor school in Raleigh on November 28<sup>th</sup>. He also requested notification from those Council Members who planned to attend the Essentials of Municipal Government class to be held in Charlotte January 8-10.

TA Webber reminded Council of the transportation priorities that they had established some time back. He said that he met with the folks from NCDOT at the Union Street and Olive Branch location that was listed among the priorities. DOT expressed a willingness to work on the vegetation there, but they have gone as far as they can within their right-of-way. Upon DOT's request, a letter was sent to the property owners asking for their assistance in the matter, but no response had been received.

TA Webber mentioned that a Quasi Judicial Workshop was scheduled for Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup> in Matthews from 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. and invited the Council Members to attend. Other events include: the Marshville Chamber of Commerce's Christmas drop-in luncheon to be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Morgan Edwards Library and Union County's Board of Education meeting to be held on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Marshville Elementary School.

Mayor Deese made Council aware of an invitation to a Union County Chamber of Commerce celebration on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at Rolling Hills at 6:00 p.m. and asked if they would like to purchase a table for \$400. He also mentioned an invitation to Beaver Lane VFD's Christmas party to be held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at Edward's Coffee House at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Deese asked the Council Members to assist him in raising funds for East Union Middle School to buy uniforms for their athletic teams. He concluded by saying that it had been brought to his attention that traffic was an issue at Marshville Elementary. He planned to check out the situation for himself the following morning.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Franklin D. Deese  
Mayor

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