

Marshville Town Council Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday January 22, 2007
201 West Main Street, Marshville, North Carolina

Present: Mayor Franklin D. Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Dora Bridget, Council Members: Doug High, Jr., Gail Kiker, Margaret Bivens and Ned Beachum, Town Administrator Carl Webber, Police Chief Mike Gaddy, DPW Bivens Steele, and Town Clerk / Finance Officer Scott Howard.

Mayor Deese opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Council Member Beachum gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment Section: Richard Paschal, a local merchant dealing with tombstones and other granite fixtures, addressed council. He suggested Marshville construct a columbarium at the Marshville cemetery. He estimated that a unit having ninety-six spaces would cost \$13,800 to construct. A consensus was reached to have this placed on an upcoming agenda.

Alex Martin, Chairman of the Vision Committee addressed council. He reviewed a survey that the Vision Committee is sending out to Marshville citizens. He also reviewed the committee's progress.

Department Head Comments: DPW Steele stated that his department has been repairing leaks. He also reviewed an upcoming clean-up day using prisoners. Council Member Bivens stated that Bost Street needed cleaning.

Police Chief Gaddy awarded Marshville Police Officer Micheal Lovingood a plaque of appreciation and recognition for his recent heroic deed. Officer Lovingood was on patrol on the night of January 18. He noticed flames shooting from the roof of a house occupied by Naikia Collins and her two young children. Officer Lovingood had previously stated that he had knocked on the door and had heard no reply. He then kicked in the door where he awakened the mother and led her and her children to safety. Mrs. Collins has stated that she was a heavy sleeper and would not have awakened. She credits Officer Lovingood with saving her and her children's life.

Chief Gaddy stated that it was good police work. Council Members commended him as well, as did the Mayor.

Chief Gaddy also informed Council that Officer Navarro had submitted his two-week resignation. Chief Gaddy stated that traditionally, openings for full time police positions were offered to the Marshville's auxiliary officers. He asked council if that is how they wished him to proceed.

Council Member Beachum agreed to this. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget said that Chief Gaddy should hire whomever he wants. Council Member's Kiker and Bivens said he should proceed with asking the auxiliary officers if they were interested. Council Member Bivens asked Chief Gaddy to consider offering the position to an African American. Chief Gaddy stated that Officer Navarro could not stay on, probably because of the salary. Mayor Deese suggested that Officer Lovingood be sent to school and learn more of the Spanish language.

Administrator Webber asked that discussion/action on the proposed upcoming of "A Day in the Park" be added to the agenda. Marshville has been slated for one with the vendor since last year. Since Marshville Park Director position is vacant, there is question if this will still happen. The vendor is asking. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridge made a motion to place this item on the agenda. Council Member Beachum gave the 2nd. Vote: All Ayes.

A motion to adopt the agenda with the addition was made by Council Member Bivens (see att. 1817a). Council Member Beachum gave the 2nd. Vote: All Ayes. A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Council Member High. Council Member Beachum gave the 2nd. Vote: All Ayes.

The Code Enforcement Officer for the town could not make the meeting. Code Enforcement proceedings were discussed. A property owned by Mr. Ricky Taylor was reviewed. It was stated that a meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., January 31. If Mr. Taylor failed to attend that meeting, council can start a ninety-day proceeding to adopt a resolution to demolish the property.

A discussion was started on forming a tree board. Administrator Webber said that Marshville had a tree grant that required a tree board. He said that Marshville would have to match a grant of \$4,500. Administrator Webber asked Mayor Deese to select members to the board. Mayor Deese directed Administrator Webber to advertise in the local paper soliciting letters of interest. One of the duties of this board will be to draft a tree ordinance.

Recognizing Marshville's 130th Anniversary on February 12 was discussed. Mayor Deese directed Administrator Webber to contact Representative Pryor Gibson to explore recognition on the state level. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget recommended a drop-in party at Town Hall on that day. There was a consensus to approve a resolution recognizing February 12th as Marshville's 130th Anniversary (see att. 1817b).

Council considered disposing of the town owned property at 107 North Elm Street. This was in response to a letter from an adjoining business owner wanting to purchase the building. Council Member Kiker said Marshville should sell that Real Estate. Mayor Deese was not in favor of that. Council Member Bivens suggested demolishing the building and using it for parking.

Council Member High suggested exploring demolishing the building and not selling the land. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget suggested finding another renter. Administrator Webber said that it would generate about \$475 per month in rent. He said if sold, it would generate about \$150 per year in taxes. It was stated that the building should not be left empty. There was a motion to rent the building made by Council Member Bivens. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget gave the 2nd. Vote: Ayes: Bivens, Bridget, Beachum and High, Nay: Kiker.

After discussion, there was a consensus for a military fly-over at the next veteran's related holiday. It was stated that a ninety-day notice was needed.

Specifying the project to be named for applying to the Union County Park Grant was discussed. Council Member Beachum reviewed movable fence options. A vinyl-paneled fence would be about \$5,000. A variation of the fence would be about \$1,000. A chain link fence would be around \$6252. It was stated that the Marshville Athletic Association was applying for a grant to update a concession stand at the park. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made a motion to apply for the grant for the purpose of erecting a movable fence for ball field one and portable mounds. The deadline for this grant is February 15. Council Member Bivens said that since council would not consider her idea of a basketball court, she said she does not understand, "Why we could not have pursued a basketball court for the grant." Vote: Ayes: Bridget, High, Kiker, Beachum. Nay: Bivens.

Discussion on "Day in the Park" was entered. There was a consensus to have the day in the park at the same time and date as last year. Administrator Webber is to start discussion with the supplier.

Council Member Beachum, the Chair of the Museum Committee reported to Council. He stated that Marshville Rotary wants to know if Marshville is going to join the Union County Museum, before they commit to adopting a Marshville museum as a project. He said that the Marshville Museum is ready to hand the project over to a museum board.

Council Member Bivens, Chair of the Beautification Committee, said that they would meet soon.

Council Member Kiker stated that the Vision Committee should formulate ideas from inside their committee, instead of using a survey. Mayor Deese said that he wanted input from more than just the committee members.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget, Chair of the Filling the Park Vacancy Committee, said that they have met and became acquainted. She said the next meeting should take place, probably on February 8th. It was mentioned that nine applications had been submitted.

Finance Officer and Town Clerk Howard reported that he had completed LGC 0203 that accounts for all of the town monies and where they are deposited. He also reported that 2nd notices have been mailed for delinquent taxes. He reported on other issues and then informed council that he is submitting his notice of resignation with the standard two-week notice.

He stated that he has worked for the town for over five years. He thanked Council and the Mayor for the opportunity to work and for the room he had been given to implement many programs that added value to the town.

Administrator Webber wished Finance Officer Howard luck and stated that he had implemented many changes and made Town Hall much more efficient. He said Town Clerk Howard brought the Town Hall into the 21st Century.

Administrator Webber reviewed various informational opportunities for council. He also stated that the town had been awarded a grant for to purchase four cameras for patrol cars. He mentioned a letter in council's box regarding the proposed Monroe by-pass.

Mayor Deese reviewed a letter from the American Red Cross and shared that they had awarded Marshville a plaque for Marshville letting them use the community center free of charge. He reviewed a letter from a fourth grader.

Mayor Deese reviewed a resolution from Monroe giving Habitat for Humanity free sewer and water taps. He also stated that Marshville's Land Use Ordinance Book should be brought in for Administrator Webber to update. He also reviewed a letter from the turnpike authority concerning a meeting they are having regarding the proposed by-pass that he might attend. He commended Finance Officer Howard on the job he had done for Marshville.

There was a consensus to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at approximately 9:00 p.m.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2007

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____
Scott Howard
Town Clerk