

Marshville Town Council Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday April 16, 2007
201 West Main Street, Marshville, North Carolina

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

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

Public Comment Section: None

Department Head Comments: DPW Steele said he met with Hobbs, Upchurch, and Associates on the sewer rehabilitation project. He reported that he should have total cost of the project in two weeks. DPW Steele reported the street signs were up on Main and Elm. Council Member Kiker complimented DPW Steele on the signs and the park maintenance. Mayor said he wants a study done on increasing sewer capacity in the future.

Chief Gaddy reported that a truck ran over the park fence but does not have any leads at this time. The Chief also informed Council that a Highway Traffic Grant had been approved giving the Town a new equipped police car and a portion of personnel costs for a police officer. The Chief also reported that everything looked favorable for a grant for four cameras for the police cars. Chief Gaddy gave an update on officer Paul Lemmond who had surgery and will be out of work at least one week.

TA Webber discussed a rezoning issue regarding Eduardo Duron and El Vallarta restaurant. TA Webber informed Council that the zoning board informed Mr. Duron to withdraw his zoning request and apply for a conditional use rezoning that would cost an additional \$300.00. He asked if some of his original \$300.00 could be credited to the special use permit. Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made a motion, second by Council Member High to add to the agenda a discussion of rezoning fees of Mr. Duron. Vote: All Ayes. This was added as Agenda item number 15.

Motion to adopt the agenda was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget, second by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All Ayes.

Motion was made by Council Member High, second by Council Member Beachum to adopt the Consent Agenda. Vote: All Ayes.

Agenda Item number 7. TA Webber explained that both committee chairs for the two department heads wanted an extensive background check of applicants being considered for these positions. CCOG and Attorney Griffin recommended to TA Webber that background checks should be performed on a department head position. TA Webber recommended the town use Mr. Turner of Asset Corporation. He is retired secret service and has extensive experience in this area. TA Webber and Chief Gaddy have known him for a long period of time. The town does not have a policy on background checks at present. TA Webber stated it is up to Council to decide on a policy. He also said the background checks would cost between \$200.00 and \$300.00 per person. After a discussion Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget made a motion to adopt procedure for hiring Department Head Personnel as outlined on page 9 of the agenda package, second was by Council Member Kiker. Vote: All Ayes. (See attachment page 1843 A)

Agenda Item number 9 and 10. Hiring of Park Director and Clerk/Finance Officer. A motion was made by Council Member Kiker, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget to go into closed session to discuss applicants for these two positions. Council went into closed session about 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Deese called council back into regular session about 9:05 p.m. Council Member High made a motion, second by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget to offer the Park Director's job to Alan Thifault at an annual salary of \$30,000.00 and a possible raise of up to ten percent after six month's of employment pending background and drug testing. Vote: All Ayes. Council Member Kiker then made a motion to hire Shelly Maness for the Clerk/Finance officer position at a annual rate of \$40,000.00 and a possible raise of up to ten percent after six month's of employment. This offer is contingent upon drug test and background check. Second was by Council Member Bivens. Vote: 4 Ayes, 1 Nay. The Mayor will contact candidates tomorrow to make official offers.

Mayor went to Agenda Item number 14 to accommodate Maurice Ewing of Union County Partnership For Progress. Mr. Ewing is seeking concurrence of the Council to join Wingate in long term economic planning and development. The east side of Union County is less developed than the west side. Mr. Ewing feels the east side can learn from the many mistakes made by the west side development. Council Member High is in favor of economic development but feels it cannot be done because of sewer capacity. Mr. Ewing said that is a problem but if two towns approach the county instead of one that will carry a lot more weight. Council is in favor of the Marshville/Wingate Economic Development Strategy. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget, second by Council Member High to direct TA Webber to get together with Mr. Ewing and Dryw Blanchard of Wingate to start the joint venture. Vote: All Ayes.

Agenda Item number 11. Release taxes as specified by tax collector as reported by the Union County Tax Administration. On page 13 there are to be released a total of \$4.86 in taxes because Marshville does not print tax bills under \$1.00. The other \$246.71 is to be released as reported by Union County. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget, second by Council Member High to release the taxes on page 13. Vote: All Ayes. (See attachment page 1843 B).

Agenda Item number 12. Appoint members of the Planning Board to serve on the Tree Board. The Mayor asked the Planning Board to also serve as the Tree Board at the last Planning Board meeting. He felt this would fit in with a board that was already established. All members of the Planning Board agreed to serve on the Tree Board. TA Webber also suggested that Debra Leigh also serve as secretary of the Tree Board at the same rate of pay she receives as the Planning Board secretary. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget, second by Council Member Bivens to appoint Planning Board members to the Tree Board with Debra as secretary. Vote: All Ayes.

Agenda Item number 13. Final list of minor transportation improvements to state roads to be delivered to Rocky River RPO and Union County Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee. Council Member High wants the intersection of White Street and Highway 74 widened to accommodate trucks turning. Council Member High also wants South Elm Street at Highway 74 repaired where the traffic signal loops are located. Council Member Bivens wants sidewalks on Olive Branch Road along Town Park. DPW Steele says he gets a lot of complaints about Traywick Road.

Agenda Item number 15. Discuss rezoning fees for Eduardo Duron. The Planning Board did not reject his zoning request but suggested he withdraw it and apply for a conditional use permit. He paid \$300.00 for the zoning application and will have to pay another \$300.00 fee for the conditional use permit. He asked TA Webber if he could receive some credit from first fee be applied to the second fee. TA Webber said the staff had some of time invested in the first zoning request. After discussion a motion was made by Council Member Beachum, second by Council Member High to give Mr. Duron a credit of \$150.00 toward his second permit for special use permit. Vote 4 Ayes 1 Nay.

Comments:

Council Member Beachum thought about the bad housing conditions and he rode around looking at all the properties over the weekend. He looked at Shady Lane and other properties that need to be cleaned up. He is unhappy with the slow moving Mr. Luster

and wants this process sped up. TA Webber called Mr. Luster and informed him that Council is unhappy with his results and his slow reaction to code enforcement. TA Webber reminded Council that the property located at 200 S. Carelock was scheduled to be demolished, but after family talked to Council they granted an extension for the family to fix up the house. To date there has not been any improvement. The Town has to get bids to tear down any buildings. Repair cost has to be 51% or higher of the tax value or the building cannot be demolished.

TA Webber said Mr. Luster would be at the first meeting in May. He will give an update on all open properties in the system. He will also give the pros and cons of code enforcement. TA Webber has requested Attorney Griffin to start title searches on two properties. The properties are on Hambrick Street and 200 S. Carelock. Mayor Deese wants Council to be ready to pull the trigger when the time comes.

Council Member Bivens, Council Member High, Council Member Kiker, Mayor Pro-Tem Bridget, and Interim Clerk/ Finance McAdam had no comments.

TA Webber informed council that he has advertised for the vacancy in the Police Dept. He also informed Council that towns and cities would have to report on funds available for retired employee benefits. The town provides life insurance for all retirees for a period of time. He also reported that CMAQ has tentatively approved a grant for two buses to run each weekday morning and evening. CATS will start looking for parking in the near future. This service could start in June 2007. Turning Point wants to make a presentation for the upcoming budget year. TA Webber will contact Turning Point to invite them on May 7, 2007 for a ten-minute presentation.

There being no further the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2007

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____
Ron McAdam
Interim Town Clerk