

Town of Marshville

Town Council Meeting

Monday, February 7, 2011 at 7:00 PM

Marshville Community Center – 118 E. Union St.

Present: Mayor Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens, Council Members Bridget, Beachum, and Jefferson, TM Radford Thomas, Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, Interim Police Chief Matt Tarlton, and Attorney Bobby Griffin. Also present were Diane Dil, CCOG, and editors Lacy Hampton (*The Enquirer Journal*) and John Edmondson (*The Home News*).

OPEN/WELCOME/INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Deese opened the meeting of the Marshville Town Council at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed all those in attendance. The invocation was given by CM Ned Beachum. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Limited to 2 minutes per person, 10 minutes total, if any

Charlitta Burruss of 323 E. Phifer Street, Marshville voiced her concern regarding late fees and reconnect charges on utility bills. She commented that she gets paid only monthly and sometimes has trouble getting to Town Hall to pay her bill within business hours. She was charged a \$30 late fee and is of the opinion that amount is too excessive. She expressed her desire for council to look at lowering fees and charges for utility customers.

Gail Kiker of 1029 Forest Drive, Marshville made comments to council regarding the position for police chief. She expressed that she believes on promoting from within, or looking at local applicants. She isn't comfortable with the idea of hiring someone from out of town. She asked for an update on the process of hiring a police chief. Mayor Deese informed Ms. Kiker that TM Thomas and council members have been reviewing resumes. TM Thomas commented that 39 applications were received. He and the council are working to find the best qualified person that will be the right fit for Marshville.

ADOPT AGENDA

A motion was made by CM Dora Bridget to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by MPT Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve minutes from January 18, 2011 meeting
- b. Receive Budget Report as of 1/31/2011

A motion was made by CM Dora Bridget to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by MPT Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes

CONSIDERATION OF FINAL PLAT APPROVAL FOR GULF BAY ESTATES (HABITAT FOR HUMANITY) – Diane Dil, CCOG

Diane Dil, Land Use Administrator with CCOG, addressed council regarding final plat approval for Gulf Bay Estates, a major subdivision to be developed in Marshville. Ms. Dil explained that Gulf Bay Estates is a 5.599 acre subdivision that will be divided into 15 single family lots. The property is zoned R10, and all lots meet the zoning requirements set forth by the Town. As required in the LUO, Habitat for Humanity has paid a \$5,367 "in lieu" fee. Habitat for Humanity has also provided the Town of Marshville with a letter of credit valid for one year from BB & T. Some site improvements such as paving work, erosion control, signs, and cleanup remain at an estimated cost of \$70,000. According to Ms. Dil, CCOG staff has reviewed the documents and recommends approval from the council. TM Thomas commented that Habitat for Humanity has complied with all aspects of the Town's LUO. He feels comfortable going forward with construction. Mr. Mike Reese of Habitat for Humanity commented on the letter of credit for \$150,000 secured from BB & T. He also informed council that students from Wingate College would be coming in March to begin the construction. The expected completion date is June 2012. Mr. Reese reiterated that all planning and zoning criteria have been met. A motion to approve the final plat for Gulf Bay Estates was made by MPT Margaret Bivens. The motion was seconded by CM Matthew Jefferson. Vote: All ayes

CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT WITH INSIGHT RESEARCH TO CONDUCT A COMMUNITY WIDE SURVEY

TM Radford Thomas referenced a survey proposal in the agenda packet. He commented that, as directed by the council, he negotiated with Insight Research to perform the survey. He stated that the turn-key price for a one thousand sample survey would be \$5,350. TM Thomas feels this would be a good opportunity to get our hands on some helpful data that would help to move the town forward and plan for the future. It is the recommendation of TM Thomas that council approve the survey. He feels we can find the funds within the budget. CM Jefferson commented that the information from the survey is needed to create a Comprehensive Plan for Marshville so the town can have a direction to move toward. It will be a vital tool for us commented CM Jefferson. TM Thomas suggested council members think of topics to be used to develop questions. He also suggested involving the local Chamber of Commerce. CM Dora Bridget made a motion to authorize TM Thomas to initiate a contract with Insight Research to conduct a community-wide survey subject to the parameters of the survey proposal and to further authorize the mayor to sign said contract. The motion was seconded by MPT Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes

RESOLUTION NAMING A FIVE MILE SECTION OF HWY. 74 IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF MR. CARROLL EDWARDS (information)

Mayor Deese read the resolution as approved by the NCDOT for the record. Mayor Deese instructed TM Thomas to check on a dedication service.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION – CM Matthew Jefferson

CM Jefferson commented of his desire to have economic development placed on the agenda regularly. He desires to see progress in this area. CM Jefferson feels that a Comprehensive Plan for Marshville is long overdue and much needed. He shared that he has had numerous discussions with the economic development group/committee he put together. However, no one wants to be the first to make the investment. CM Jefferson commented that downtowns are difficult these days. We need ways to draw people to downtown. CM Jefferson explained

he would like to visit some other small towns to see how they have developed or revitalized their downtowns. MPT Bivens commented on the need to begin by cleaning up some properties in Marshville. She feels residents and property owners need to be responsible for how their properties look. Mayor Deese suggested that MPT Bivens work on the beautification facet of economic development. CM Jefferson commented on the availability of grant money. He mentioned façade grants, whereby the Town would match some of the expense to “facelift” properties. TM Thomas mentioned establishing a “Main Street Community”. He indicated there are programs out there to be researched. He also agreed with CM Jefferson’s idea of visiting other towns and seeing how they got started. CM Jefferson stated that economic development process may be a long process but we have to begin somewhere. Mayor Deese mentioned looking into the availability of grants to see what may be available. He commented that it is council’s job to steer this town. Mayor Deese thanked CM Jefferson for the information and comments he provided.

COUNCIL PLANNING RETREAT ON FEBRUARY 24, 2011, AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE MARSHVILLE COMMUNITY CENTER

TM Thomas reminded council of the retreat planned for February 24th, beginning at 8:30 am.

COMMENTS

Mayor Deese commented that each council member received a copy of the audited financials in their agenda packet. As per the memo from TM Thomas, the financials have been reviewed and approved by the LGC.

Interim Chief Matt Tarlton commented that during a recent streetlight survey only two lights were out.

CM Jefferson commented that this spring he would like to continue with outdoor concerts in an effort to bring more people into the downtown area.

MPT Bivens conveyed to council that she’s received several complaints about dogs. She feels we need to implement an ordinance regarding dogs within our town limits.

Clerk/FO Johnson commented on the recently held Clerk School. She enjoyed the event and felt it provided a wealth of information and resources. She expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend.

TM Thomas commented on the Managers’ Meetings he recently attended. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to attend. He reminded council that May 4th will be Town Hall Day in Raleigh. Also, on this coming Thursday he will meet with an engineer firm that helps identify utility losses. They are interested in provided a proposal for their services. TM Thomas conveyed to council that the feedback from the joint meeting with the Planning Board has been positive. He also informed council that James Clyburn has been recently hired as the new part-time public works employee. He will be introduced at the next meeting. Lastly, TM Thomas commented that he’s still working with DOT on a pedestrian crossing at Elm St. and Hwy. 74.

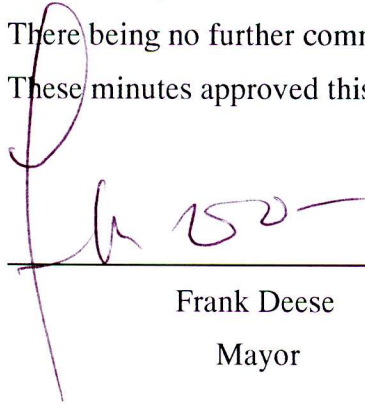
ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by MPT Margaret Bivens, and seconded by CM Dora Bridget.


Vote: All ayes

There being no further comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

These minutes approved this 21st day of February, 2011.



Frank Deese
Mayor

ATTEST: 

Tonya Johnson
Town Clerk

**A brief recess may be called every 45-60 minutes, as desired by Council.*