

Town of Marshville**Town Council Meeting****Monday, June 20, 2011 at 7:00 PM****Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.**

Present: Mayor Deese, MPT Margaret Bivens, CM Ned Beachum, CM Dora Bridget, CM Matthew Jefferson, TM Radford Thomas, Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, Chief Carl Webber, Atty. Bobby Griffin. Also present were: Mike Reece with Habitat for Humanity, Travis Morehead with Carolina Thread Trail, John Edmondson with the Home News, and Lacy Hampton with The Enquirer Journal.

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Frank Deese opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone 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

There were no public comments

Adopt Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by CM Ned Beachum and seconded by MPT Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes from the June 6, 2011 Council Meeting (Pgs. 2-4)
- b. Approve Budget Report as of May 31, 2011 (Pg. 5)
- c. Approve Budget Amendment #2011-05 (Pg. 6)

A motion to approve the consent agenda as received was made by MPT Margaret Bivens and seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Presentation from Habitat for Humanity – Mike Reece

Mike Reece gave an update on the progress of Gulf Bay Estates, the newly developing Habitat for Humanity subdivision in Marshville. He stated that lots 1 and 2 are now complete and occupied. Lot 1 (5 br; 2 bath) appraised for \$126,000, and Lot 2 (3 br; 2 bath) appraised for \$123,000. The properties were appraised by Morrison Appraisal. Mr. Reece commented that the plan is to have all fifteen homes completed by September 2012. To date there are ten approved families. Mayor Deese asked how the name “Gulf Bay Estates” came about. Mr. Reece commented that more than 150 subdivision names have been claimed and this name was the first one approved. Mr. Reece also informed council that much of the labor on the construction of the homes has been completed by college kids who volunteer on their spring break. They’ve also had youth come here from other states on a mission trip to help with the construction. Mayor Deese thanked Mr. Reece for his work with helping folks obtain home ownership. Mike Reece presented a plaque to TM Radford Thomas and to DPW Bivens Steele.

Approval of proposed Carolina Thread Trail Plan – Travis Morehead

Travis Morehead with the Carolina Thread Trail plan showed a brief presentation of the proposed Carolina Thread Trail plan. He commented that the trail will cover an expanse of fifteen counties with approximately

one hundred miles of trail to link people, places, cities, towns, and attractions. It will also help preserve natural areas. Mr. Morehead explained that the trail can benefit Marshville by augmenting the existing Pedestrian Plan. It also qualifies the town to receive funding from Carolina Thread Trail. Mr. Morehead also explained that adopting the plan does not commit the town to expend any funds. CM Matthew Jefferson asked who builds the trail. Mr. Morehead replied that it depends on who has jurisdiction. Within Marshville, Marshville would own it, maintain it, etc. CM Matthew Jefferson asked how many years this has been in the making to which Mr. Morehead responded that the concept began around 2005-2006. TM Radford Thomas commented that some of the route is pre-existing. CM Matthew Jefferson asked how the trail is marked. Mr. Morehead replied that sign packages are available. CM Ned Beachum asked what happens in the event that another town doesn't connect. Mr. Morehead responded that the trail stops. TM Radford Thomas commented that merely approving the plan doesn't obligate the town to expend any money. However, if we're thinking of spending money this provides a pot of money to draw from. Attorney Griffin asked Mr. Morehead if the plan could be amended to which he replied it can (be amended). Mayor Deese commented that this could be an option for the town to use if we need to. It could be a useful tool (if we adopt the plan). Federal and state grants call for matching funds. The Carolina Thread Trail could provide those matching funds for us. Mr. Morehead informed council that this plan was approved by the Planning Board at their last meeting. It was their recommendation that it be brought before the council for approval.

CM Matthew Jefferson made a motion to approve the proposed Carolina Thread Trail plan. The motion was seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

Receive & Approve Proposal from CCOG for Planning Services for FY2011-12

TM Thomas explained to members of council the differences in the services proposed by CCOG as compared to last year. He commented that he expressed to them the importance of accessibility. This new agreement for FY2011-2012 provides for some staff time in which Ms. Diane Dil and Mr. James Luster will have designated working hours at Town Hall. TM Thomas also commented that we will no longer be billed by hours but a fixed monthly fee. TM Thomas recommended council's approval of this agreement. Mayor Deese commented that this appears to be a good plan for less money than the previous year. CM Ned Beachum stated his disappointment in the service received from CCOG. CM Matthew Jefferson agreed with CM Ned Beachum. He asked whether we could do this service ourselves. Mayor Deese commented that we could not hire someone for \$10,000 to provide planning and code enforcement services.

CM Dora Bridget made a motion to accept and approve the proposal from CCOG for planning services for FY2011-2012. The motion was seconded by MPT Margaret Bivens. Vote: 2 to 2 (opposed: CM Ned Beachum and CM Matthew Jefferson). Mayor Deese voted in favor of the proposal to break the tie.

Report on Health Insurance Program

TM Radford Thomas updated council on the final health insurance rates received from United Healthcare. The employee rate is \$385.97, which represents an 8% increase over the current year's rates. He commented that the rates came in just under what was budgeted. TM Thomas explained some of the changes in the plan which includes going from a \$2,500 deductible to a \$5,000 deductible. The copay for office visits and prescriptions remain the same. TM Thomas informed council that employees were offered a dual-option plan (or buy up) in which they can pay the difference through a payroll deduction and stay with the richer plan. TM Thomas commented that he's received positive comments from the employees.

Discussion on new Code of Ordinances

TM Radford Thomas led a discussion regarding some changes in the new Code of Ordinances. He commented that some sections have been deleted and some sections amended or added. He commented on some of the changes in language. He also pointed out that the council meeting schedule language now reads as follows, "The regular meetings of the Mayor and Town Council shall be held on the first and third Monday of each month . . ." The previous language stated that council meetings are held the first Monday after the first Sunday

of the month and two weeks thereafter. The meeting calendar will be revised to reflect any changes in the meeting dates affected by this change. TM Thomas also referenced a new chapter, Title IX, Chapter 95, which addresses animals, particularly livestock and containment animals and dogs. TM Thomas commented that he is pleased with how the new code has turned out. MPT Margaret Bivens commended TM Thomas for getting this project done.

Comments

PD Alan Thifault stated that there would be a crowd of people at the park this coming weekend due to the Babe Ruth playoffs. He commented that the town would receive a donation for hosting the event. PD Thifault informed council that a summer concert is in the works for the third week in July. CM Matthew Jefferson asked if additional concerts are scheduled for the summer to which PD Thifault replied they are not. CM Matthew Jefferson commented that he would like to help promote the concerts. PD Alan Thifault stated that he would like to obtain signs that can be re-used just by changing the date. MPT Margaret Bivens asked PD Thifault to look into finding a more diverse band. PD Thifault said he would look into a band that plays beach music.

DPW Bivens Steele commented on the annual Water Quality report that will be going out within the next week. It is a compilation of water test results for the previous year. He commented that the report also includes a report for Anson County since we purchase water from them. MPT Margaret Bivens asked DPW Steele about mowing along Bost Street on the street side of a fence. TM Thomas spoke up and commented that he believes there is a right of way for the street but the yard all the way to the road is the responsibility of the homeowner. DPW Steele also commented that the town doesn't have right of way along the edge of the road. He also stated that the yard, all the way to the road, belongs to the homeowner.

Chief Carl Webber commented that it's good to be back. He stated that this past Friday was his first day. He commented that he's been working on updating mutual aid agreements and computer issues.

CM Dora Bridget welcomed Carl.

CM Matthew Jefferson welcomed Carl. He inquired about the results of the community-wide survey. TM Thomas commented that we should have the results available at the July 18th meeting. CM Matthew Jefferson also inquired about the status of the CMAQ sidewalk project. TM Thomas responded that without easements, which several landowners were unwilling to grant, we cannot do anything. He further stated that he's talked with CMAQ folks about rescaling the project. He doesn't know how we can move forward with the project without the necessary easements and he doesn't think the council wants to condemn the property for a 5' sidewalk. CM Matthew Jefferson stated that he would like to see this item placed on the agenda for next month. CM Matthew Jefferson referenced a Chamber of Commerce meeting that he and TM Thomas attended. He stated that they told the Chamber folks that we'd get an inventory of downtown properties including owners, tenants, lease/rents, etc. He suggested we get someone to compile the data and then have a joint meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to work together toward economic development. CM Matthew Jefferson reminded council that in order to qualify for the N.C. Small Town Main Street program we have to have economic development strategies in place. He commented on the need for an Economic Development Committee. Next, CM Matthew Jefferson commented on the Veterans' Day event being planned for November. TM Thomas commented that we have a vendor from which to order flags for the event. CM Matthew Jefferson expressed his desire to put the flags out prior to the event and to attach an invitation to each flag. He also would like to inquire into purchasing lapel pins for veteran's who attend the event. Mayor Deese commented that business owners may be willing to display flags at their places of business. Lastly, CM Matthew Jefferson informed council that a house across the road from his residence is burned. He would like to see about getting it on the list for code enforcement.

MPT Margaret Bivens commented that she is pleased with the Code of Ordinances. She also expressed her concerns about all the empty businesses in town.

Attorney Bobby Griffin commented that it seems the inventory of businesses should be spearheaded by the Chamber of Commerce. He doesn't really see that as a Town Hall function. The town doesn't have an economic development department.

CM Ned Beachum welcomed Carl.

Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson reminded council that the League Letter they receive via mail from the NCLM will only be available electronically beginning in July. She will forward email addresses for council members who wish to continue to receive the publication.

TM Radford Thomas reminded council that due to the July 4th holiday on Monday, the council will meet on Tuesday, July 5th.

Mayor Deese welcomed Carl.

Adjourn

MPT Margaret Bivens made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8: 40 p.m. The motion was seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

There being no further comments the meeting was adjourned.

These minutes approved this 5th day of July 2011.

BY: _____

Frank Deese
Mayor

ATTEST: _____

Tonya D. Johnson
Town Clerk

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