



Town of Marshville
Town Council Regular Meeting
December 04, 2023, 7 PM
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union Street – Marshville, NC 28103



In Attendance: Mayor Larry Smith, Re-elected Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton, Council Members Re-elected Paulette Blakeney, Gary Huntley, Monaca Marshall, Newly elected Stephen Passarelli, Margaret Bivens.

Staff Attendance: Town Manager Franklin Deese, Town Attorney Bobby Griffin, and Town Clerk Ashlie Vincent

Regular Meeting Minutes

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Larry Smith called the meeting to order. Member Huntley gave the invocation. All shared the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

- Thomas Goodman: Two public record requests were handed to the council members. He advised the council to look at their Facebook page. He presented a plaque to Margaret Bivens on behalf of the Truth in Government organization for her years of service to the town.
- Rusty Johnson: He congratulated the newly elected officials. He thanked Margaret Bivens for her service on the council.
- Beatrice Colson: Presentation of appreciation for Margaret Bivens.
- Frankie Horne: Expressed her concern about the sidewalk widening on Main Street. With the transition from diagonal to parallel parking, what can be done about additional parking?
- Dana Pope: Expressed her concern about the widening of sidewalks. Parking is minimal at the moment, and she is worried it may hurt businesses on Main Street.

Adoption of Agenda:

Motion: To amend the agenda and add a closed session per G.S 143-318.11(a)(3) as item 12b was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Huntley—all ayes.

Consent Agenda:

Motion: To adopt the consent agenda, it was made by my Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Blakeney—all ayes.

Seating of Newly Elected Town Board Council:

Stephen Passarelli, newly elected Town Council Member; Paulette Blakeney, Ernestine Staton, renewal as Town Council Member; Larry Smith, renewal as Mayor. All were sworn in.

Appreciation Ceremony for outgoing council member:

Mayor Smith presented Margaret Biven with a plaque for her many years of service to the town council. It was revealed the community center will be named after her as well. Margaret Bivens shared a few words of appreciation for the love and support.

Election of Mayor-Pro-tempore/Oath of Office:

Motion: To nominate Ernestine Staton for the position of Mayor-Pro tem was made by Member Huntley and seconded by Member Blakeney—all ayes.

Discussion/Appointment of Town Board Liaisons:

Member Marshall will remain the representative on the Parks/Rec Committee.

Motion: made by Member Huntley and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Staton—all ayes.

Member Blakeney will remain the representative for the Centralina Regional Council.

Motion: made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton will remain the representative for CRPTO.

Motion: made by Member Huntley and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Member Passarelli was nominated to be a representative for the Marshville ABC Board.

Motion: made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Discussion/Possible Action concerning the Planning Board/Board of Adjustment Vacancy:

Manager Deese stated that Stephen Passarelli's resignation from the Planning and Board of Adjustment will open a vacancy. One application was presented to the council. The council had a brief discussion.

Motion: To assign LaDell Gardner to the planning board and board of adjustment to finish Stephen Passarelli's term with an end date of June 30, 2026, was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Manager's Comments:

- Truth in Government request: Veteran's memorial – he will submit the packet handed to the council to Mr. Goodman.
- Parking: Property exchange with a citizen to allow to make a new parking lot. Removal of diagonal parking to help with the intersection of Cross and Main Street. A drawing will be presented to the council once the engineers complete the survey.
- Mayor Pro-tem Staton suggested adding some of the ordinances to the meeting to be discussed. Manager Deese replied that a legal team would need to review the ordinances but could make suggestions for the legal team.

Council Comments:

- Ernestine Staton: Better methods to get information out to the public.
- Monaca Marshall: Thanked everyone for coming out. She congratulated the elected members.
- Gary Huntley: Enjoyed the downtown Christmas lighting event. Congratulations to the new officials.
- Paulette Blakeney: Thanked everyone for coming out. Welcomed Mr. Passarelli. Reminder about the Christmas with Cops event on December 9th. Possible lights out on Old 74.
- Stephen Passarelli: Thanked everyone for their support. He stated he would do his best to represent the town. Sees lots of opportunity for good change.

Mayor's Comments:

- A business grand opening on Saturday at 10 am.
- Union County Management team gave the town council a Christmas card
- Street lights – if you see one out, reach out/report it.
- Historic moment signing interlocal agreement and water agreement.
- The mayor will have office hours at the town hall. Email to set up an appointment time. Projected time is 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays on meeting weeks.
- Discussion about keeping the work session was had. The motion to forgo the work session on December 18th was made by Member Marshall and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Staton—all ayes.
- Town staff Christmas party at noon on December 21st if council members want to drop in.

Closed Session: G.S 143-318.11(a)(3): consult with attorney:

Motion: To go into a closed session was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

No action was taken.

Motion: To end the closed session was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Huntley—all ayes.

Adjournment:

Motion: To adjourn the meeting was made by Member Huntley and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Approved this ____ day of January 2023.

Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk