

**Town of Marshville
Town Council Meeting
Monday, May 7, 2012
7:00 PM
Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.**

Present: Mayor Deese, MPT Matthew Jefferson, CM Dora Bridget, CM Margaret Bivens, CM Norma Carpenter, CM Gary Huntley, ITM James Bennett, C/FO Tonya Johnson and Attorney Bobby Griffin. Members of the press present were John Edmondson, *The Home News* and Lacy Hampton, *the Enquirer Journal*.

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Frank Deese opened the meeting of the Marshville Town Council at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone attending. CM Gary Huntley gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: Limited to 2 minutes per person, 10 minutes total, if any

Karen Eason of 105 W. Main Street, Marshville introduced herself and informed council of the recent opening of her consignment shop, Beanstalk Consignments. She informed council of a grand opening to be held May 22, 2012.

Gladys Kelly of 412 S. Elm Street stated she may like to comment on agenda item #7.

Gail Kiker of 912 Forest Drive, Marshville requested to address the council when they get to item #8 on the agenda. Ms. Kiker stated she hopes the mayor and council members are not trying to get on the town's insurance. She doesn't think that serves the public purpose. She expressed concern over the Town Manager's salary. She stated that regardless who the manager is the salary is too high. She reminded the elected officials they are elected to represent all people.

Adopt Agenda

Mayor Deese proposed to add to the closed session as discussion regarding personnel as stated in NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6). A motion was made by CM Margaret Bivens and seconded by CM Gary Huntley to add a personnel discussion per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6) to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee . . . Vote: All ayes

A motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the closed session discussion was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes

Consent Agenda

- A. Approve Minutes from April 16, 2012 meeting
- B. Approve 2011 Tax Releases
- C. Proclamation for National Police Week, May 13 – 19, 2012

A motion to remove item C from the consent agenda and make it item 4. a. was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Norma Carpenter. Vote: All ayes

Mayor Deese read into the minutes the Proclamation for National Police Week, May 13 – 19, 2012.

Request from Marshville United Methodist Church for street closing for Community Block Party

ITM James Bennett commented that the Town should have no problem accommodating the request from Marshville United Methodist Church per a discussion with Chief Webber. A motion to grant the request from Marshville UMC to close Church St. from where it intersects Ross St. to where it intersects Marshville-Olive

Branch Rd. on Sunday, May 20, 2012 from 4 pm to 7 pm was made by CM Matthew Jefferson. The motion was seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes

2012 Town Hall Day

ITM James Bennett informed council that it is critical that we participate in Town Hall Day. Most of the council attended last year. ITM Bennett referenced a handout on "Building Better Relationships with Legislators". MPT Matthew Jefferson, CM Bivens, CM Bridget and Mayor Deese all plan to attend.

Proposed rate change for FY2012-2013 for the exercise class

ITM James Bennett reported that for FY2012-2013 he has budgeted for \$4,000. There is a need to increase the rates to reach the revenue projection. Two options are presented. All attendees can pay \$2.50 per person per class, or residents can pay \$2.00 per person per class and nonresidents pay \$3.00 per person per class. ITM Bennett commented that staff recommends charging \$2.50 per person per class. This will cover the cost of paying the instructors. A motion was made by MPT Matthew Jefferson to approve Proposal #1 – All attendees pay \$2.50 per class. The motion was seconded by CM Gary Huntley. Vote: All ayes.

Update and possible action regarding Allen Drive traffic study resulting from the citizens petition for a speed hump

ITM James Bennett explained that monitoring has been performed on Allen Drive in response to a speed hump request. ITM Bennett mentioned the discoloration of the existing stop signs and other signage on the wrong side of the street. He commented that staff has moved and/or replaced the signage and "Children at Play" signs have been ordered to be installed on Allen Drive. Chief Webber reviewed the traffic studies done by the City of Monroe which are incorporated herein. Chief Webber stated the Code of Ordinances speed table – schedule 3 of the traffic schedule will need to be amended in order to enforce a 20 mph speed limit. Mayor Deese asked Chief Webber's opinion regarding if just changing the signage will work. Chief Webber responded by stating that speed humps prevent cut through and reduce speed. Mayor Deese asked council their desired action to this request. Ms. Gail Kiker commented that Allen Drive is populated with children and there needs to be speed humps. She stated people don't use the stop signs. Ms. Kiker urged council to approve the requested speed humps. MPT Matthew Jefferson made a motion to install two speed humps on Allen Drive, as requested. The motion was seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes

Action regarding the speed limit on Unarco Road

ITM James Bennett commented that Unarco Road has two different speed areas. Chief Webber stated that most of Unarco Road is city maintained but DOT has the road from Hwy. 74 to the railroad crossing. Per state statute the speed limit in a city is 35 mph unless otherwise posted. Council could ordain the speed limit to be otherwise by adoption of an ordinance. Unarco Road is made up of residential, industrial, and institutional facilities. Chief Webber recommends Unarco Road be evaluated but that the speed limit be 35 mph. This would require no legislative action, only the posting of signage. Mayor Deese reiterated that we can't change the speed limit to 20 mph because we would have to involve DOT. CM Gary Huntley commented that citizens are concerned about the daycare and the church. He agrees that a 35 mph speed limit should be enforced and a study done. Mayor Deese stated there needs to be a vote to establish a 35 mph speed limit and to authorize Chief Webber to get a study done. A motion was made by MPT Matthew Jefferson to remove the 20 mph speed limit signs and to authorize Monroe to do a traffic study and bring back results. The motion was seconded by CM Gary Huntley. Vote: All ayes

Approve alternates for Board of Adjustment (as recommended by the Planning Board)

ITM James Bennett reported that one person has resigned from the Board of Adjustment. A recommendation has been received from the Planning Board for Board of Adjustment alternates. Mayor Deese stated that the alternates are to be Virginia Morgan and Jerry Powell, with Mrs. Morgan being 1st alternate and Mr. Powell being 2nd alternate. A motion was made by CM Margaret Bivens to accept the recommendation from the Planning Board. The motion was seconded by CM Gary Huntley. After some discussion information was clarified. The recommended alternates are Virginia Morgan and Jim Rowell, not Jerry Powell. CM Bivens withdrew the motion and CM Huntley withdrew the second. Staff was asked to see if ETJ members can serve as alternates on the

Board of Adjustment. A motion was made by CM Norma Carpenter and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens to name Virginia Morgan as 1st alternate to the Board of Adjustment and Jim Rowell as 2nd alternate to the Board of Adjustment. Vote: All ayes

Action regarding the annual leave payout policy for employees with 80+ hours of vacation time

ITM James Bennett stated that sometimes employees exceed 240 hours of vacation. He explained that cashing out vacation results in additional fringes that cost the town. Hours accrued over 240 are converted to sick leave and sick leave can be credited towards retirement. Vacation should be used to rejuvenate. ITM Bennett requested a decision from council regarding whether or not to reauthorize the vacation payout. He commented it makes for some difficulty in budgeting. Mayor Deese asked if council wishes to continue this policy. CM Bivens expressed her desire to discontinue the payout and let excess hours roll into sick leave. MPT Matthew Jefferson expressed his desire to continue to allow the payout. Mayor Deese reminded council to be cognizant of the budget. James gave council an illustration of how the payout works. Mayor Deese commented that this was brought before the council due to a difficult economy. He doesn't think it was the intent of council to make this a policy. CM Carpenter stated it is confusing but they are taking money for vacation time they didn't take. Mayor Deese gave an illustration. CM Bivens stated that council should study this before making a decision. A motion to table item #11 until a later date was made by CM Margaret Bivens. The motion was seconded by CM Norma Carpenter. Vote: 4 to 1 (MPT Matthew Jefferson opposed)

Discussion of the proposed Monroe – Union Co. Economic Development Organization

ITM James Bennett reminded council that the Union Co. Partnership for Progress is dissolving and will be replaced by the proposed Monroe-Union County Economic Development Organization. ITM Bennett asked council to review the information and provide input. A meeting with all town managers has been set for May 14, 2012.

FY2012-2013 Budget discussion (PLEASE BRING BUDGET WORK PAPERS)

ITM James Bennett led in a discussion of the FY2012-2013 budget. He reviewed current revenues and what we expect to receive by 06/30/2011 in both the General and Enterprise funds. He also gave an updated on projected interest on investments in both the General and Enterprise funds. The overall G/F budget requested is \$1,572,312.20. At the time we will need appropriate \$233,332.97 of fund balance. The overall Enterprise Fund budget requested is \$988,916.20 with no estimated fund balance appropriation. Mayor Deese commented that in the current year's budget the revenues will fall short and we will likely have to use some of the fund balance. ITM James Bennett updated council on a meeting with Union Co. that he and DPW Bivens Steele attended. We could see a rate increase from Union Co. if the City of Monroe increases its rates.

Comments

CM Norma Carpenter commented she has been receiving calls about speeding tickets.

MPT Matthew Jefferson informed council that the Small Town Main Street Committee is finalizing plans for the Police Dept. Pocket Park project. He asked that everyone be supportive.

CM Gary Huntley commented that plans are coming along for the Seed Harvest Walk. His hope is that it will unify the community. He thanked John Edmonson as well as ITM Bennett for their help with the Seed Harvest Walk. CM Huntley stated that the Town does not pay his insurance.

CM Dora Bridget stated that the Town does not pay her insurance. She commented that rumors are running rampant.

CM Margaret Bivens stated that she also pays her own insurance.

ITM James Bennett told everyone to pat themselves on the back. He then informed them of an award the Town of Marshville received from CCOG. Marshville was selected for a joint venture with Wingate for police training. He also mentioned that the Town of Marshville received an award last week from the NC DOL for safety. The

award was presented by Ms. Cherie Berry at a Union Co. Chamber of Commerce luncheon attended by him and C/FO Tonya Johnson. ITM Bennett informed council of an event to be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012 at Autumn Care. He requested to know the number planning to attend. ITM Bennett informed council that the Museum would like to display at the museum the wall picture near the switchboard and the switchboard if council agrees. A motion to allow the Museum Committee to borrow the switchboard and picture for exhibit was made by MPT Matthew Jefferson. The motion was seconded by CM Norma Carpenter. Vote: All ayes
ITM Bennett distributed to council copies of the submitted NC Catalyst Grant application.

Closed Session, per NCGS 143-318.11(a) (5) and NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (6)

A motion to go into closed session per NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) and 143-318.11 (a) (6) was made by CM Margaret Bivens and seconded by CM Gary Huntley. Vote: All ayes

Mayor Deese called for a recess at 8:30 pm.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:41 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

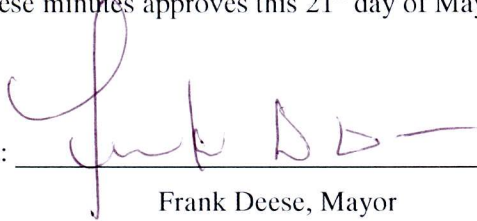
Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by CM Gary Huntley and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes

There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

These minutes approves this 21st day of May, 2012.

By: _____



Frank Deese, Mayor

Attest: _____



Tonya Johnson, Clerk

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