

**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Meeting  
Monday, April 16, 2012  
7:00 PM**

**Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**To receive public comments on a NC Catalyst application for CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds**

**Followed by:  
REGULAR MEETING**

Present: Mayor Frank Deese, MPT Matthew Jefferson, CM Dora Bridget, CM Gary Huntley, CM Norma Carpenter, CM Margaret Bivens, ITM James Bennett and C/FO Tonya Johnson. Also present was Mr. James Luster, CCOG and John Edmondson, editor of *The Home News*. Atty. Bobby Griffin arrived at 7:15 pm.

**Public Hearing**

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

At 7:01 pm Mayor Deese called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending.

Open and hold Public Hearing

Mayor Deese opened the Public Hearing to receive public comments on a NC Catalyst application for CDBG funds. He recognized Mr. James Luster with Centralina Council of Government. Mr. Luster commented this is the second required public hearing for the NC Catalyst Grant for which the Town of Marshville is applying.

Public comments: Limited to 3 minutes per person, 15 minutes total, if any

There were no public comments.

Close Public Hearing

At 7:04 pm Mayor Deese closed the public hearing.

**Regular Meeting**

Open/Welcome

Mayor Deese opened the regular meeting at 7:04 pm. The invocation was give by CM Gary Huntley. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Tony Benton of 10763 Hwy. 52 N., Wadesboro, NC, introduced himself and informed council he is running for the NC House, District 55.

Mark Traywick of 8216 Hwy. 74 E., Marshville addressed the council on behalf of the Small Town Main St. Committee. He explained the committee is trying to complete a project to put on its application for the Small Town Main Street Program on 05/31/2012. They discussed a small pocket park at the Police Dept. in honor of fallen officers. His concern is that Mayor Deese and ITM Bennett did not add the requested item to the agenda. This committee has been rejected on two proposed

projects and the committee feels they do not have the full support of the Council. Those serving on this committee are volunteering their time.

#### Adopt Agenda

MPT Matthew Jefferson made a motion to add to the agenda the discussion of a proposal by the Small Town Main Street Committee. The motion was seconded by CM Norma Carpenter. Vote: All ayes. (This item will be added as #11 with the items following moved down consecutively).

A motion was made by MPT Matthew Jefferson and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens to add to the agenda the approval of a Proclamation for National Day of Prayer 2012 as May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Vote: All ayes. (This item will be added as item #10)

A motion was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Gary Huntley to add to the agenda the discussion and possible action regarding a request from Olde Tyme Marketplace to close Walters Street for Sunday at the Marketplace events. Vote: All ayes.

A motion to adopt the agenda with the approved additions was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Gary Huntley. Vote: All ayes.

#### Consent Agenda Items:

- a. Approve Minutes of April 2, 2012 meeting
- b. Receive Budget Report as of March 31, 2012
- c. Approval of a Resolution in support of an application to participate in the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program

A motion to accept the consent agenda and approve the items thereon was made by CM Gary Huntley and seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

#### Report from Mr. James Luster regarding possible grant dollars

James Luster with CCOG talked about the Urgent Repair Program. He stated that two families from Marshville have been approved in the first phase and five families in the second phase. He thanked Marshville for their participation. Mayor Deese inquired as to how much money each family will receive. Mr. Luster stated the families will receive approximately \$5,000 per home. Mr. Luster explained the NC Catalyst application is a completely different program geared toward addressing severe housing conditions. The budget for the NC Catalyst grant funds is \$500,000. It is very competitive and he and his staff are working on putting together a good application.

#### Approve Proclamation proclaiming May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 as National Day of Prayer 2012

MPT Matthew Jefferson read into the minutes the Proclamation for National Day of Prayer 2012. A motion to approve the proclamation was made by CM Margaret Bivens and seconded by CM Norma Carpenter. Vote: All ayes.

#### Discussion and possible action regarding requests from the Museum Committee

ITM James Bennett referenced an email list received from CM Norma Carpenter who serves on the Museum Committee. The Museum Committee provided a list of requested repair items they would like the Town to assist with. ITM Bennett commented he met with Mr. Pigg, Chairman of the Museum Committee and has talked with DPW Bivens Steele. He feels the current budget will support the requested repair items. CM Norma Carpenter expressed thanks for the work on these items. Mayor



Deese reminded that everyone is going to have to be mindful of costs. The Town is supportive but must be met halfway.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding a request from the Small Town Main Street Committee

MPT Matthew Jefferson expressed that the Small Town Main St. Committee had the idea to put a pocket park at the Police Dept. in the way of a monument that will honor fallen officers and/or police chiefs. The purpose of the project is to satisfy a requirement of applying for and obtaining NC Small Town Main Street designation. The committee needs to accomplish a project to allow them to meet every criterion in the application. MPT Jefferson asked for council's approval of this project. CM Margaret Bivens asked if the committee want money or permission. MPT Jefferson explained that the committee is planning a fundraiser to pay for the project, but they need council's approval since the monument will be on town property. Mayor Deese commented that an email from Sherry Adams indicated we already have a project for the application being the Veterans Memorial. Mayor Deese asked why the committee wouldn't just enhance the Veterans Memorial garden rather than undertaking a new project. MPT Jefferson responded that there will be numerous projects and this is only the beginning. ITM Bennett commented that when he learned of the pocket park project he talked with Chief Webber and learned Marshville has no fallen officers. Also, it may be difficult to determine all the former police chiefs. ITM Bennett stated he called the regional director of the NC Small Town Main St. Program and was informed we already have projects that suffice. The Veterans Memorial would be a qualifying project. ITM Bennett stated he is happy to do whatever he is directed to do by the council. Mr. John Edmondson requested to comment. He stated that the issue is that Mr. Bennett has taken matters into his own without consulting the committee. Mr. Edmondson feels the committee needs to work together with the council. He feels it should be the committee's job to complete the application. Mark Traywick, the committee chair, stated the more you can do for your town the better. This requested project is at no cost to the town and the committee is on a time restraint. Sue Helms commented on continuing with work on the Veterans Memorial. She feels that project will get a lot of participation. MPT Matthew Jefferson stated there will be numerous projects and he hopes this council will be supportive. He stated we can't discourage this group we have empowered. CM Margaret Bivens questioned MPT Jefferson and Mr. Edmondson's comments. ITM James Bennett responded to comments. Gayle Webber, a committee member, asked to comment. She informed council that the details of this project haven't been determined. They are merely asking for council's approval to use the green area in front of the Police Dept. since it is town-owned property. Attorney Griffin commented that, according to the Resolution, the committee will administer the program. The town's only responsibility is for a financial commitment. He also commented that we best be careful about spending money without pre-audit approval. C/FO Tonya Johnson commented that the funds approved in the Resolution need to be sure to be included in the budget. Discussion ensued. Mayor Deese commented that he takes issue with anyone saying that ITM Bennett stepped out of line. A motion to allow the Small Town Main Street Committee to do a project on the lot in front of the Police Dept. was made by CM Norma Carpenter and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Action regarding a request from the Lois Morgan Edwards Memorial Library to close a portion of Hasty Street

ITM James Bennett informed council of a request from the Library to close a portion of Hasty Street on Saturday, April 28 from 12:30 to 3:30 for a children's literacy event. Chief Webber commented that the



police department will have a presence at the event. A motion to close a portion of Hasty Street on Saturday, April 28 from 12:30 to 3:30 was made by MPT Matthew Jefferson and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Discussion and Possible Action regarding request from Olde Tyme Marketplace to close Walters Street for Sunday at the Marketplace events

ITM James Bennett read off the following dates designated as Sunday at the Marketplace: April 22, May 20, June 24, July 22, Aug. 19, Sept. 23 and Oct. 21. MPT Matthew Jefferson asked who will set up barricades. Chief Webber asked if a police officer would be required to be present. DPW Bivens Steele said his department usually puts up cones and road closed signage. There has never been any problem. Mayor Deese stated he doesn't think there is a need for police presence. A motion to allow Olde Tyme Marketplace to close Walters Street from 6 am to 6 pm on the dates specified above was made by CM and seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

Set date for Seed Harvest Walk (a date in the month of May is suggested)

ITM James Bennett commented that the idea came from CM Gary Huntley at the retreat. CM Gary Huntley was recognized to share his ideas. He commented the Seed Harvest Walk is a tool to bring the community together. He suggested registering folks at Town Hall and dividing them into groups to go around town picking up trash. This provides an opportunity to bring different groups together for fellowship while benefiting the town. He suggested a cookout at the Park or Community Center to end the days' event. CM Huntley stated he would like to see this event held twice a year, once in May and again prior to the Boll Weevil Jamboree. He hopes it will unify the town. CM Huntley suggested a date of May 19, with a rain date of June 9. CM Dora Bridget inquired about the time for the Seed Harvest Walk. CM Huntley suggested 10 am with the cookout at 1 pm. A motion was made by CM Gary Huntley to initiate a Seed Harvest Walk on Saturday, May 19, 2012 with a rain/shine date of June 9, 2012, beginning at 10 am. The motion was seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Discussion and/or possible action regarding approval of the Policy for Use of the Marshville Community Center

ITM Bennett provided as cost analysis of the Community Center as requested at the prior meeting. He commented that based upon the cost data he feels the \$100 fee is reasonable. MPT Matthew Jefferson made a motion to approve the policy for the use of the Marshville Community Center. The motion was seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Discussion and/or possible action pertaining to the approval of a proposed Privilege License fee increase for Sweepstakes Parlors

ITM James Bennett explained the proposed FY2012-2013 budget reflects a \$2,500 privilege license fee for Sweepstakes Parlors. He asked that council go ahead and approve the fee so that owners of these establishments can be notified. Mayor Deese commented that the requested action is to change the privilege license fee for Sweepstakes Parlors in Marshville to a flat fee of \$2,500. MPT Matthew Jefferson stated he doesn't feel the fee is high enough and would like to see \$2,500 per machine. Mayor Deese suggested the fee probably shouldn't be so prohibitive that it runs businesses out of town. ITM James Bennett read a letter received regarding the IIT licensing that has to do with the machines in these establishments. Chief Webber stated there have been no reported problems. A motion to set the fee for privilege license for Sweepstakes Parlors in Marshville effective July 1, 2012 at a \$2,500 flat fee per



establishment was made by and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: 4 to 1 (MPT Matthew Jefferson opposed)

Action regarding proposed pay increase for Council Members in the FY2012-2013 Budget

Mayor Deese commented on a proposed increase in council pay for FY2012-2013 of \$50 per quarter per council member. ITM Bennett commented that conversations between the finance officer and the auditor are indicative that council members should receive the same rate of pay. CM Margaret Bivens made a motion to add a \$50 increase per council member per quarter to the budget for FY2012-2013. The motion was seconded by CM Gary Huntley. Vote: All ayes.

Recess

Mayor Deese called for a brief recess at 8:52 pm.  
The meeting reconvened at 9:00 pm.

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

Mayor Deese shared with council that he met with officials from the City of Monroe regarding when they did the Aquatic Center Project. He explained he is working to obtain cost data and research pertaining to the construction of a wellness center. Mayor Deese stated that Monroe built the Aquatic Center without using tax dollars. It is fee supported through the selling of memberships. Mayor Deese commented he has no real information to share with council this evening but will be bringing something back before the budget is passed.

ITM James Bennett passed out a handout with some tax information as it pertains to the proposed FY2012-2013 Budget. He commented on receiving the taxable value estimates for FY2012-2013 from Union County. The taxable value for real and personal property has decreased by approximately \$4 million. The taxable value for motor vehicles has increased by approximately \$1 million. He conveyed to council that he spoke with Robin Merry, Assessment Data Manager with Union Co. to verify the figures. The current budget's tax levy is \$659,520.08. ITM Bennett reported on the current amount of collections and the collection rate to date. He informed council that he, in estimating the tax levy for FY2012-2013, used a collection rate of 95% to provide a conservative revenue figure. ITM James Bennett also commented on a discount on workers' compensation insurance which will be reflected in the proposed budget. ITM Bennett also reported that NCLGERS is offering a discount which reduces the employer's expense toward retirement contributions. He informed council he will pass out revised budget worksheets at the next meeting on May 7, 2012. ITM Bennett reported that approximately \$200,000 will be the amount of Fund Balance used to balance the budget. Some discussion pertaining to the budget ensued. Mayor Deese requested a copy of the revised budget worksheets for review prior to the next meeting. He encouraged council to obtain a revised copy as soon as they are available and begin reviewing them.

Comments

MPT Matthew Jefferson commented his landlord is going to be the first to improve her building façade on E. Union Street. He inquired about an article in Thursday's Enquirer Journal regarding a bio-diesel fuel plant locating in Marshville. They advertised a ribbon cutting on April 24, 2012. MPT Jefferson feels we should get in touch with this company. Mayor Deese commented that it will be located outside of the city limits.

ITM James Bennett stated that the RPO will allow us to stay in until 2013. He provided council with a package from CM Cindy Coto regarding the Monroe-Union County Economic Development Plan. The Union County Partnership for Progress will be dissolved. He asked that council look over the information provided as this is a critical matter for Marshville. ITM Bennett informed council that Diane Dil, Planner from CCOG, will now be in Marshville on Wednesday instead of Thursday. He also informed council that Geraldine Barrino resigned from the Board of Adjustment. He also suggested council may want to consider two alternates for the Planning Board. He shared that Diane Dil has contacted Union County to get an ETJ person appointed.

Mayor Deese suggested we let the Planning Board members name two alternates to be appointed by the council. He stated we made need to advertise for the Board of Adjustment vacancy.

ITM James Bennett gave an update on the Allen Drive speed humps. Four monitors were put in place. DPW Bivens Steele's department is going to move the speed limit sign and put up a new stop sign. DPW Steele commented that the signs were moved today.

#### Adjourn

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

There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

These minutes approved this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Frank Deese, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Tonya Johnson, Town Clerk

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