

**Town of Marshville
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 19, 2012
7:00 PM
Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.**

Present: Mayor Frank Deese, MPT Matthew Jefferson, CM Margaret Bivens, CM Dora Bridget, CM Norma Carpenter, CM Gary Huntley, ITM James Bennett, Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, Attorney Bobby Griffin and DPW Bivens Steele. Also present were members of the media, John Edmondson and Lacy Hampton.

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Frank Deese at 7:00 pm. Mayor Deese welcomed all those in attendance. CM Margaret Bivens gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mary Frances Staton of 913 N. Austin Street, Marshville addressed the council concerned with water bills and meter readings. She stated she doesn't see anyone reading the meters on her street. She commented that the bills are coming late and are due by the 10th of the month. She stated there needs to be more time to pay the bill. She also voiced concerns about a speed limit and stop sign on Austin Street that are either always leaning or are torn down. Ms. Staton also expressed to council concerns she has with a ditch on Hambrick Street that stays full of water. She feels it poses a safety issue for children playing.

Rusty Johnson of 115 Shady Lane, Marshville informed council he was upset by something in the local newspaper whereby the usual invocation at the council meeting was replaced by a moment of silence. He, as a Christian, is offended by this action. Mr. Johnson doesn't feel that standing up for your faith should be perceived as negative.

Adopt Agenda

CM Margaret Bivens made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by CM Gary Huntley. Vote: All ayes.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve minutes of March 5, 2012
- b. Approve budget report as of February 29, 2012

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

Recognition of Boy Scout Troop 55 (sponsored by Marshville United Methodist Church)

ITM James Bennett recognized Boy Scout Troop 55 and their Scout Masters. They have volunteered to repair and paint trash cans around town. Mayor Deese, on behalf of the Marshville Town Council expressed appreciation to Troop 55.

Discussion and of policy for use of the Marshville Community Room

ITM James Bennett reviewed the policy with the mayor and council. He stated that anyone using the Community Center will have to pay the fee. Mayor Deese commented that the policy states the cost is \$100 for a four hour block of time plus a \$50 deposit. The deposit is refundable if left in good condition. Mayor Deese asked if the fee is the same for any organization whether profit or non-profit? ITM Bennett stated it is. MPT Jefferson asked what it matters whom it is rented to. Mayor Deese stressed to council that if they desire to change the policy they need to review it and bring back recommended changes. Attorney Griffin suggested that council review the policy and make revisions to make it available to everyone. MPT Jefferson feels the policy is too exclusionary. ITM Bennett asked about the fee schedule. Mayor Deese expressed that he feels the focus needs to be on the wording of the policy. It was the consensus of the council to have staff review other town's policies and bring recommendations back to council for review.

Information as it pertains to upgrades/repair of Town Hall

ITM James Bennett commented that PD Alan Thifault was instrumental in pulling together the folks that are making repairs to the building. He further commented that we received a good price on getting the repairs done and there are sufficient funds in the current budget.

Mayor Deese called for a ten minute recess at 7:59 pm.

Mayor Deese reconvened the meeting at 8:10 pm.

Budget Draft discussion

Mayor Deese reviewed with council a budget memo prepared by ITM James Bennett. Mayor Deese suggested that each council member take the draft of the budget and go through each page of expenses. Mayor Deese called on ITM Bennett to go over the budget draft. ITM Bennett began with dept. 4100 – Elected Officials. He pointed out that this budget draft proposes an increase of \$1,300 in board member pay, \$6,000 for a Corridor Plan and \$5,000 for the Buxton Study which is reflected in contracted services. There is also \$4,000 budgeted for donations to non-profits. Dept. 4220 – Administration reflects an increase due to a pay & classification study (\$6,100) and web page design (\$1,200). Dept. 5000 – Public Buildings includes the position of an Asst. Superintendant (\$45,000) as well as a new HVAC unit at Town Hall (\$9,000). Mayor Deese commented that the \$45,000 salary seems high. DPW Steele commented that the proposed amount figures for 10% to contribute to overtime if the employee is paid hourly. Ideally, the employee will bring to the job water & sewer certifications. ITM James Bennett pointed out that in all departments the retirement match percentage has decreased to 6.75%. Dept. 5100 – Police reflects a \$71,787 increase due to two police cars, radios, walkie talkie batteries, new guns/holsters/pouches and a wireless computer connection. Mayor Deese asked about the decrease in salaries in this department. ITM Bennett replied that since hiring Officer Blakney it is anticipated that overtime will decrease. Dept. 5600 – Streets & Highways is reduced due to reductions in utilities and sidewalks. DPW Bivens Steele stated that Powell Bill money can be used to do sidewalks. Dept. 5700 – Powell Bill is reduced by \$19,500 as compared to the current year's budget. The line item for contracted services is decreased by \$13,000. Dept. 5800 – Sanitation decreased due to savings from the garbage contract renewal. Dept. 6200 – Park proposes a decrease from the current year's budget. A part time exercise instructor will be paid as an independent contractor rather than through salaries as an employee. The budget draft proposes a \$2,000 increase in salary for Alan Thifault due to taking on the

pointed out that anyone wanting to attend needs to be registered. Mark Traywick will provide a passenger van and the group will be leaving from Town Hall at 10:30 am.

Mayor Deese commented that the retreat was one of the better ones he's attended. It was done at no cost to the town. Mayor Deese reminded council of a special meeting for a closed session on Sunday, April 1, 2012. He asked council if they want to add a closed session to the agenda for the Monday, April 2, 2012 meeting or have discussion time after the interviews. It was the consensus of the council to add a closed session, per NCGS 143-318.11(a) (6) to the agenda for the April 2, 2012 council meeting.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by CM Margaret Bivens and seconded by CM Gary Huntley.

Vote: All ayes.

There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

These minutes approved this 2nd day of April, 2012.

BY:



Frank Deese, Mayor

ATTEST:



Tonya Johnson, Clerk

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