

**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Meeting  
Monday, November 21, 2011  
7:00 PM  
Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.  
Regular Meeting**

Present: Mayor Frank Deese, CM Dora Bridget, CM Ned Beachum, CM Matthew Jefferson, ITM James Bennett, Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, Chief of Police Carl Webber, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, Attorney Bobby Griffin. MPT Margaret Bivens was absent, but a quorum was present. Also attending were John Edmondson of *The Home News*, and Lacy Hampton of *The Enquirer Journal*. Newly elected Council Members Norma Carpenter and Gary Huntley were also in attendance.

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Deese opened the meeting of the Marshville Town Council at 7:00 pm and welcomed everyone in attendance. CM Ned Beachum gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Peggy Poston – 4086 Charles Williams Lane, Granite Falls, NC. Ms. Poston introduced herself to council. She explained that she is a Territory Manager for Waste Connections and will be working with Tyler Fitzgerald in this area.

Adopt Agenda

Mayor Deese requested to add as Item #5 the introduction of a new police officer Felix Blakney by Chief Webber. He also requested that Item #6 be removed from the agenda. Mayor Deese suggested Item #12 be moved to after the comments (Item #13) and that Item #11 be moved to the end of the agenda. CM Dora Bridget made a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes as requested by Mayor Deese. The motion was seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve minutes of November 7, 2011 meeting
- b. Receive Budget Report as of 10/31/2011

A motion to accept the consent agenda as presented was made by CM Ned Beachum and seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

CM Matthew Jefferson inquired about a discussion of the citizen survey. Mayor Deese directed staff to include a discussion of the citizen survey on the next agenda.

Introduction of new Police Officer (by Chief Webber)

Chief Carl Webber commented that fifteen applications were reviewed. The position will be filled by Felix Blakney who is currently a Reserve Officer. He has worked in excess of 3,000 volunteer hours. Felix Blakney will begin work with the town on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion and possible action regarding surveyor costs for the Marshville Cemetery and the installation of fencing (fencing to be donated)

ITM James Bennett informed council that he met with Ruby Stegall regarding the cemetery. He conveyed there is someone wanting to donate land and another donor desiring to pay for a fence around the property. The property will need to be surveyed and that will be the only expense to the town. DPW Bivens Steele received a price of \$400 from Brendon Curlee for the survey. ITM James Bennett stated the additional land may create



some additional burial plots. CM Jefferson made a motion to authorize the expenditure of up to \$400 for the surveyor cost for the Marshville Cemetery. The motion was seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

#### ~~Discussion and possible action regarding Privilege License vs. Sweepstakes License~~

#### Discussion of Ethics Training for Elected Officials

ITM James Bennett explained the ethics training requirements in conjunction with Newly Elected Officials training. Training will be held in Charlotte on February 28 & 29. He informed council he has applied for some scholarships in an effort to send all elected officials to the class. Mayor Deese commented that the ethics training is statutorily required. If we cannot obtain scholarships we will check with the NCLM for training opportunities.

#### Discussion and possible action regarding appointment of a Planning Board Member replacement for Norma Carpenter

Mayor Deese commented that since being elected to the council Ms. Carpenter will be giving up her seat on the Planning Board. ITM James Bennett commented that the next Planning Board meeting will be held in December. He asked that council be thinking of a replacement for Ms. Carpenter. Mayor Deese commented that we usually advertise the vacancy. He asked if we want to authorize staff to run an ad in the paper and on the website for the Planning Board vacancy. Mayor Deese also suggested advertising on the utility bills if we have that capability. A motion was made by CM Matthew Jefferson to expend funds for advertising expense for an ad in the local paper for a Planning Board & Board of Adjustment member. The motion was seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

#### Discussion and possible action regarding the selection of two members to serve on the Museum Committee (must reside in Marshville)

Mayor Deese commented that the council has been asked to appoint two members to serve on the Museum Committee, which will be made up of seven members. Of the town appointments, one can be a council member. CM Matthew Jefferson volunteered CM Ned Beachum. ITM James Bennett made the suggestion to name a new council member to serve on the committee. Attorney Griffin commented that he's been contacted by Mr. Pigg to discuss the corporate structure of the committee. Mayor Deese requested to make appointments contingent upon talking with Mr. Johnny Pigg after the holidays. Mayor Deese suggested Mr. Ned Beachum and Ms. Norma Carpenter. The Council was in agreement with these appointments.

#### Approve Project Budget Ordinance for the Hwy. 74 Sidewalk Project, Phase I

ITM James Bennett commented that Finance Officer Tonya Johnson prepared a project ordinance as requested at the last council meeting for Phase I of the Hwy. 74 Sidewalk Project. Grant dollars will be \$236,266. The town's portion will be 20% which will be taken from Powell Bill. A motion to approve the project budget ordinance was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Matthew Jefferson. Vote: All ayes.

#### Comments

PD Alan Thifault commented that the Christmas Tree Lighting service was well attended. He informed council that on December 15<sup>th</sup> Santa will be at the Community Center. Also, on December 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a brunch with Santa at the Community Center and that evening there will be a Christmas Light tour of Marshville.

DPW Bivens Steele commented that his department will begin hanging Christmas lights along Hwy. 74 this week. They will also work on picking up leaves. It has been a very busy time. CM Dora Bridget commented on the outstanding job they've done decorating the town.



Chief Carl Webber commented that his department is becoming more involved in Crime Stoppers. His department has accomplished a lot of training. The police department participated in the Veterans Day event and the Christmas Parade. Chief Webber stated that his department can work with council regarding locking and unlocking the existing gates at the cemetery. This would prevent vehicle access during closed times. Mayor Deese asked the council what their pleasure is in authorizing Chief Webber's department to lock and unlock the cemetery gates. Attorney Griffin suggested a motion by council. Mayor Deese asked for a motion to authorize staff to check the gates at the cemetery and purchase new locks, if necessary, and further to authorize the Police Department to schedule locking the gates at dusk and unlocking the gates at dawn. The motion was made by CM Matthew Jefferson and seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

CM Matthew Jefferson expressed appreciation to staff. He thanked everyone who played a part in the Veterans Day Celebration. CM Jefferson felt it was well attended. He also commended John Edmondson of *The Home News* for his coverage of the event.

CM Ned Beachum commented that the Christmas Parade went well. He commented that several street lights are out and need to be reported. CM Beachum commended the Public Works dept. on doing a good job with leaf pickup.

CM Dora Bridget commended staff for the job they do.

Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson reported to council that to date \$214,455.01 have been collected in taxes. Our levy is \$659,520. The FY2009-2010 collection rate for the town was 97.5%, compared to the state's rate of 97.4%.

#### Information from the Manager

- a. Application for Employment – ITM James Bennett introduced Kevin Cabrera and informed council of Kevin's work on the town's website as well as redoing the town's Application for Employment.
- b. Museum – ITM James Bennett informed council that the town's insurance doesn't cover the museum committee or contents that belong to the committee
- c. Christmas Tree Lighting – November 18, 2011 – ITM James Bennett commented on the beauty and camaraderie of being in a small town. He commended Alan Thifault & Bivens Steele.
- d. Christmas Parade – November 19, 2011 – ITM James Bennett commented that the parade was a great event.
- e. Town Christmas Party – December 16, 2011 – ITM James Bennett reminded everyone of the Christmas Party
- f. Meeting with Union County Commissioners – December 13, 2011 – ITM James Bennett reminded council of the joint meeting with Union Co. Commissioners.
- g. Debt Set Off – ITM James Bennett informed council that staff will be preparing to submit delinquent accounts to Debt Set Off by the end of the month. This could help in the collection of thousands of dollars in delinquent utility accounts.
- h. Scholarship applications – ITM James Bennett informed council that scholarship applications have been submitted in an effort to obtain money to help offset the cost of the training class for newly elected officials. Obtaining scholarships may provide a means for all elected officials to attend.

Mayor Deese thanked Kevin Cabrera for his work and alluded to the fact that Kevin is wise beyond his seventeen years.

Closed Session to discuss personnel issues per NCGS 143-318.11. (a)(6)

At 7:55 pm Mayor Deese asked for a motion to go into closed session 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...

A motion to go into closed session per the statute previously stated was made by CM Matthew Jefferson and seconded by CM Dora Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

Mayor Deese dismissed department heads and called for a five minute recess at 7:55 pm.

CLOSED SESSION (8:01 pm)

OPEN SESSION (8:36 pm)

There was no action as a result of the closed session.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes. There being no further comments the meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

These minutes approved this 5<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

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

Frank Deese, Mayor

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

Tonya D. Johnson, Clerk

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