

**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Meeting  
Monday, December 5, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.  
Regular Meeting**

Present: Mayor Deese, MPT Margaret Bivens, CM Ned Beachum, CM Dora Bridget, CM Matthew Jefferson, ITM James Bennett, Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, Chief Carl Webber, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, Attorney Bobby Griffin. Also present were newly elected council members Norma Carpenter and Gary Huntley. The Honorable Judge N. Hunt Gwyn III was present to administer the oaths of office. Also present were John Edmondson, editor of *The Home News* and Lacy Hampton with *The Enquirer Journal*.

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Frank Deese opened the meeting of the Marshville Town Council at 7:01 pm and welcomed all members of the public. The invocation was given by CM Ned Beachum. Everyone gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There were no public comments.

Organizational Procedures

Mayor Deese informed everyone that by North Carolina legislation organizational procedures are to be done at the first December meeting after an election.

a. Recognition of out-going Council Member Ned Beachum – Mayor Deese called outgoing CM Ned Beachum to come forward. He read into the minutes a Proclamation Honoring the Dedicated Service of Councilman Ned Beachum and presented Mr. Beachum a plaque for his service on behalf of the Town of Marshville. Mr. Beachum commented that he was humbled and thanked Mayor Deese, the Town Council, staff and citizens. He further commented that he enjoyed serving the town and working with everyone.

b. Oath of Office for newly elected officials (by the Honorable Judge N. Hunt Gwyn III, Chief District Court Judge, Union County) – Mayor Deese commented that now is the time to swear in the newly elected officials. He introduced the Honorable Judge N. Hunt Gwyn III who administered oaths of office to Mayor Frank Deese, CM Margaret Bivens, CM Norma Carpenter and CM Gary Huntley. At this time Judge Gwyn III also administered the Oath of a Law Enforcement Officer to newly hired officer Felix Blakney.

\*At 7:22 pm Mayor Deese called for a five minute recess.

\*Mayor Deese reconvened the meeting at 7:30 pm.

c. Selection of Mayor Pro-Tempore

Mayor Deese commented that council can nominate someone to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore without a second. If more than one person is nominated than there will need to be a vote but if only one person is nominated that person can be empowered through

motion, second and vote. CM Margaret Bivens nominated CM Gary Huntley and made a motion to select CM Gary Huntley to serve as MPT for 2011-2013. The motion died for lack of a second. Mayor Deese gave a brief overview of the job duties/responsibilities of the MPT. CM Gary Huntley nominated CM Margaret Bivens and CM Norma Carpenter nominated CM Matthew Jefferson. Attorney Griffin interjected that the results of a vote have to be made public. Mayor Deese requested a vote by ballot. CM Matthew Jefferson received votes from CM Carpenter, CM Bridget and CM Jefferson. CM Margaret Bivens received votes from CM Bivens and CM Huntley. CM Matthew Jefferson was selected to serve as Mayor Pro-Tempore.

d. Appoint Representatives to various boards (Delegates & Alternates):

Centralina COG

Rocky River Rural Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee

Possibly Others?

Mayor Deese suggested that there be one council member and one alternate per committee. Mayor Deese made the following suggestions as committee appointments: Museum Committee: CM Norma Carpenter as delegate and CM Dora Bridget as alternate; Beautification Committee: CM Margaret Bivens as delegate and CM Gary Huntley as alternate (Mayor Deese commented that he desires this committee also work on main street revitalization); Rocky River TAC Committee: CM Matthew Jefferson as delegate and Mayor Deese as alternate; CCOG: Mayor Deese as alternate and CM Margaret Bivens as alternate.

Mayor Deese commented that Norma Carpenter was previously appointed to serve on the Museum Committee. MPT Matthew Jefferson made a motion to appoint CM Dora Bridget to serve as alternate on the Museum Committee. The motion was seconded by CM Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

A motion to accept CM Margaret Bivens as delegate and CM Gary Huntley as alternate of the Beautification Committee/Downtown Vitalization was made by CM Bridget and seconded by CM Carpenter. Vote: All ayes.

A motion was made by CM Bridget and seconded by CM Huntley to appoint MPT Matthew Jefferson as delegate and Mayor Deese as alternate of the Rocky River Technical Advisory Committee. Vote: All ayes.

A motion to appoint Mayor Deese as delegate and CM Bivens as alternate of the CCOG was made by CM Bridget and seconded by CM Huntley. Vote: All ayes.

Administer Oath to Law Enforcement Officer Felix Blakney

The Honorable Judge N. Hunt Gwyn III administered the oath to newly hired Officer Felix Blakney during the organizational procedures of the meeting.

Adopt Agenda

Mayor Deese requested to add to the agenda as Item #10 the discussion and possible action concerning water grant from CCOG. A motion to add the discussion and possible action concerning a water grant from CCOG as Item #10 and to move other agenda items down was made by CM Bivens and seconded by CM Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

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

Consent Agenda Items:



a. November 21, 2011 Minutes

b. Approve 2011 Tax Releases

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

#### Approve Resolution Declaring Surplus Property

ITM James Bennett commented that several items need to be added to the list of surplus items previously approved. The items to be added are a saw from the Public Works Department and an old laptop. A motion to approve the resolution to declare the items surplus and to authorize the mayor to sign the resolution was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

#### Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of someone to the Planning Board (to fill the unexpired term of Norma Carpenter which expires November 2012)

Mayor Deese commented that there is now a vacancy on the Planning Board due to Norma Carpenter's election to the Town Council. ITM James Bennett stated that the vacancy was advertised in the local paper and that he also contacted council members and key members of the Planning Board to request names to be given consideration. He stated that as of today candidates are Geraldine Barrino, Ned Beachum, Gary Belk, Virginia Morgan and Lewis Taylor. ITM Bennett explained that applications would be given out for the candidates to complete. The applications will be reviewed at the next regular council meeting. Mayor Deese added that the council will also need to appoint a member to the Board of Adjustment so two applicants will be selected.

#### Discuss Sweepstakes Parlors (license fees)

ITM James Bennett explained that the Planning Board developed an ordinance relating to electronic gaming operations. In developing the ordinance they did not develop a fee schedule. ITM Bennett passed out a Sweepstakes Fee Schedule from other towns and asked council to review the information and be prepared to establish a fee schedule at a later date.

#### Discussion and Possible Action Concerning Water Grant from CCOG

Mayor Deese commented that at a previous meeting this council authorized Mr. James Luster to seek out grant dollars. ITM James Bennett informed council of a conversation with Mr. Luster regarding possible grant money for water lines. The grant would award \$750,000 per grantee and would require a 5% match, which would be \$37,500. The grant application requires a public hearing meeting. ITM Bennett asked to conduct a public hearing on the December 19, 2011 meeting to discuss the possibility of a Community Development Block Grant. Mayor Deese commented that staff is recommending calling for a public hearing on December 19<sup>th</sup> to seek public input on seeking a CDBG for water line improvements. MPT Matthew Jefferson interjected that a 5% grant sounds like a bargain. He also inquired about the competition. A motion to call for a public hearing on December 19, 2011 to receive public input on a Block Grant to improve water lines was made by CM Dora Bridget and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

#### Discussion of the Citizen Survey Report

ITM James Bennett distributed copies of the Greenfield Study. Mayor Deese commented that this study was done several years ago in conjunction with the Town of Wingate. He commented that it is a good tool. Mayor Deese asked council members to review at least the first nineteen pages of the study and come prepared for a discussion at the next meeting. ITM James Bennett commented that monthly we will break down and discuss the remaining sections of the survey. MPT Matthew Jefferson commented that the survey is based upon the responses of the citizens of Marshville. We owe it to them to review the survey. He is appreciative that council will be taking time to review the survey. ITM Bennett commented that we are canvassing downtown properties to become aware of what is available. He also



mentioned there may be grant money for façade grants which could aid in downtown revitalization. MPT Jefferson commented that this council should concentrate on our main street. Mayor Deese suggested the possibility of setting aside money in the budget to act as an incentive for downtown revitalization. ITM Bennett informed council of a meeting on January 5, 2012 to be held at the Meeting Room at the library from 12:00 until 2:30 pm whereby a representative from Raleigh will be addressing downtown development. CM Margaret Bivens stated her concern that property owners shouldn't be paid to keep up and maintain their properties. MPT Jefferson asked if urban landscaping will be part of the discussion to taking place at the library. He mentioned that the Town of Wadesboro was successful with this. Mayor Deese commented that one council member feels we should look at our ordinances and rules regarding maintaining property. He asked if there were any other concerns/comments relating to economic development. Mayor Deese directed staff to contact Mr. Mitchell to get an explanation of some of the survey results.

#### Comments

Prior to beginning the comments Mayor Deese stated that with a Council-Manager form of government we need to decide whether to require department heads to attend each meeting.

PD Alan Thifault welcomed the newly elected council members. He informed council of several events taking place in December. On Thursday, December 15, 2011 Santa will be at the Community Center. There will be a light brunch with Santa at the Community Center. The Town of Marshville Christmas party will be on Saturday, December 16, 2011 at 7:00 at the Community Center. Lastly, there will be a Tour of Lights through Marshville.

DPW Bivens Steele commented that his department is slowly catching up with all the leaves to be picked up. They are behind due to putting up all the Christmas lights and several water problems.

Chief Carl Webber welcomed the new council members. He commented that Bivens fixed the cemetery gate locks and officers are now locking/unlocking the gates. Chief Webber commented that with the hiring of Officer Blakney his department is now at full staff. He has two vacancies on the reserve officers list. Chief Webber commented that his department has been receiving on-going training. CM Margaret Bivens asked if it is cost the town to dismantle a meth lab to which Chief Webber replied that it does. CM Norma Carpenter asked if the town could go after the property owner. Mayor Deese asked if the costs to clean up the meth lab could be part of the offender's restitution. Chief Webber stated that we can ask for that to be included in the restitution.

CM Gary Huntley commented that he's taking everything in. He commented that he appreciates the department heads and the job they do.

CM Norma Carpenter commented that she looks forward to working together for the future of Marshville.

CM Dora Bridget welcomed the new council members. She commented on the excellent staff the Town of Marshville has. CM Bridget stated that with coming of the bypass we are going to be busy.

MPT Matthew Jefferson made farewell remarks to Mr. Beachum. He welcomed the new council members and congratulated Mayor Deese on his re-election.

CM Margaret Bivens welcomed the new council members and expressed well wishes to Mr. Beachum.

Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson reminded everyone of the Christmas Party on December 16 and the need to know who plans to attend. She informed council that tax collections are at \$267,074.36, or 40.5%. C/FO Johnson informed council that \$13,637.17 in delinquent utility accounts has been submitted to Debt Setoff. She also made council aware that several certificates of deposit will be renewing within the month. Lastly, C/FO Johnson informed council that Marshville's audit for 6/30/2011 has been approved.

ITM James Bennett gave information to council members regarding the Martin Luther King celebration planned for Monday, January 16, 2012. The town can purchase a table at a cost of \$160. CM Margaret

Bivens made a motion to direct staff to purchase a table at a cost of \$160. The motion was seconded by MPT Matthew Jefferson. Vote: All ayes.

Attorney Bobby Griffin interjected that the minutes should reflect that the Martin Luther King event will be a social gathering only and no business will be discussed.

ITM Bennett reminded council of the upcoming joint meeting with the Union County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, December 13, 2011. He made council aware that he and Mr. James Luster will be meeting with Attorney Griffin next Tuesday regarding several properties on the code enforcement list. He stated that the next steps may cost the town money.

Mayor Deese informed council that he attended an RPO meeting two weeks ago in which folks from the DOT were present. He conveyed that progress will be made on the bypass by spring 2012 and traffic is anticipated by 2014-2015. He also informed council of a meeting of the RPO and Turnpike Authority that took place today in which maps of the bypass were available.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by MPT Matthew Jefferson and seconded by CM Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:11 pm.

These minutes approved this 19<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2011.

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

Frank Deese, Mayor

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

Tonya D. Johnson, Clerk

