

**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Meeting  
Monday, July 18, 2011  
7:00 PM  
Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Present: Mayor Frank Deese, MPT Margaret Bivens, CM Dora Bridget, CM Ned Beachum, CM Matthew Jefferson, TM Radford Thomas, Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, Chief Carl Webber, Lt. Matt Tarlton, Atty. Bobby Griffin. Also present were Mr. Tollie Mitchell, *Insight Research*, Lacy Hampton, *The Enquirer Journal*, and John Edmondson, the *Home News*.

Open/Welcome/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Frank Deese called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. by welcoming all those attending. 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

Norma Carpenter – 412 Norma St., Marshville. Ms. Carpenter addressed the council regarding mixed beverages. She requested that a member of council add a discussion of a mixed beverage referendum to the agenda in order for the referendum to be on the November ballot. She feels this is important for Marshville's future.

Adopt Agenda

A motion to add to the agenda the discussion and possible action regarding a mixed beverage referendum was made by CM Matthew Jefferson. The motion died for lack of a second.

A motion to adopt the agenda as presented was made by MPT Margaret Bivens and seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: 3 to 1 (CM Matthew Jefferson opposed).

Consent Agenda Items:

- a. Receive Budget Report as of June 30, 2011
- b. Approve Minutes of July 5, 2011 meeting

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

Community-wide survey results from Insight Research – Mr. Tollie Mitchell

Mr. Tollie Mitchell presented council with a bound copy of the Town of Marshville Citizen Survey Report. He commented that approximately 1,000 surveys were mailed with a return response of 225. He stated that this represents a 22.5% return rate, which indicates a typical response. Mr. Mitchell reviewed the survey results with council, explaining the purpose and scope, the principle parts of the survey which are background questions, citizen opinion statements and priority questions, and open ended questions, and survey construction. Mr. Mitchell stated that at Insight Research they suggest a point target range for local governments to be 5.2. He further commented that unlike the businesses/organizations in the private sector, a government usually keeps most of their unhappy

customers. Therefore, local governments have a challenge to maintain customer satisfaction. TM Radford Thomas communicated to council that Mr. Mitchell suggested he come back after council has time to review the survey in order to go through the results more in-depth. Mayor Deese thanked Mr. Mitchell. He suggested a work session just to review the survey results. Mayor Deese encouraged council to read/review the survey results and make notes for discussion.

#### CMAQ Sidewalk Project status

Mayor Deese commented that CMAQ is a grant to construct sidewalks along Hwy. 74 W. to Old Hwy. 74. TM Radford Thomas referenced a memo to council and commented that he's had conversations with Dana Stoogenke, RRRPO and a representative of NCDOT. The options for the CMAQ project are to void the current project and re-apply for a new project. Another possible option is to develop a replacement project and use the already approved funds if NCDOT will allow. TM Radford Thomas recommends a replacement project that is based upon the priorities identified in the previously approved Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. He commented that if council looks outside the priority list, they need to look at putting sidewalks along Hwy. 74 from residential areas to businesses. He feels easements would be easier to obtain from DOT right-of-way rather than from private property owners. Mayor Deese agrees that we should look at the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan, but if we do go outside the plan council should look at sidewalks along Hwy. 74. He also mentioned that funds may be available through the recently adopted Carolina Thread Trail plan. The project as stated is a wash. The town cannot obtain easements. CM Matthew Jefferson feels the public should know why the project is dead. He commented that he's very discouraged. He feels that people should know who's keeping the town from getting this project done. MPT Margaret Bivens agreed with CM Jefferson.

#### Update on the inventory of Downtown Marshville properties (information)

TM Radford Thomas commented that a database spreadsheet of downtown Marshville properties is in progress. The county's website is down until sometime in August. He conveyed to the Chamber of Commerce at their July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting that a list is being compiled and feels they want to participate. TM Thomas feels if we can work together with the Chamber we can develop a good database of inventory in Marshville. CM Matthew Jefferson added that he thinks the Chamber is excited about this and he feels it will be a beneficial tool for economic development.

#### Discussion/Review of Code of Ordinances

CM Matthew Jefferson thinks the ordinance book is good. He expressed some concerns about enforcement. How do we actually practice enforcement? Who's going to do it? Do we have a logical plan? TM Radford Thomas commented that he tried to take some gray area out of a number of the current ordinances. He also commented, concerning enforcement, that some responsibility will fall with the Police Dept., the Town Manager, and the Code Enforcement Officer. CM Matthew Jefferson asked if the public is aware of the new dog ordinance. Mayor Deese reminded council that to date the revised Code of Ordinances has not been adopted. He stated that we may realize some violations do not need to be violations and may need amending. Now we have a tool to work with. Mayor Deese thanked TM Radford Thomas for his hard work.



### Discussion and possible action regarding advertising for position of Town Manager

Mayor Deese stated that he and TM Radford Thomas have talked with the NC League and some others that may be interested as interim manager. Mayor Deese stated that he doesn't think it's too soon to start advertising for the manager position. MPT Margaret Bivens agreed. CM Ned Beachum suggested advertising in the League Letter. TM Radford Thomas informed council that he has an advertisement prepared. He suggested that council include in the ad a first review date. TM Thomas commented that if the advertisement is sent in this week it will not be published until early August. The interview process could begin in early October. TM Radford Thomas also commented that the listserv is a means of advertising. Mayor Deese commented that he thinks we should run the ad in the local papers and asked for council's opinion. MPT Margaret Bivens and CM Matthew Jefferson feel we should advertise locally. CM Dora Bridget commented that she doesn't think the response received from the local papers will be good. The consensus of council is to advertise via the listserv, the League Letter, Southern City, and the local newspapers. TM Radford Thomas also stated that he would inquire about placing the ad with ICMA.

### Consideration of an Interim Town Manager

TM Radford Thomas stated that he's contacted Hartwell Wright with the NC League of Municipalities to find some possibilities for an interim manager. He mentioned there are also other companies that provide interims. Mayor Deese asked if other companies would impose a fee. TM Radford Thomas replied that you either pay the company or pay an interim manager. Mayor Deese asked what the council is thinking in terms of an interim such as full time or part-time, etc. He stated that in the past we were not a Council-Manager form of government and feels we should consider the possibility of a full time interim. TM Radford Thomas suggested four days. Attorney Bobby Griffin recommended a full time interim manager. It was the consensus of the council to seek a full time interim manager. Mayor Deese questioned council members as to how they feel about paying an interim manager. CM Ned Beachum commented he doesn't feel we should pay an interim like we pay a full time manager. Mayor Deese asked if we are expecting an interim to do less. CM Matthew Jefferson feels we need to allow ourselves some room to negotiate. Chief Webber commented that the previous interim received hourly pay based upon salary plus benefits of the previous town administrator. If you contract with a firm that provides interims there should be no need to worry so much about qualifications. The firm would provide a qualified individual. Attorney Bobby Griffin suggested obtaining rates from firms to find out what their rates are. Mayor Deese will work to bring this information back to council. He commented that he doesn't feel we can get an interim in place prior to TM Radford Thomas leaving.

### Comments

Chief Carl Webber informed council of a recent saturation patrol in which thirty-seven citations were issued. He also commented that he's been working on department policies since he's been on the job.

CM Matthew Jefferson stated that the American Legion members are excited about the Veterans' Day event. He suggested the cook-off idea and they thought it was a good idea. CM Jefferson stated that he doesn't know how to organize a cook-off and requested help. He suggested contacting Pilgrim's

Pride about donating chicken. Mayor Deese asked about the possibility of the American Legion organizing the cook-off. CM Jefferson also stated that there will need to be help with planning & organizing, parking, and music. Mayor Deese asked CM Jefferson exactly what are we talking about regarding this event. MPT Margaret Bivens commented that she doesn't think this is a duty of the town council. TM Radford Thomas told CM Jefferson that he could share some information regarding a cook-off.

CM Ned Beachum commented that a yard sale sign posted on a utility pole almost caused an accident. Mayor Deese stated that we have a sign ordinance. TM Radford Thomas commented that there is a time frame in which signs can be posted. He will check into the ordinance. Chief Webber informed council that in the event of a traffic obstruction to contact the police.

TM Radford Thomas informed council that the auditors from J.B. Watson have been in town so staff has been quite busy. He also stated he will check with ICMA for their fee to advertise for Town Manager. TM Thomas commented that this will be his last council meeting and thanked everyone for the good work they've done. TM Thomas also commented that he feels very comfortable with the staff here at Town Hall. He will make a list of things being worked on so we can continue to move forward.

MPT Margaret Bivens thanked TM Radford Thomas for a job well done and wished him well.

Mayor Deese also thanked TM Radford Thomas for his work here and wished him success.

### 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 was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

These minutes approved this the 8<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Frank Deese  
Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Tonya D. Johnson  
Clerk

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