

Town of Marshville

Town Council Meeting

Monday, November 8, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Marshville Community Center – 118 E. Union St.

Present: Mayor Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Bivens, Council Members Denise Whitley, Dora Bridget, Matthew Jefferson, and Ned Beachum, TM Radford Thomas, Clerk/Finance Officer Tonya Johnson, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, and Acting Chief of Police Matt Tarlton. Also present were Attorney Bobby Griffin, and John Edmondson, editor of *The Home News*.

Mayor Frank Deese opened the meeting at 7:00 pm and welcomed all those in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Bivens. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bryan Traywick – 1125 Traywick Rd., Marshville & 118 N. White St., Marshville (Loblolly's) – Mr. Traywick addressed the Council about a proposed referendum for liquor by the drink in Marshville. He feels it would be positive for both Marshville and Wingate. Revenue from an ABC Store could be beneficial to the town.

Adopt Agenda

Mayor Deese requested to add to the agenda Item #9, a brief discussion of the speed limit inside the city limits of Marshville. CM Denise Whitley made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item #9. The motion was seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve Minutes of October 18, 2010 Meeting
- b. Approve 2010 Tax Releases (Tax bills less than \$1.00)

A motion was made by CM Denise Whitley to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Consideration of RZA 10-01 Text Amendment to Section 21 of the Marshville Land Use Ordinance

TM Radford Thomas informed council that a General Statute requires Board of Adjustment members to be appointed for three year terms. Board of Adjustment members also serve as Planning Board members. He suggested leaving the appointment process as it is in the Land Use Ordinance. He would like to see the Board of Adjustment terms run concurrently with the Planning Board terms. The terms are currently out of the appropriate stagger. TM Radford Thomas proposed to bring back to council, at the next meeting, a plan to set out the staggering

of terms. Mayor Deese inquired as to how many Planning Board members there are. TM Radford Thomas responded that there are nine, two of which are ETJ members appointed by Union County Commissioners. Mayor Deese asked if the ETJ members served as Board of Adjustment members. TM Radford Thomas stated that they do not. TM Radford Thomas recommended leaving the text amendment change as is, therefore, no motion is needed.

Code Enforcement Update – Mr. James Luster, CCOG

Mr. James Luster brought to members of the Council an update on the property at 703 E. Union Street. He stated that at the council meeting on August 16th, he was instructed by the board to issue notice to the property owner of legal action to be taken regarding Housing Code Violations. Mr. Luster commented that the letter was issued on August 17, 2010. Mr. Luster commented that this case goes back a number of years. Originally, the Complaint and Notice of Violation only covered a burned, vacant structure. It did not include accessory buildings. A second notice was issued on November 3, 2010, with a hearing date set for November 30, 2010. Mr. Luster stated that after the hearing, we can move forward to adopt an ordinance to take additional legal steps toward code enforcement. CM Matthew Jefferson asked if we were starting the process over with the accessory buildings. Mr. Luster commented yes, but with minimum time frames. He elaborated that without following proper procedures, the Town could face liability. CM Denise Whitley expressed her opinion that this situation has been handled badly from the beginning. The major concern was not just the house, but the other site problems. She feels the ball has been dropped. She commented that we've done a shoddy job at code enforcement. CM Denise Whitley asked Mr. Luster if the owners don't comply by the November 30th hearing date then will he bring to the Council an ordinance to proceed to demolish and place a lien on the property. Mr. Luster replied this would be the next step. Mr. Luster commented that the Council needs to be consistent with code enforcement into the future. Mayor Deese referenced a handout from Mr. Luster outlining the steps and costs for Code Enforcement/Abatement. He asked if we were at step #3, and after the hearing on November 30th, we then proceed to step #4. Mr. Luster commented that is correct. Mr. Luster again explained that this is a new Finding of Fact based upon the new complaint about the accessory buildings. CM Ned Beachum clarified that after sixty days we can proceed to remedy this problem. Mr. Luster agreed.

Consideration of Appointment to the Marshville Planning Board (to fill the current vacancy)

TM Radford Thomas conveyed to council that Mr. Jim Rowell has expressed interest in serving on the Marshville Planning Board. No others have come forward to express any interest in serving. TM Radford Thomas recommended appointing Mr. Rowell to the Planning Board to serve a three year term. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens asked if this is the replacement for Mrs. Rogers. TM Radford Thomas responded that it is. A motion was made by CM Denise Whitley to appoint Mr. Jim Rowell to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment for a three year term expiring in November 2013. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Discussion of the Speed Limit in Marshville city limits

Mayor Deese commented that he's had several citizens inquire about asking the NC DOT to extend the 35 mph speed limit past the Dialysis Center to make it safer. CM Denise Whitley asked if a request would have to be made to the NC DOT. TM Radford Thomas stated that he would inquire with the DOT as to what the requirements are to make such a change. CM

Denise Whitley stated she thought the Council had talked about looking into the speed limits throughout town. Mr. Jim Rowell commented that there is an approved NC DOT project to realign Unarco Rd. into Hwy. 74, which may affect changing the speed limit. TM Radford Thomas thanked Mr. Rowell for the information.

Economic Development Update - CM Matthew Jefferson

CM Jefferson commented that he would like to include economic development on the agenda on a regular basis. He feels we need to concentrate on downtown revitalization. He would like to see the creation of a Jobs Workforce for Marshville. He's learned from citizens that it's hard to be concerned about what's going on if you don't have a job. CM Jefferson talked about a Job Training Partnership Program which splits salaries with local participating businesses. Such a program would create jobs and teach skills. If we had a pool of money to work with it could create employment opportunities for citizens. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens inquired about where we would get the money for this. CM Jefferson commented that he doesn't have a proposal prepared. CM Denise Whitley commented that CCOG has a program.

CM Matthew Jefferson expressed his keen interest in hiring a company to create a survey to determine the types of businesses people want to see in Marshville. The company would create, distribute, tally, and report back to the Council the survey results. TM Radford Thomas commented that it would be an informational survey for the citizens of Marshville. CM Jefferson feels this information is necessary to see how to attract businesses to Marshville. He stated that Marshville is a tough place to do business. TM Radford Thomas conveyed to council several quotes he received from firms that we could work with to develop the survey. The most reasonably priced quote was from a firm called Insight Research, for \$6,050 (an additional charge will apply for more than 1,350 surveys). They would work with us to develop the survey and, once completed, tally and explain the results. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens commented that in the past we have talked to Wingate College students in that field of study to do a survey. TM Radford Thomas expressed that this needs to be a business research tool and not a project. CM Dora Bridget commented that she doesn't think we should put what Marshville can accomplish into the hands of students. You need professionals to do a professional job. Mayor Deese commented that we should be conscious of the cost. However, this is about the future of Marshville. This information could be used now and in years to come. Mayor Deese asked if the Council desires to obtain additional estimates. CM Jefferson commented on the Town of Wingate's excellent Comprehensive Plan. He feels the survey will help the Town of Marshville develop a good plan. CM Denise Whitley stated that when the Greenfield Study was done, Marshville didn't follow through to develop a plan. Mayor Deese commented that the survey could enhance the information from the Greenfield Study. He asked if the consensus of the Council was to ask TM Radford Thomas to move forward with Insight Research. TM Radford Thomas recommended asking someone from Insight Research to come and give a presentation at the next council meeting. Attorney Bobby Griffin commented that the Town would be entering a contract with Insight Research, so you would want them to come and present what services they will perform. CM Matthew Jefferson commented that he would like to continue to include economic development on the meeting agendas.

Comments

CM Matthew Jefferson expressed his sorrow to hear that John Munn passed away. He feels Marshville should make a gesture to Mr. Munn's charity of choice.

CM Dora Bridget asked if there would be a Veterans' Memorial taking place in Marshville and, if so, can anyone place a wreath. PD Alan Thifault informed everyone that a Veterans' Memorial service would be held on Thursday at 11 am. He told CM Bridget it should be fine to place a wreath. CM Bridget also complimented the Public Works dept. for working on decorating the Town.

CM Ned Beachum expressed a desire to entice store owners to decorate their storefronts and windows during the Christmas season.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens commented that the NCLM meeting was very good, with a lot of good information. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens informed Lt. Matt Tarlton of some complaints from citizens in the project area and asked that he check it out.

PD Alan Thifault informed everyone of the Veteran's Memorial to be held Thursday at 11 am. Also, the Christmas tree lighting will be the day after Thanksgiving at 7 pm. PD Thifault commented that Bingo will begin next Thursday from 10:30 until Noon, and on Friday night at 7 pm. He has a non-profit sponsor, Marshville Athletic Association. PD Thifault also informed everyone of the Christmas Parade on November 20, 2010 at 3 pm.

Lt. Matt Tarlton commented that some cosmetic improvements have been made to the Police Dept. building with help from Alan Thifault and Bivens Steele.

DPW Bivens Steele commented that the Public Works dept. is busy putting up Christmas lights.

TM Radford Thomas informed council members that they would have to adopt an Ethics Policy. Clerk Tonya Johnson has pulled from other policies and we will be presenting a policy for your approval.

TM Radford Thomas expressed his sorrow in the passing of John Munn. He told council that the visitation would be Wednesday from 6-8 pm at Gordon Funeral Home. The funeral to celebrate John's life will be Thursday at 2 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Monroe.

TM Radford Thomas referenced a letter from J.B. Watson & Co. about their peer review. He also commented that we've received authorization from NC DOT to close streets for the parade.

TM Radford Thomas informed council of an advertisement to accept applications to hire a part time employee in the Public Works dept. as approved in the budget.

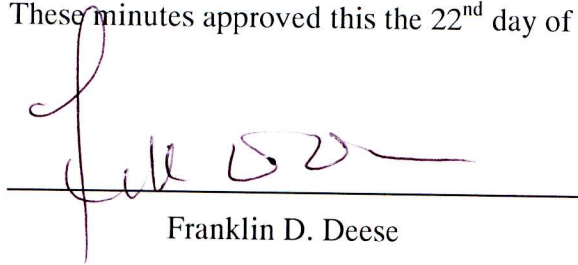
He reminded everyone that Town Hall would be closed on Thursday for Veteran's Day. He also announced that the Christmas Party for Town Hall Staff is set for December 10, 2010, at 7 pm. It will be at the Community Center. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens asked if retired staff could be invited. It was the consensus of the Council to include the retired staff.

Adjourn

There being no further comments, a motion was made by CM Denise Whitley to adjourn, seconded by CM Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

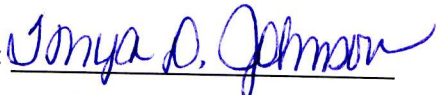
The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

These minutes approved this the 22nd day of November, 2010.



Franklin D. Deese

Mayor

Attest: 
Tonya D. Johnson
Clerk

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

