

Town of Marshville

Town Council Meeting

Monday, September 20, 2010 at 7:00 PM

Marshville Town Hall – 201 W. Main St.

Present: TM Radford Thomas, Interim Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, Mayor Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Bivens, Council Members Matthew Jefferson, Dora Bridget, Ned Beachum, and Denise Whitley, Town attorney Bobby Griffin, Chief Gaddy, DPW Bivens Steele, PD Alan Thifault, and John Edmondson, editor of *The Home News*.

Mayor Deese opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Mr. Don Hall – Hall's Auction – 217 N. Elm St., Marshville. Mr. Hall commented that he has a problem with PD Thifault and the parties/concerts he holds in the parking lot across the street from his place of business. He stated that the concerts interfere with local businesses and parking.

Adopt Agenda

TM Radford Thomas informed council that there needed to be an addition to the agenda to call for a public hearing on October 18, 2010, for the purpose of a text amendment to the Land Use Ordinance. A motion was made by Council Member Denise Whitley to add as Item #9 to call for a public hearing for a text amendment change to the Land Use Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

A motion was made by Council Member Denise Whitley, and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens, to adopt the agenda with the addition of Item #9. Vote: All ayes.

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Receive Budget Report
- b. Approve Minutes of September 7, 2010

A motion was made by Council Member Denise Whitley to adopt the consent agenda as presented/received. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Approve a resolution by the Town of Marshville opposing a referendum on the ballot to change the number of County Commissioners from 5 at large to 7 at large

Mayor Deese informed council that TM Radford Thomas has drafted a resolution to oppose the referendum regarding changing the number of at-large commissioners on the November ballot. He expressed his opinion that it doesn't give Marshville any better representation and doesn't serve the eastern part of Union County. Mayor Deese explained a change in paragraph 4 of the resolution from the original draft. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens commented that she favors the resolution. A motion was made by Council Member Ned Beachum, and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens, to approve the resolution as printed. Vote: All ayes.

John Edmondson questioned who the resolution would we sent to. Mayor Deese commented that the county commissioners and the Justice Department would receive a copy of the resolution. Attorney Bobby Griffin suggested that the council make a motion specifying to whom the resolution be sent. A motion was made by Council Member Denise Whitley giving authorization to send the resolution to the Union County Commissioners, the Justice Dept., Town of Wingate, City of Monroe, and Rep. Pryor Gibson.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens suggested also sending the resolution to our congressman, Mr. Larry Kissell.

Council Member Denise Whitley made a motion to amend the previous motion to include Congressman Larry Kissell. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Report on Land Use Ordinance text amendment regarding the term of office for Planning Board members

TM Radford Thomas commented that we previously discussed holding the public hearing at the October 4th meeting. However, after consulting with Jana, the public hearing needed to be backed up until the October 18th meeting to meet some timing requirements. This will give the Planning Board time to review the proposed text amendment and make their recommendation to the Council.

Report on the language change in the Personnel Policy

TM Radford Thomas provided each council member with a bound copy of the Personnel Policy. He noted the change in the language in Section 3, Step C, as follows:

“Step C. If the matter involves the Town Manager, the Town Attorney may appoint a third party to investigate and review the complaint in accordance with this policy. The Town Attorney shall report the nature of the complaint to the Mayor and Town Council. Upon completion of any investigation or review, the resolution of the complaint or need for further action shall be reported to the Town Council.”

Mayor Deese commented that he appreciates TM Thomas's hard work on getting this Personnel Policy completed.

Call for a Public Hearing RZA10-01 Text Change to Section 21 of the Marshville Land Use Ordinance

Mayor Deese stated that the Council needs to call for a Public Hearing Text Change to Section 21 of the Marshville Land Use Ordinance to modify the process for Planning Board appointments, and to direct TM Radford Thomas to make all public notices. A motion to call for the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens, and seconded by Council Member Ned Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Retreat Review

TM Radford Thomas referred to a handout provided to council summarizing the discussions from their April work session. He pointed out the six major strategic work areas and subtopics. He stated that this could be a valuable tool as we move forward into next year's budget planning. Council Member Denise Whitley commented that the retreat was a good idea, and she feels progress is being made. TM Thomas informed council that work is being done on the Town Charter to get it more up to date. Also, code recodification is in process. Council Member Jefferson expressed his opinion that the council did a good job in firing themselves from Marshville town management. He would like to see the council divide up and take ownership of some of the items on the work list. He expressed his interest in helping create businesses in Marshville and volunteered to work on Economic Development. He can't wait to see progress. He talked about getting involved in a study to help determine what businesses people would like to see come to Marshville. He stated that there are companies to provide that type of service. TM Thomas elaborated that Council Member Jefferson is referring to an outside company that would come in and work with us to develop a community wide survey to gather specific data about the types of businesses residents of Marshville would like to have here. Council Member Whitley suggested we get some information about the cost associated with this before making a decision. Mayor Deese suggested that TM Radford Thomas work on obtaining additional information and costs and brings the information back to the Council. TM Radford Thomas commented that he appreciates Council Member Jefferson's interest. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens commented that she would also like to see this council look into Historic Preservation and Agri-Tourism.

Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens commented that the Boll Weevil Jamboree was good and that she had an enjoyable time. She complimented the Chamber of Commerce. She also commented that the First Baptist Church had its dedication service on Sunday, September 19, 2010.

Council Member Ned Beachum commented that the Boll Weevil Jamboree went well. He complimented the police department and the public works department for a job well done.

Council Member Matthew Jefferson commented on what a good time he had at the Boll Weevil. He felt there was a good crowd turnout. He complimented the police department and the public works department for their good work.

Council Member Dora Bridget commented that the Boll Weevil was a success and everyone seemed to enjoy the day.

Council Member Denise Whitley questioned where we are with Mr. James Luster. She expressed that we need to get moving on cleaning up some of these properties. TM Radford Thomas commented that he thinks Mr. Luster is working on several things. He stated that he would be in touch with Mr. Luster and provide some updates to council.

PD Thifault commented that he's held several concerts recently. He doesn't want to hurt any businesses. He will work on a calendar of future events being planned.

DPW Steele commented that the Public Works Dept. will be taking a Flagger training class that is required by the state. Also, they will be completing a CPR class. The CPR class will be at the BLVFD on September 23, 2010. The cost for the class is \$20.

Chief Gaddy commented that the Boll Weevil Jamboree went smoothly. He commented that the new police trailer was set up at the festival and it received many compliments.

Interim Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson reminded council members to sign their quarterly pay requests, and a resolution.

TM Radford Thomas announced Tonya Johnson as the new fulltime Clerk/Finance Officer for the Town of Marshville. He welcomed her on board. Also, he announced that Lt. Matt Tarlton will be acting Police Chief upon the retirement of Chief Gaddy. TM Thomas stated that he felt it was important for the police officers to have someone to go to until the position is filled. He informed council that there have been 22 resumes/applications received to date for Police Chief. He plans to receive resumes through the first week of October. He will then make a first cut. He plans to begin interviewing around the end of October to the beginning of November. TM Thomas stated that he hopes to have a decision by mid to end of December, with the position ready to be filled by January.

He expressed his interest in holding a community meeting at Town Hall to invite the public to get their feedback as to what they would like to see in a Police Chief. He is looking at several dates, being Thursday, October 7th, or Tuesday, October 12th. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens asked where ads have been placed for the Police Chief position. TM Thomas commented that ads have been placed in the local paper, with the NCLM publication, and on the website for the Police Chief's Association.

TM Thomas commented that he would like to keep the community meeting to the task of hiring a police chief. He stated that he would work on getting something together.

TM Thomas reminded council members about the Farm City Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on September 23, 2010, at the Agriculture Center.

TM Thomas reminded council of a public reception for Chief Gaddy on September 30, 2010.

TM Thomas informed council to look for an information packet to be included in their travel packet/documents for the annual NCLM meeting coming up in October.

TM Thomas thanked the police department, public works department, and Town Hall staff for a good job with the things that came up regarding the Boll Weevil Jamboree.

He referenced a handout reminding them of One-Stop Voting in Union County.

TM Thomas stated that this week marks the six month anniversary of his being hired as Town Manager. He expressed his appreciation to the council for the opportunity to serve the Town of Marshville.

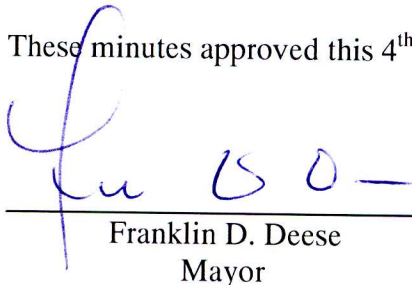
Mayor Deese announced that Rep. Pryor Gibson will be the keynote speaker at the NAACP Banquet on October 23, 2010.

Mayor Deese reminded council members that, per his employment contract, TM Thomas is entitled to a performance evaluation and raise. He also congratulated Clerk/FO Tonya Johnson, and welcomed her on board. He thanked the council for their continued enthusiasm in getting things done.


Adjourn

There being no further comments, a motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Denise Whitley. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens. Vote: All ayes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

These minutes approved this 4th day of October, 2010.



Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: 

Tonya Johnson
Town Clerk

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

