

**Marshville Town Council
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday, February 16, 2009
Marshville Town Hall
201 West Main St., Marshville, NC**

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Gail Kiker, Council Members Ned Beachum, Margaret Bivens, Dora Bridget and Denise Whitley, Attorney Bobby Griffin, Town Administrator Carl Webber, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Shelley Maness, and Park Director Alan Thifault. Mayor Franklin D. Deese was absent.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Council Member Beachum gave the invocation. All gave the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

There were no public comments.

Adopt Agenda:

Council Member Whitley made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

**Council Member Bivens arrived at approximately 7:05 p.m.*

Consent Agenda:

TA Webber noted that, although not shown on the agenda, the consent agenda should also include the minutes from the January 20, 2009 Regular Meeting as was provided in the agenda packet.

The consent agenda included only the approval of the minutes of the January 20, 2009 and the February 2, 2009 Regular Meetings. Council Member Bridget made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: All ayes.

Presentation by CCOG: CONNECT Regional Vision – Al Sharp. Mr. Al Sharp of Centralina COG gave a presentation explaining the CONNECT Regional Vision. Mr. Sharp noted that the population of the Greater Charlotte Bi-State Region was expected to double by 2030 and that collaboration between local governments would position the region for global competitiveness. The CONNECT Vision's core values include: 1) increased collaboration among jurisdictions, 2) sustainable, well-managed growth, 3) a strong, diverse economy, 4) a safe and healthy environment, 5) high-quality educational opportunities and 6) enhanced social equity. Mr. Sharp asked Council to adopt a resolution to show their support of the CONNECT Regional Vision.

Consider Resolution in support of CONNECT Regional Vision. Council Member Whitley made a motion to adopt the resolution in support of the CONNECT Regional Vision, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Presentation by Literacy Council – Cindy Huntley. Ms. Cindy Huntley presented a video that discussed what the Literacy Council does for the more than 20,000 functionally illiterate adults in Union County. Ms. Huntley explained that basic literacy will lead to a better workforce, which in turn creates a better economy. She noted that funding for the organization comes from community colleges, United Way, civic groups, individuals and fund-raisers. One annual fund-raising event, the adult Spelling Bee, would be held on April 30th at First Baptist Church in Monroe. Also, Game Night was scheduled for March 3rd at Monroe Country Club. Ms. Huntley said that the Literacy Council primarily needs volunteers, but financial assistance would also help.

Presentation on Project Legacy – Maurice Ewing. Mr. Maurice Ewing, president of Union County Partnership for Progress, gave a presentation on Project Legacy. He explained that Project Legacy is a proposed 5,000 acre business park that would be located on the north side of Highway 74, just east of the Town of Marshville. Mr. Ewing explained that this location was ideal because there is easy access to major highways, international and regional airports and established rail lines. Project Legacy would provide a healthier balance between residential and non-residential tax revenue that would protect the affordability and quality of community life in Union County. Mr. Ewing explained that Project Legacy would be developed over many years, but that planning and development of Phase 1 could start immediately.

Approve Proposal for Day in the Park events. PD Thifault presented to Council three cost-saving options for Day in the Park events. After some discussion of the various options, Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker assigned a committee to plan the Day in the Park events. The committee included PD Thifault as chair, TA Webber as co-chair, Council Member Beachum and Council Member Whitley. The committee would also include Tom Appenzeller and Marc McCann, if willing to serve. Council Member Bivens made a motion to approve the committee as appointed by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker, seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: All ayes.

Update on Tutoring Program in Old Town Hall. TA Webber informed Council that Mr. Ernest Lee had planned to be present for the meeting, but was unable to attend. TA Webber reviewed a letter from Mr. Lee which acknowledged that participation in the tutoring program was disappointing. Mr. Lee noted in his letter that there may be a need to use the Old Town Hall again in the future, but they would not continue to use the facility at this time.

Comments

TA Webber said that part of the Town's commitment under the Service Corps contract was to send representatives to the Essentials of Economic Development training offered by the School of Government on March 11th in Fayetteville or April 8th in Boone. TA Webber asked that anyone interested or able to attend to let him know so that he could get them registered.

TA Webber provided Council with a copy of a letter sent by the Rocky River RPO to the NC Department of Transportation in response to their request for information on how they can improve their decision-making process for all transportation modes.

Council Member Bivens asked for an update on the employment of Mr. Chaffin. TA Webber reported that, based on a conversation with Chief Gaddy, Mr. Chaffin had been unsworn by any department for such a period of time that his certification had lapsed. In order to restore his certification, Mr. Chaffin will have to go through a 40-hour refresher course and take the state exam, neither of which has been offered in the time since Mr. Chaffin was given his conditional offer of employment. TA Webber noted that Mr. Chaffin was not working or being paid during this waiting period.

Council Member Beachum thanked two students from Forest Hills High School for attending the Town Council Meeting. He also noted that he had heard several comments from citizens acknowledging that Marshville Police Officers were being more visible in the community.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker, Council Members Bridget and Whitley, PD Thifault, and C/FO Maness had no comments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker called for a five-minute recess at approximately 9:00 p.m. The meeting reconvened at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Council Member Bivens made a motion to go into Closed Session per NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider the qualifications, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of an individual public employee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: All ayes.

CLOSED SESSION

Council Member Whitley made a motion to come out of closed session, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

In open session, Council Member Whitley made a motion to make a conditional offer of employment to Deborah Helms-Morton with a starting salary of \$24,960 and if Ms. Morton declines, the hiring committee is to bring back another applicant for Council to consider. Council Member Whitley clarified that the offer was conditional based on the outcome of a pre-employment drug screen. Council Member Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____
Shelley H. Maness
Town Clerk