

**Marshville Town Council
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday, May 4, 2009
Marshville Town Hall
201 West Main St., Marshville, NC**

Present: Mayor Franklin D. Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Gail Kiker, Council Members Ned Beachum, Margaret Bivens, Dora Bridget and Denise Whitley, Interim Town Administrator John Munn, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Shelley Maness, Director of Public Works Bivens Steele and Police Chief Mike Gaddy.

Mayor Deese opened the meeting at approximately 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Council Member Bivens 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 remove Item #5 regarding the Police Auxiliary hiring committee from the agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: 2 to 3 (Council Members Beachum, Bridget and Kiker opposed).

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

Consent Agenda:

The consent agenda included only the approval of the minutes of the April 20, 2009 Regular Meeting. Council Member Bridget made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Consider recommendation and make final appointment to the Police Auxiliary hiring committee.

Mayor Deese appointed Chief Gaddy, Council Member Ned Beachum and Marshville resident Gayle Webber to serve on the Police Auxiliary hiring committee. After some discussion, Council Member Whitley made a motion not to accept Mayor Deese's appointment. The motion died for lack of a second.

Council Member Bridget made a motion to accept Mayor Deese's appointment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Beachum. Vote: 2 to 3 (Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker and Council Members Whitley and Bivens opposed).

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to appoint Council Member Bivens, Council Member Beachum, Chief Gaddy and Gayle Webber to the Police Auxiliary hiring committee. The motion was seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: 3 to 2 (Council Members Beachum and Bridget opposed).

Discussion and action regarding a 1987 CDBG. Mayor Deese informed Council that it was discovered that a 1987 Deed of Trust between Elizabeth Allen and the Town of Marshville had not been cancelled as it should have been. The deed was issued as part of a Community Development Block Grant and only required that Ms. Allen continue to live in the property for a period of five years to be released of the \$17,000 debt. Ms. Allen met the requirements and therefore is not indebted to the Town of Marshville. Mayor Deese said that he spoke with Attorney Griffin who said that Council must vote to authorize Mayor Deese to sign paperwork that would allow the attorney's office to move forward with cancelling the deed. Council Member Bridget made a motion to allow Mayor Deese to sign a release of the Deed of Trust for Elizabeth Allen and allow the attorney to move forward to cancel the deed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Discuss Marshville Skateboard Park. Council Member Whitley reported that there were problems at the new Skateboard Park. She was concerned that the skateboarders were not wearing helmets, even after she asked them to do so. It was mentioned that someone had brought in skateboarding equipment not approved by the Town. Council Member Whitley said that PD Thifault had the park locked until he returns to work on Wednesday. Council Member Bivens suggested that the Town provide helmets for the skateboarders to sign out and use. She asked Chief Gaddy about helmets the Police Department has given out in the past. Chief Gaddy noted that those were bicycle helmets and there were no more.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker said some of the kids were following the rules and others were not. She said she hated to see a few ruin it for everyone, but if parents were not willing to get behind the issue and make their children wear helmets, Council could shut the park down as fast as it went up. Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker asked John Edmundson of *The Home News* if he could help get that point across in an upcoming news article.

Council Member Beachum made a motion to table any action on the matter until the next meeting and ask that the press put a strong warning out to skateboarders and their parents to let them know that the skateboard park will be shut down if they do not follow the rules. The motion was seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: All ayes. Mayor Deese asked DPW Steele to remove and dispose of any equipment that did not belong to the Town.

Council Member Bivens made a motion to purchase ten (10) helmets to sign out to the skateboarders. The motion was seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: 2 to 3 (Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker and Council Members Bridget and Beachum opposed).

Discuss plan of action for filling the Town Administrator position. Mayor Deese said that they should not move forward too quickly in filling the Town Administrator position, noting that the budget needed be top priority. He said that TA Webber had contacted Hartwell Wright at NCLM who said that he was willing to meet with Council to discuss the hiring process. Council Member Bivens felt that Council should not delay the process and suggested meeting with Mr. Wright as soon as possible.

Interim TA Munn noted that there was no cost associated with NCLM's service unlike those offered by Centralina COG. He pointed out that Mr. Wright keeps up with most all NC managers and administrators and would know who is available. He felt that NCLM was the way to go initially, noting that Council could always go back to COG if necessary.

Mayor Deese felt that the budget and the administrator position were both very important issues and therefore should be focused on separately. He advised waiting until the budget was approved before meeting with Mr. Wright so that the information he provides will be at the forefront of their minds

when making decisions regarding the administrator position. Interim TA Munn pointed out that Mr. Wright would be at Town Hall Day on Wednesday and they could ask him about his schedule then.

Comments

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker thanked the Day in the Park Committee and said that the event was great, one of the best yet. She also thanked the police officers and employees that helped with the event.

Council Member Whitley reiterated Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker's comments, noting that they spent less money but everyone had just as much fun.

Council Member Beachum asked DPW Steele about the street sign at Union and Elm Streets. DPW Steele said that trucks continued to knock the sign down and there had also been a lot of signs stolen in the last few weeks. Council Member Beachum also commented on "Day in the Park" pointing out that there were a lot of people there from surrounding areas, not just Marshville.

Council Member Bivens echoed the compliments about "Day in the Park". She also commented that the Town Administrator position should not be taken lightly and the process should not be delayed. Council Member Bivens also said that people wanted to see more officers in the area and there were particular concerns from senior citizens on Carelock Drive. Council Member Bivens complimented Officer Chaffin, noting that she had seen him out patrolling at 2:00 a.m. or 3:00 a.m.

Council Member Bridget, C/FO Maness & DPW Steele had no comments.

Interim TA Munn discussed the driving arrangements for Town Hall Day on Wednesday. He also mentioned that the NC Turnpike Authority would hold a public hearing for elected officials regarding the bypass to be held at 1:30 p.m. on May 18th at SPCC (OCH campus). There would also be a public meeting at 7:00 p.m. on May 21st at Wingate University.

Interim TA Munn also mentioned that he had received comments on the Town's Flood Plain application which he referred to Jana Finn. Ms. Finn would take those comments to the Planning Board and will eventually come back to Council.

Mayor Deese reviewed information from the NC Center for Women and a funding request from Turning Point. Mayor Deese reiterated his previous comments that Council needed to take their time in hiring a new town administrator. He felt that Interim TA Munn had the experience to get them through the process. He also commented that "Day in the Park" was a success and agreed with Council Member Beachum that the event was regional and would continue to be that way.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:12 p.m.

These minutes approved this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____
Shelley H. Maness
Town Clerk