

**Marshville Town Council
Regular Meeting
7:00 P.M. Monday, June 8, 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, Attorney Bobby Griffin, Interim Town Administrator John Munn, Town Clerk/Finance Officer Shelley Maness, Police Chief Mike Gaddy, Director of Public Works Bivens Steele and Park Director Alan Thifault.

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:

At the suggestion of Mayor Deese, Council Member Whitley made a motion to move the Comments Section ahead of Item #8 Budget Discussion. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to add a discussion to the agenda to reconsider a request from Brian Weber to serve on the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bridget. Discussion: Council Member Bivens felt that the issue should be added to the next agenda. In response to Council Member Whitley's concern, Attorney Griffin said that it was not "illegal" statutorily to have family members on such boards. He did suggest that it was good practice to have diverse boards. Vote: 3 to 2 (Council Members Bivens and Beachum opposed; Added as Item #6)

Council Member Bivens made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker. Vote: All ayes.

Consent Agenda:

Council Member Bivens made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included the following items:

- a) Approval of the minutes of the May 18, 2009 Regular Meeting (including minutes of recessed portion of meeting held on June 1, 2009)
- b) Approval of Tax Releases
 - Alice Faulkner (02-321-046) - \$17.67
 - Hyatt Surveying (50-068-105) - \$798.96
- c) Approval of agreement with NCDOT for CMAQ Sidewalk Project

The motion was seconded by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Presentation by Centralina COG regarding Planning Services – Nadine Bennett. Ms. Bennett reviewed two Planning Service contract options: Option #1 for \$22,000 and Option #2 for \$25,362. Both options required 30 member hours. The primary difference between the two options was that Option 2 included Centralina staff maintaining limited office hours at Marshville Town Hall. She noted that both options were more than the FY 08/09 contract primarily due to the fact that former Town Administrator Webber had, in the past, handled much of the work in-house. Ms. Bennett said that, if the new Town Administrator took on those same duties, the amount may be less. Responding to an inquiry from Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker, Interim TA Munn said that he was not familiar enough with Marshville's ordinance to offer the same level of service in-house that Mr. Webber had. Council Member Whitley did not feel it was in the best interest of the Town to pay an additional \$3,362 for the office hours offered. Mayor Deese said that a decision would be made during the budget process but, pointed out that the Town would only be charged for services actually rendered, not necessarily the full contract amount.

Reconsider Brian Weber's request to serve on Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. Mayor Deese read a letter from Mr. Weber asking Council to reconsider his request to serve on the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment. His letter stated that, although he has only lived in Marshville for four months, he has lived in Union County for several years. He also noted that he has several family members that live here and he has no immediate plans to leave. Although there had been some concern among Council members regarding the amount of time Mr. Weber has lived in Marshville and also his relation to an existing Planning Board member, Council recognized that the position had been open for quite some time with no interest from any other citizen. Council Member Whitley made a motion to appoint Brian Weber to the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker. Vote: All ayes.

Consider participation in ICMA 457 Retirement Plan. Mayor Deese and Interim TA Munn explained that this was another voluntary, tax-deferred retirement plan option, similar to the 401k plan currently offered, that could be made available to all employees. Since the plan administrator deducts their fees from contributions made to the plan, there would be no cost to the Town. Interim TA Munn explained that he has contributed to the plan for years and would like to continue doing so. After a brief discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to direct staff to move forward and allow employees to participate in the ICMA 457 retirement plan with no Town match. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bridget. Vote: All ayes.

Discussion and possible action regarding employee Health Insurance plan. Interim TA Munn and C/FO Maness reviewed three options regarding employee health insurance plans for FY 09/10. They explained that rates for the current plan, which included a \$500 deductible, had increased overall by 44%. Two options, differing only in amount of deductible, were presented as alternatives. (See attachment.) Staff recommended that the Town offer a limited level of "self-insurance" by offsetting the difference in the current deductible and the new, higher deductible. The employee would be responsible for the first \$500 and the Town would pay any amount owed over \$500 up to the maximum deductible. For example, under the least expensive option, the deductible amount equals \$2,500. The Town would have a "potential" liability of \$2,000 per employee (20 employees total), although many employees would not likely incur such expense in any given year. After some discussion, it was the general consensus of Council to go with the least expensive option (Option 3 - \$2,500 deductible with an annual fixed cost to the Town of

\$90,676.80) without the self-insurance option. Council Member Whitley made a motion to choose Option 3 (as described previously), seconded by Council Member Bivens. Vote: All ayes.

Comments

Council Member Bivens asked if Scattered-Site Housing applications were available at Town Hall. Mayor Deese said that, once a summary page has been developed, he would make sure they were available at Town Hall. Council Member Bivens said that she had received complaints about increased traffic in certain areas of Town and would like to see more patrol in the Hambrick Street area. She also mentioned that Mill Tree Apartments were not being managed full-time and that there would likely be some changes in that area as a result.

Council Members Beachum, Bridget & Whitley had no comments.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker said that she hoped the decision on health insurance would allow more employees to add dependent coverage.

PD Thifault said that he was glad that he was in the hospital last week instead of next month.

Interim TA Munn reminded Council that the Planning Board meeting was on June 11th.

Mayor Deese felt that TA Munn should be directed to look into updating the Town Charter. Interim TA Munn said that very few changes had been made since 1913. Council Member Whitley suggested waiting until a full-time Administrator was hired. Council Member Bivens felt that it would be a good job for the new Administrator as well. Mayor Deese disagreed and reminded Council that one of the reasons Mr. Munn was chosen as Interim TA was because of his experience and expertise in local government. Council Member Bivens felt that it would be a very time-consuming thing. After further discussion, it was the general consensus of Council to have Mr. Munn look into the matter and bring back suggestions.

FY 09/10 Budget Discussion. Council reviewed and discussed the FY 09/10 Proposed Budget in detail. The proposed budget did not include any increase in taxes or rates for services. In an effort to reduce the amount of encumbered fund balance in each fund (General Fund = \$526,739, Enterprise Fund = \$268,319), Council asked for the following changes to the Proposed Budget:

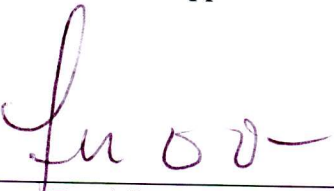
- Remove all payscale and COLA increases
- Reduce health insurance premiums to \$377.82/month/employee
- Reduce amount for COG Planning Services to \$22,000
- Remove allocation for new police vehicle; increase vehicle maintenance as a result
- Reduce allocation for new dump truck in Water & Sewer Departments to ½ (to be put in reserve fund so that purchase can be made in FY 10/11); increase vehicle maintenance in Water as a result
- Reduce Park & Rec budget as follows:
 - Maint. & Repairs to equipment - \$1,000
 - Supplies & Materials - \$5,000
 - Contracted Services - \$6,100 (Decrease by \$8,100 for Day In the Park; Increase by \$2,000 for miscellaneous events)

- Miscellaneous - \$6,700
- Increase garbage rates to \$18.00 per can
- Increase minimum base rate for water & sewer by 20%

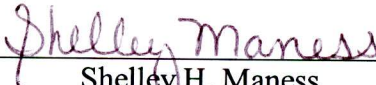
C/FO Maness agreed to make the above changes and bring the updated budgeted back to Council at the next meeting.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 p.m.

These minutes approved this 20th day of July, 2009.



Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: 

Shelley H. Maness
Town Clerk

**TOWN OF MARSHVILLE
TAX RELEASES OF 2008 TOWN TAXES**

02-321-046	ALICE FAULKNER ELDERLY EXCLUSION MODIFIED BY UNION COUNTY	\$17.67
50-068-105	HYATT SURVEYING INCORRECT DISTRICT- RELEASED BY UNION COUNTY	\$798.96
	TOTAL	<hr/> \$816.63

For presentation and approval at the June 8, 2009 Marshville Town Council meeting.

