

**Town of Marshville
Town Council
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, September 21, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Mayor Pro-Tem Gail Kiker, Council Members Ned Beachum, Margaret Bivens, Dora Bridget and Denise Whitley, Interim Town Administrator John Munn, Attorney Bobby Griffin, and City Clerk/Finance Director Shelley Maness.

Absent: Mayor Franklin Deese

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

Public Comments.

Rusty Johnson, 115 Shady Lane, advised that he had noticed a trend in the council meetings to always add to the agenda at the last minute. Mr. Johnson suggested that the public comments be moved until after the agenda had been adopted.

Brian Weber, 44 Perry Lane, spoke also on behalf of his wife regarding the policing around the elementary school. Mr. Weber said the police are doing a good job.

John Edmondson asked if Item #9 on the agenda had to do with the answering system at Town Hall. Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker said it did, but she would be asking to remove the item from the agenda pending receipt of information from the phone company.

There were no other public comments.

Adopt Agenda.

Council Member Whitley made a motion to remove from the agenda Item #9 Discuss Procedures for Handling Incoming Phone Calls at Town Hall. Council Member Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Council Member Whitley made a motion to add Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Streetlight on Braswell Street to the agenda, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker. Vote: All ayes. (Added as Item #9)

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

Consent Agenda.

The consent agenda included only the approval of minutes from the July 6, 2009 Public Hearing and Regular Town Council Meeting, and receipt of the Budget Report. Council Member Beachum made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Whitley. Vote: All ayes.

Consider Re-advertising for Bids to Lease Property located at 107 N. Elm Street.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker advised that there were no bids received at the bid opening on September 15, 2009. After discussion regarding the possibility of selling the property as opposed to leasing, Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker made a motion to re-advertise the property “for rent” in the *Home* newspaper. Council Member Whitley seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Consider Purchasing Historical Property Within the Town Limits of Marshville.

Council Member Bivens stated that she had served on the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Town should explore obtaining the Marshville Baptist Church, listed on the historic registry, and keep it in Marshville. Council asked if anyone knew the purchase price of the property. Council Member Bivens said she did not know the purchase price, but the building could be used as a cultural center, for weddings and other community functions. Council Member Bivens stated that she had talked with Sidney Hallman, and he indicated there were grants available for projects like this. It was the general consensus of the Council to direct Interim Town Administrator Munn and Council Member Bivens to research the matter and return to Council with information about the purchase price and the availability of federal grants.

Discuss Guidelines for Revising Ordinance Regarding Uncontrolled Growth of Weeds and Grasses.

Council discussed revising the ordinance regarding the growth of weeds and grass on properties within the town limits. The current ordinance calls for a maximum height of grass to be no more than 24 inches. It was suggested to revise the height to 18 inches. Town attorney reminded Council that some older residents may not be able to keep their grass mowed. Council Member Whitley made a motion to revise the maximum height of weeds and grass in the ordinance to 18 inches and to incorporate the fee structure for enforcement which may be added as a lien on the subject property. Council Member Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Discussion and Possible Action of Use of Old Town Hall or Community Center for Meetings of “Marshville Only” non-profit organizations.

Council Member Whitley advised that there were several non-profit organizations in Marshville that would like to use the Old Town Hall or Community Center. Council Member Whitley suggested the organizations submit their names and have the Town staff work out a schedule. Council Member Bivens agreed with the suggestion. Parks Director Thifault stated that religious and political groups were not allowed to use the town facilities according to the policy. It was the general consensus of Council to table any action at this time on the matter.

Streetlight on Braswell Street.

Council Member Whitley advised that Braswell Street was dark, and several residents as well as police officers had mentioned the need for a streetlight. Chief Gaddy called Duke Power and the monthly cost to the town would be approximately \$13 for a light. Council Member Whitley made a motion to have a streetlight installed on Braswell Street in a location to be determined by Duke Power. Council Member Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Discuss Procedures for Handling Incoming Phone Calls at Town Hall. *(Deleted from Agenda)*

Comments.

Town Clerk/Finance Officer Maness reminded Council to sign the check request forms she presented. Ms. Maness advised that the town had received approximately 60 applications for the position of Town Administrator, and she would get a copy to Council in time for the October 5, 2009 meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Kiker thanked the Chamber of Commerce and town employees for their hard work with the Boll Weevil Festival and thanked the Police Department for keeping the town safe.

Interim Town Administrator Munn recommended that all those interested attend the Pedestrian Plan Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at the Community Center. Mr. Munn advised that after September 30, no oil filters, no plastic bottles, or wooden pallets, would be allowed at the Landfill.

Council Member Bivens suggested that Council would need to wait and see the impact of the law on recycling. Council Member Bivens also expressed the need for better enforcement of the junk car ordinance.

Council Member Beachum reviewed the status of the Old Town Hall building. Council Member Beachum reminded Council that Mr. Sidney Hallman met with the Town and suggested turning the old Town Hall into a museum. The repairs that needed to be done have been completed such as painting and updating the wiring. Council Member Beachum reported that the committee had received a lot of interest from individuals with items to place in the museum, but the next step of finding someone to staff the facility had not been successful. Parks Director Thifault offered to provide someone from the Parks Department if needed. John Edmondson suggested creating a new organization called "Friends of the Museum" and ask for volunteers for staffing. Representatives from each civic group could serve on the board.

Mayor-Pro Tem Kiker suggested that this item be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Council Member Beachum asked that it be added two meetings later.

Police Chief Gaddy commented that the Boll Weevil Festival went very well. Even though there were some issues near the end, the police were able to keep everything in control.

There being no further comments, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

These minutes approved this _____ date of _____, 2010.

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____

(Minutes transcribed by Karen B. Price)