

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

Present: Mayor Franklin Deese, Mayor Pro-Tem Margaret Bivens, Council Members Beachum, Bridget, Jefferson and Whitley, Interim Town Administrator John Munn, Attorney Bobby Griffin, Town Clerk and Finance Officer Shelley Maness, Chief Mike Gaddy, Public Works Director Bivens Steele, Parks Director Alan Thifault, and numerous citizens.

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

Public Comments.

Randy Helms, 2605 Old Lawyers Road, appeared before Council with a complaint regarding his water bill having gone from \$79 to \$425. Mr. Helms stated that he had tried to pay some on the bill, but was told partial payments were not accepted. Mr. Helms explained that his bill went to his landlord and not directly to him which he did not understand and didn't agree with.

Gail Kiker, 903 Hasty Road encouraged Council to focus on hiring a Town Administrator. Ms. Kiker stated that she wished Police Chief Gaddy a good year.

Roger Hall, 608 S. Elm Street, addressed the Council with his concerns regarding negative comments about the Police Department and the rumors and threats of firing Chief Gaddy. Mr. Hall voiced his support of the Police Department and the great job Chief Gaddy did for the Town.

Loretta Hall, 608 S. Elm Street, expressed her support of Chief Mike Gaddy. Mrs. Hall also believed that the town charter should be revised since it was written in 1913. Mrs. Hall encouraged the Council to work together for the town.

Norma Carpenter, 412 Norma Street, shared an experience when she was billed for using 30,000 gallons of water and found there was a leak between the meter and her house. Ms. Carpenter had the line replaced and now monitors her water meter every week. She expressed her belief that the Public Works Department did a great job, and having lived in other places, found that water was cheaper in Marshville.

Adopt Agenda.

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

Consent Agenda.

Council Member Whitley made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented which included the following items:

- a. Approval of Amended Audit Contract *(to extend due date to February 15, 2010)*

- b. Approval of Centralina COG Multi-Family Ordinance Revision Contract
Original \$4,604 contract approved in FY 08-09; approximately \$2,040 remaining on contract; a departmental transfer from Contracted Services (which includes \$17,000 for Code Enforcement-related demolition) will cover this amount.
- c. Received Budget Report

Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Recognition of Officers Darryl Gerald & Thomas McClellan.

Council Member Jefferson advised that the police department is the best asset the town has, and the he did not want to destroy that. Council Member Jefferson presented Officer Darryl Gerald with the Safe Communities and Safe Kids Award and the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) award. Council Member Jefferson also presented the Mothers Against Drunk Drivers award to Officer Thomas McClellan. Jennifer Cooke also commended the officers for their awards.

Mayor Deese congratulated Officers Gerald and McClellan for their award.

Community Outreach Program presentation

Lieutenant Tarlton thanked the Council for the opportunity to share some of the community projects the police department was taking part in.

Officer Sawyers presented the slideshow presentation regarding the following community outreach programs:

- Phase 1 Project – Citizens Ride Along Program.
- Streetlight Program
- Operation C.A.R.E. Program
- Trespassing Program

Phase II (In process)

- Community Clean Up/Beautification Day (tentatively set for month of May)
- Operation Child II
- Home Inventory ID Program
- Bicycle Registration Program
- Hispanic Liaison Officer
- Monthly Community Meetings

Phase III (Research Projects)

- Home Security Survey
- Operation Chill
- Operation Club
- Safe Gun Locks
- Eddie Eagle Gun Safe Program

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Complaints of Excessive Water Bills.

Public Works Director Bivens Steele explained how the water bills were calculated and what the current rate was as well as the cost of late fees. Mr. Steele noted that the sewer bills were based on water consumption. Unless there is a delay due to weather etc., the meters are read every 30 days.

Town Clerk and Finance Officer Maness explained that the system did not allow for a partial payment. The bills are mailed out on the 1st of the month and are due on the 10th of the month, and the resident has until the 10th of the next month to pay that bill before the second month's bill attaches.

Mr. Helms discussed with the Council the problems he had with his bill. Mayor Deese asked Mr. Steele to look into Mr. Helms' bill and determine if he qualified for a discount. The Mayor also suggested that maybe the Council needed to review the current policy to determine if any changes should be made.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding a Resolution to Oppose Sale of Union County Hospital (Carolinas Medical Center – Union).

Mayor Deese asked Council to consider the resolution drafted by the City of Monroe opposing the sale of Union County's hospital – CMC-Union. Mayor Deese expressed his opposition to the County selling the hospital, but was concerned about some of the wording in the third paragraph of the resolution. Mayor Deese also suggested adding a paragraph.

The consensus of the Council was not to support selling the hospital by Union County.

Council Member Bridget made a motion to adopt a resolution to oppose the sale of Union County's hospital Carolinas Medical Center-Union according to the language as drafted by the City of Monroe with the deletion of that portion of paragraph 3 "resulting in diminished ... accommodated insurance requirements" and add the following paragraph - "Whereas, the Town of Marshville's main objective is the best possible healthcare for its citizens at a fair and affordable cost." The motion was seconded by Council Member Beachum. Vote: All ayes.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Venue and Format of Regular Meetings & Work Sessions.

Mayor Deese advised that the Council voted at the last meeting to have a regular voting meeting per month and a work session meeting per month.

Council Member Whitley made a motion to hold the Council work session at the Town Hall and the regular voting Council meetings at the Community Center in Marshville beginning January 2010. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes. .

Council Member Whitley made a motion to allow public comments at both the work session meeting and regular meeting. Council Member Jefferson seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Mayor Deese recessed the meeting for a 5-minute break.

Mayor Deese reconvened the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Next Step in Hiring a Town Administrator.

It was the consensus of the Council to proceed with setting interviews with the 10 applicants for the position of town administrator. Council discussed how many interviews should be scheduled for one day.

One citizen asked for an explanation of the difference of a manager and a town administrator. Mayor Deese explained the difference, but noted that the Town of Marshville had a town administrator type of government. It would take a legislative act and revision to the town's charter in order to change the type of government. Mayor Deese advised that the process of hiring a town administrator had nothing to do with changing the town's type of government.

Council Member Bridget made a motion to direct Interim Town Administrator Munn and Town Clerk and Finance Office Maness to proceed with scheduling interviews with 4 of the candidates for town administrator on January 9, 2010, 4 more candidates on January 16, 2010 and 2 candidates on January 23, 2010. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Update On the Status of Officer Chaffin's Certification.

Chief Mike Gaddy advised the Council that he had received probationary certification for Officer Stuart Chaffin today, December 21, 2009.

Attorney Griffin advised Council that he had information regarding a personnel matter to disclose to Council which required a closed session. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens made a motion to go into closed session according to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Council Member Bridget seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

Council Member Whitley made a motion to excuse Public Works Director Steele Bivens and Parks Director Alan Thifault from the closed session. Mayor Pro-Tem Bivens seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

CLOSED SESSION

OPEN SESSION

Upon Council returning to open session, Council Member Bridget made a motion to forgo comments and adjourn. Council Member Jefferson seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.

These minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2010.

Franklin D. Deese
Mayor

Attest: _____

(Minutes transcribed by Karen B. Price)