



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Special Meeting
Public Hearing and Work Session
June 20, 2023, 7 PM
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union Street – Marshville, NC 28103**

In Attendance: Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton; Council Member Paulette Blakeney, Gary Huntley, Margaret Bivens, Monaca Marshall

Staff Attendance: Town Manager Franklin Deese, Town Clerk Ashlie Vincent, Police Chief Matt Tarlton

Call to Order/Invocation/Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Member Huntley gave the invocation. All shared the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Meeting Minutes

Public Hearing for 2023-2024 Budget: Mayor Smith reopened the public hearing for the 2023-2024 Budget. There were no public comments. The motion to close the public hearing was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Bivens—all ayes.

Budget Discussion/Action: Manager Deese told the council that the budget has no changes, but there were some changes to the fee schedule. He had added a fee for basketball/tennis court rental and an increase to the copy fee. The basketball/tennis court fee would be \$70 for two hours, similar to the baseball field rental. The copy fee would increase to 25 cents for single-sided and 45 cents for double-sided copies.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton felt that the fee was too high for the basketball/tennis courts since the number of people using the courts is less than the baseball field. She mentioned that the tennis courts need to be in better shape and up to code to be used for tennis tournaments. Manager Deese said the fee would be in place once the courts are fixed. Mayor Smith asked if this fee would include all courts. Manager Deese said yes, the rental fee is for two hours and all day rental. He brought up that there will be a discussion about the golf cart ordinance later on the agenda and suggested the council consider keeping or raising the fee. Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked what the cost of copies is at OfficeMax or the library. Manager Deese said he falls in the same realm of pricing.

Close Special Meeting: The motion to recess the special meeting until after the work session was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Special Meeting Reopen: Mayor Smith reopened the special meeting.

Budget Discussion/Action: Mayor Pro-tem Staton requested that the golf cart registration be increased to \$25. The motion to adopt the budget and budget ordinance with the condition to

amend the fee schedule as discussed was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Bivens—all ayes.

Close Special Meeting: The motion to close the special meeting was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Member Huntley—all ayes.

Public Hearing Minutes

Public Hearing for Mural Ordinance: Mayor Smith reopened the public hearing for Mural Ordinance. There were no public comments.

Council Questions and Comments: Manager Deese recalled that the process began in November last year and tabled the discussion after the visionary meeting. He asked if there were any changes they would like to make. Mayor Smith asked if a mock/sketch would be brought to the council. Manager Deese said the approval would reside with the Land Use Administrator. The appeal would come to the council if denied. The previous meeting discussed who would approve it. Mr. Wells will be at the next meeting for any questions. Mayor Smith asked if there would be an application fee. Manager Deese said there would need to be one set. Mayor Pro-tem Staton wondered if there would need to be another public hearing. Manager Deese said no because the public had already given their input. The changes rest on the council. If there is a want to have another public hearing, the council can do so, but it is not required.

Close Public Hearing: The motion to close the public hearing was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Work Session Minutes

Public Comment:

- **Rusty Johnson** – 115 Shady Lane: Special Event ordinance: manager said the town must abide by the ordinance- he is asking in the town went through the same process for their events. He called and spoke to the community coordinator to see if the town got its event permits. If so, how did they do so quickly? He wants things to be fair and done right.
- **Robert Jackson** – Jackson Outdoors: Were there proposals sent in for the lawn care for the cemetery? How was the public made aware of it? Meetings for council and commerce: concern for new businesses. (discord and disconnect between the two) Push back from the town hall and town council, but support from the chamber. We need to come together to lift up Marshville for better economic development.

Adoption of Agenda: The motion to adopt the agenda was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Huntley—all ayes.

Citizen Recognition of Emily Carraway and Kellie Mosley: Police Chief Tarlton presented Emily Carraway and Kellie Mosley with the citizen recognition awards for their hard work

raising funds for the police department program for kids. They raised about \$4,000 in three weeks. Pictures were taken with the two ladies and the council.

Discussion about Golf Cart Ordinance: Manager Deese informed the council that the ordinance was adopted on October 03, 2011. He asked them if they had any questions or changes to make to the ordinance. Mayor Smith asked if they were popular. Police Chief Tarlton said there are 25 active licenses in the town currently. Golf carts have to be physically inspected. Golf carts aren't allowed to drive on the highway.

Mayor Smith asked why this was being brought to their attention. Manager Deese said a council member asked and wanted to see if there were any changes or concerns. He pointed out that the fee is in the ordinance. If you wanted to change the fee, it would require a text amendment to the ordinance. The town manager suggested taking the fee out of the ordinance. Mayor Smith asked what the process would be. Manager Deese said the text amendment would need to be made. The planning board would adjust and make a recommendation to the council for final approval.

Mayor Smith asked if proof of insurance is required. Police Chief Tarlton said yes. Member Marshall asked if there was any reason why they don't allow gas carts on the road. Police Chief Tarlton said he believed when the ordinance was being made that the concern of noise was the factor.

Mayor Pro-tem requested information about the discussion of the golf cart ordinance to be pulled to get a better understanding. She also suggested allowing gas carts to be included in the ordinance.

Discussion of July 1st contracts: Manager Deese gave the council information about three contracts starting July 1st. The cemetery contract will renew with the same company and keep the same terms. N-Focus contract will allow the Land Use Administrator to be available three days every two weeks. The CPA contract will be renewed with the same auditor.

Manager's Comments: The sidewalk project is moving along. Another firm is to come Friday to walk. The next step is to get bids from firms and then choose from those. The goal is to widen the sidewalks on the south side of Main Street and change the parking from diagonal to parallel. Master plan for sewer turnaround – adjusting to the plan to get it back under budget. Waiting for the state to pass their budget to know if the additional \$4 million will be available. He should know something by the end of July. The ARPA money must be spent before December 2026.

Code enforcement: contract with Centralina – they will look at the ordinances to see if any changes could be suggested before going out and enforcing. It will be a complaint-driven system. A complaint will be looked into before passing it to the enforcer.

\$49,999 grant – NC Commerce Economic Development Study – waiting for the contract. Mayor Smith asked about the Water AIA grant. Manager Deese said Wooten has applied and got the grant for the town. The contract will come back and be looked over before being signed. The hope is mid/end of summer to begin the work.

Member Bivens asked for an update on the lake. Manager Deese said they are waiting for the cost of drawings for the septic tank and looking into getting town water to the lake. Member Marshall asked why there were no sidewalks to the park. Manager Deese said that back in 2007/2008, they sent out a survey for getting an easement for the sidewalk but received little cooperation. He stated that they could redraw the pedestrian lanes.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked Manager Deese to speak on the comment about the special events ordinance. Manager Deese said he has spoken with the Planning Board Chair. The ordinance does not have a definition for what a special event is, whereas the application does. The definition is events held on town property. Manager Deese said that the definition needs to be in the ordinance. A few more things need to be examined in the ordinance for changes. The hope is to get all the changes done at one time. Police Chief Tarlton explained that the 60 days in advance allowed for permissions like road closures, signatures, and police presence.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked about the storm water at East Union School. Manager Deese said he spoke with someone from the Union County School Board at the Juneteenth festival. He thought it would be best to have some numbers to bring to the board. A meter will need to be installed to record numbers during non-school days.

Council Comments:

Margaret Bivens: Thanked everyone for the recognition at the Juneteenth celebration.

Paulette Blakeney: Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Appreciate the citizens for their work. Community Strong Committee Christmas tree flyer is available for ordering.

Gary Huntley: Happy to see the public. Looking forward to the June 30th fireworks. Hoped everyone stays safe.

Monaca Marshall: Parks and Rec kickball sign-up deadline is June 30th.

Ernestine Staton: CRPTO meeting on June 21st. Union County Quarterly meeting on June 26th about critical intersections.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Smith reminded everyone about the Pre-Fourth of July event on June 30th, the council meeting on Wednesday, July 5th, and that elections are coming up. He said it is never the intention of the elected officials to stand in the way of progress and wants to work together with everyone for Marshville.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Member Huntley and seconded by Member Bivens—all ayes.

Approved this ____ day of August 2023.

Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk