



**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Work Session  
July 17, 2023, 7 PM  
Marshville Town Hall  
118 East Union Street – Marshville, NC 28103**

**In Attendance:** Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton; Council Members: Monaca Marshall, Gary Huntley, Paulette Blakeney, Margaret Bivens(late)

**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.

## **Work Session Minutes**

### **Public Comments:**

- Bob Morgan: He commented that the board had been misled and made two bad decisions. The first was not supporting the ABC board's suggestion of purchasing ballistic shields. The second was moving the Veteran's Memorial. If the council had reached out, they could have formed a committee to figure out a place to put it. He invited the council to attend a meeting at Kate Clyde's Camelia Room tomorrow at 6:30 pm. He also submitted a public information request to the town manager.

**Adoption of Agenda:** Discussion about the Veterans Memorial was added as Item 3a. The motion to adopt the agenda was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Blakeney—all ayes.

### **Discussion of Veteran's Memorial:**

Chief Tarlton said the monument had sunken in about a foot and a half. It resides along an eight-inch clay sewer pipe and a two-inch water line. There is an apparent problem there. They started moving brick by brick and packed it with stones to level it. It will remain where it is until a plan is made.

Manager Deese said there was information about G.S 100-2.1 going around on Facebook. He contacted a professor from the School of Government about the statute. The professor suggested speaking with the town attorney before moving the monument. A citizen suggested storing the monument until the new government center gets built. Manager Deese showed the pictures of the two locations in the park.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked if someone puts something on the town property, is it donated to the town? She heard it was never donated. She wants to look into anything else that might be on town property. She suggested having things in writing for the future. Manager Deese said that in general practice: if the town is expected to care of it, it is the town's.

Manager Deese gave Member Bivens an update because she arrived late.

Mayor Smith said the current plan is to have the company move the monument to allow for the repairs to be done. He didn't realize things would be moving that fast; perhaps they should have taken a little more time to talk.

Chief Tarlton commented that the monument should be on a deeded property.

Manager Deese commented that it would be done if the council came up with a place to put it.

Bivens Steele commented that when the monument was being set up, there was awareness of the lines. He expressed concern but was told to be quiet about it. He said it was not due to the negligence of the staff.

Mayor Smith asked if the monument could be moved temporarily. Manager Deese replied that if the council wanted to do that, it would be done. He would have something in writing to explain that it is just a temporary location.

#### **Natural Gas Update:**

Manager Deese said he is working with Monroe to devise a map of Marshville to map out the routes for the natural gas lines. They will work on a study and proposal that will be returned to the council.

#### **Lake Update:**

Manager Deese said they have a firm working on the drawings for the pier. Once the studies are finished, bids for construction will be sent out. They were still talking to firms about drawings for the septic tank. It was suggested by the firm to drain the lake to allow for the pier's construction. Mayor Smith asked for a possible timeline for public access. Manager Deese replied that the end of summer 2024 could be a potential date.

#### **Sewer Update:**

Manager Deese said the master plan would be broken into two phases. The first phase will use the \$4 million, and the second phase will depend on when the state budget is approved. Phase One will turn the sewer system from Union County to Anson County, allowing 600,000 gallons per day. Phase Two will allow for 1,000,000 gallons per day. There will be a need for another interlocal agreement for the 1,000,000 gallons per day.

Manager Deese said there would be a kick-off meeting for the AIA study.

Mayor Smith asked about the East Union/Marshville Elementary School stormwater issue.

Bivens Steele commented that the staff hasn't figured out where it's coming from, and the school system has no answers. Mayor Smith asked about possibly putting a meter in at the schools.

Manager Deese said he could look into doing that. Bivens Steele said the only difference you'll see is during rain events. He has videos of the rain events to give someone to look at.

**Manager's Comments:**

Manager Deese said that the NCDOT engineers came to look at the intersection of Elm and Union. They will come back with plans to fix the safety issues. There had been a comment that the taxpayers' money was not being spent appropriately on salaries for jobs in town. He shared an NCLM survey of salaries based on town sizes with everyone. He pointed out that not one employee makes the average salary. The town cannot afford to have a Public Works Director. Chief Tarlton does not earn extra money as interim Public Works Director.

The goal is to bring someone up in the Public Works department and send them to school to earn the credentials and gradually work them into the Director position. Concern from a few council members is being unable to keep them from leaving afterward. Member Marshall asked if they could get them under contract to hold them accountable. Manager Deese said he would look into it.

**Council Comments:**

Margaret Bivens: She apologized for being late.

Paulette Blakeney: She is glad to see everyone and said everything will work out fine.

Gary Huntley: He said he was happy to see the public and wished it wasn't always when it was negative.

Monaca Marshall: She thanked the public for voicing their concerns. We need to learn to work together and respect each other. She noted that the Parks and Rec Board is looking for one member.

Ernestine Staton: She thanked everyone for coming out. She reminded the public that phone numbers are available for people to contact the council. She mentioned that she learned a lot tonight.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Smith commented that there is a need to talk civilly about things. He will be attending the meeting tomorrow night.

He reminded everyone about the National Night Out/Back to School Bash on August 1<sup>st</sup> at the park.

**Adjournment:**

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of August 2023.

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Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

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Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk