



**Town of Marshville  
Town Council Work Session  
October 16, 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 Gary Huntley, Paulette Blakeney, Margaret Bivens(late).

**Absent:** Member Monaca Marshall

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

## **Work Session Minutes**

**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.

**Public Comments:** No Public Comments

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

**Fire Hydrants:** Manager Deese gave the council an information sheet about the fire hydrant replacement project. He stated the biggest problem with replacing the hydrants is service disruption. Mayor Pro-tem Staton expressed this needs to be started. Mayor Smith commented on being mindful of peak times and downtown businesses. Manager Deese said there will be an updated map when Wooten is done with their study. He will work with staff to devise a plan.

**Meter App Update:**

Manager Deese said the application will roll out in phases. Currently, 300 meters have been updated. Fifty meters will be added in the next three to four weeks and will roll out to those 350 customers.

**Booster Pump Update:**

Police Chief Tarlton gave the council an update on the booster pump station. Manager Deese stated the hope is to complete the pump station by the year's end.

**Closed Session: G.S 143-318(a)(3): Consult with attorney**

The motion to go into closed session was made by Member Huntley and seconded by Member Blakeney—all ayes.

The motion to end the closed session was made by Mayor Pro-tem Staton and seconded by Member Huntley—all ayes.

A motion to call for a special meeting to discuss and take possible action regarding a proposed settlement with Union County on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Town Hall was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Staton—all ayes.

**Manager Comments:**

Manager Deese reminded the council to wear pink in October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The total of grants received in the past four years is 10 for \$ 9,579,999.00. One of the grants was returned because the funds would not cover repairs for manholes, only installing new ones.

Mayor Smith asked for a breakdown of the town operations. Manager Deese said in regards to the public records request, there are no documents to be given. Town Hall is open from 8 to 5 every day except for holidays.

During the pandemic, a coin shortage caused Town Hall to stop taking cash because change could not be made, and continued to do so after the shortage. Town Hall does not have the type of security to handle large amounts of money—no proper security to handle a robbery.

The 3% percent fee on debit/credit card transactions is not from the town but the card processing company. He stated this isn't intended to be burdensome; it's just how the world is now.

Manager Deese explained the phone tree in the office when someone calls.

**Council Comments:**

Margaret Bivens: She apologized for being late.

Paulette Blakeney: She said she was glad to see everyone. The COG meeting was good and told everyone to be safe.

Gary Huntley: He said he was glad to see everyone. Keep the Middle East in your prayers. Thanked staff and the manager.

Ernestine Staton: She said the Friday football game was fun. Trunk or Treat at the park on October 27<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m.

**Mayor's Comments:**

Marshville Parade on November 18<sup>th</sup>. He requested staff to get lights to decorate the vehicle the council will use.

**Closed Session: G.S 143-318(a)(6): Personnel**

The motion to go into closed session was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Staton—all ayes.

The council came out of the closed session.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned.

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

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Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

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Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk