



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Work Session
May 15, 2023 7 PM
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union Street - Marshville, NC 28103**

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

Absent: Mayor Larry Smith

Staff Attendance: Town Manager Franklin Deese and Town Clerk Ashlie Vincent

Work Session Minutes

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

Public Comments:

- Julie Helms – 1142 Highway 205
 - Marshville Cemetery – 95% of the headstones are upright headstones. The cemetery is at full capacity. The veteran section of the cemetery has drainage issues. She believes the buyers of the plots should be responsible for damages if they occur. Request: Allowing upright headstones
- Tracy Stancill – 6820 Austin Ch. Road
 - Communication with the public about meetings and notices needs to be done better. Let the public know they can come to the meeting, not just Zoom calls. Need to do better advertising to the public.
- Letter – Eric and Nancy Bezant – 327 N. Cross Street

“Dear Town Council, Town Manager, and Mayor, this is for public comments for the meeting on May 15, 2023.

First, we would like to note that we agree with the public comments on record from the last Planning Board meeting in regards to the proposed 281 units housing development, but would like to add for consideration perhaps 60 to 80 housing units on the forty acres in Marshville might be more appropriate if all other safety, environmental, accessibility, and utilities (etc.) requirements can be met.

Secondly, as for the proposed QT gas station site, we agree with Ms. Shubert (and others) that consideration should be made for the competing gas stations already in the area and perhaps a better location with less intense traffic flow and more concern for pedestrians could be considered.

Next, we'd like to let Ms. Staton on the council know that we are enjoying the basketball court at the park. Also, that if the tennis practice wall cannot be cement, then we'd agree that raising the height of the practice wall would be helpful.

Lastly, we notified the Town a while ago that the street sign and stop sign at the corner of Cross Street and Church Street were removed and missing, and we were wondering what needs to be done to have them restored? Thank you."

Adoption of Agenda: A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Member Blakeney—all ayes.

Proposed Budget Discussion

- **General Funds Revenue**

Ad Valorem Tax: 5 cents increase, making it .54 cents per \$100. Before the meeting, Mayor Smith informed Manager Deese that he was not thrilled about the increase. He said it seems to be piling on to those affected by 10% inflation. Manager Deese stated that the town is suffering from inflation as well. Member Bivens asked if they choose not to raise the taxes at all. Manager Deese said it's the council's choice. Mayor Pro-tem made a recommendation to see what 3 cents increase would look like.

Member Blakeney asked how the rent for the ABC store was calculated. Manager Deese said the rent was \$3,000 a month for 12 months. Member Blakeney felt that was low. Manager Deese said the signed lease agreement is based on revenue and can look back at it for an increase. Member Marshall asked if they were getting a new sign for the store. Manager Deese said he would speak with them to find out.

Manager Deese said there is a new charge for grave marking as the town had been doing so for free.

- **Governing Body**

- Board Member Compensation: 40% increase
- \$35,000 for the Fire Department

- **General Government**

3% evaluation merit increase and a 5% flat increase for salaries. Mayor Pro-tem felt that was a lot. Manager Deese commented that they could take it down. He reminded the council of the high turnover in staffing and to try to consider keeping the people they have now. Member Marshall suggested taking out the 3% merit increase. Mayor Pro-tem Staton asked for the town manager to report back with the last four years of employee increases.

- Maint & Repair – Building: \$1000 for laptop replacement
- Economic Dev Study: \$49,999 – will amend if can't get it.
- Fuel and Supplies: 30% increase

- Meeting/Event Provisions: increased to \$750 for more events by the council
- Contracted Services: increased to \$65,022
- Capital Outlay – Buildings Create Capital Reserve: Government Center
- **Community Development**
 - Planning Board/Board of Adjustments Compensation: 30% increase in salary
 - Group insurance: Small increase to \$7,023
 - Part-time Salaries – New line in the event the town gets into the DAC Program
 - Contracted Services – Planning and Zoning administrator availability three days every two weeks.
 - Downtown Revitalization Program- \$17,00 for benches, lighting, Way finder signs, façade grant
 - Prof. Services – Other: Will be for a code enforcement officer
- **Public Buildings**
 - Maint & Repairs – Buildings: \$25,000 to do repairs to the old health department
- **Police**
 - Mostly, everything stayed the same. Slight increase in supplies and salaries
- **Streets and Highways**
 - Street lights: increased for more and brighter lights
 - Maint & repairs – Sidewalks: Increased to help with maintenance for non-town streets
 - Capital Outlay – Other: \$45,000 for the parking lot to add gravel and bumpers
- **Sanitation**
 - Contracted Services – Garbage Collection: increase, possibly 5%; still waiting for information
- **Parks and REC**
 - Park & REC Outreach Activities: \$5,000 for more programs
 - Contracted Services: Tennis courts resurfaced, and the walking trail
 - Contracted Services – Maintenance: Fire ant prevention
 - Contracted Services – Park Master Plan: \$25,000
 - Capital Outlay – Other: \$400,000 for Lake development phase 1 (parking lots, two shelters, renovate pavilion, playground, and pier)
- **Enterprise Revenue**
 - Charges Utility Water: 2.68% increase
 - Tap Fees: Increase
- **Water Operations**
 - Anson Water: 7% increase (2.68% increase from the current rate to reach 7%)
 - AIA Grant: \$181,900
- **Sewer Operations**
 - Anson Sewer: 7% increase
 - Union County Sewer: 3% increase
 - Capital Outlay – Sewer System: \$500,000 for sewer system

Manager's Comments:

Fee Schedule:

- Tap Fees: Increased
- Annexation Fee: Added \$250 – if the council wishes to charge
- Special Events Fee: \$100
- Use Marshville Police for security: \$35 an hour (must have two officers)
- Can use their own security
- Clean up by town: \$500
- Town Electricity Use: \$ 150 per post
- Town Water Use: \$75 per day

Council Comments:

Margaret Bivens: She wishes to bring back the beautification committee.

Paulette Blakeney: Glad to see everyone. She reminded everyone about the Spring Fest on May 20.

Gary Huntley: Glad to see the public. He thanked the staff for doing a good job.

Monaca Marshall: Thanked the public for coming to the meeting.

Ernestine Staton reminded the council of the track meet banquet on May 25th at Forest Hills at 6 pm and the groundbreaking ceremony at Forest Hills at 11 am. She recommended that at least two council members should be present at some of these events.

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

Closed Session § 143-318.11(a)(6): Personnel Matter

A motion to end the Closed Session was made by Member Bivens and seconded by Member Huntley—all ayes.

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

Approved this ____ day of June 2023.

Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk