



**Town of Marshville
Town Council Work Session
August 21, 2023, 7 PM
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union – Marshville, NC 28103**

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

Absent: Council Members Gary Huntley and Monaca Marshall

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

Work Session Minutes

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

Public Comments:

- **Rusty Johnson** - 115 Shady Lane: He said there is a startup of discussion about the Marshville Bypass that seems to be happening. He was worried about how it would affect the plans for the lake. He doesn't want to see the taxpayers' money wasted. He asked the council to put the meetings online for the public. The council took no action the last time he requested it.
- **Stephen Passarelli** - 512 S. Elm St: He spoke to the council about information going around. He handed out papers to the council members. In May of 2023, he applied for a permit for a deck but was determined not to be feasible and went with planters and benches instead. He looked at other businesses and found none had the five-foot clearance for ADA compliance. Mayor Smith said this needs to be taken to the Board of Adjustments for the proper process. Mr. Passarelli pointed out that none of the planters in town follow the ordinance. The only thing he can appeal is the code decision.

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

Discussion of Creama Café: Manager Deese said the decision was made by the Land Use Administrator. He issued the permit and talked to Mr. Passarelli before anything was built. It was built without consideration of the ordinance. This needs to go to the Board of Adjustments to handle the situation. If Mr. Passarelli doesn't like their decision, he can appeal to the superior court of North Carolina. The Land Use Admin doesn't want to remove the structure but push it back.

Discussion concerning SNN versus ITIN:

Manager Deese explained the policy for opening a utility account for renters. An individual using an SNN will be charged a \$150 deposit fee. An individual with an ITIN will be charged \$150 plus 3x the base rate. The higher fee for ITIN is to be able to recoup money owed if the final bill is not paid. Mayor Smith agreed that the deposit is a good safeguard to keep people from running off and not paying the bill.

Manager's Comments:

Manager Deese said he hadn't been able to contact the lady about the farmer's market. Her actual interest was to sell plants, not run the market. He can look into an organization or someone to host the market. Mayor Pro-tem Staton mentioned that Matthews has a very successful market. Manager Deese will reach out and find out.

Manager Deese commented that the new signs are out in town. They are waiting to replace the sign at the park. The banners will be going up shortly. They ordered the hardware today. The hope is that the flags will be up within a week. The trademark for the Marshville 'M' has been completed. He handed out itineraries for the End of Summer Jam to the council members. Mrs. Medlin had requested for two council members to attend. Mayor Pro-tem Staton and Member Blakeney offered to participate.

Manager Deese informed the council that the Chamber of Commerce still has not produced a certificate of insurance. He reached out to NCLM to ask them about town liability. NCLM said the town would still be liable even if the other party does not have it. Mayor Smith said the last they had heard was that they were working on it.

Council Comments:

Margaret Bivens: No comments.

Paulette Blakeney: Come together more, positive outcomes. We have extended Christmas in July until the end of August.

Ernestine Staton: She enjoyed herself at the 250th anniversary of the Philadelphia Church. It was a grand celebration. DOT is still studying the bypass; no money has been put towards the project. Manager Deese said the only reason for talking about it is to look at the possible impact of the casino coming.

Mayor Pro-tem Staton suggested a visionary meeting with kids for the park. Take addresses to make sure they are within the town limits. Manager Deese said it could be a part of making the master plan for the park.

She reminded the public about the Back to School Art Day on August 25th for ages 8-13. There are slots still open.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Smith mentioned that the construction for Forest Hills High School has started. He asked the town manager for an update on the memorial marker meeting. Manager Deese said the meeting will occur on August 22 at 3:30 with staff and three committee members.

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

Approved this ____ day of September 2023.

Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk