



Town of Marshville
Town Council Work Session
February 19, 2024, 7 PM
Marshville Town Hall
118 East Union Street – Marshville, NC 28103



In Attendance: Mayor Larry Smith, Mayor Pro-tem Ernestine Staton; Council Members Paulette Blakeney, Gary Huntley, Monaca Marshall, and Stephen Passarelli

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

Work Session Minutes

Public Comments: None

Adoption of Agenda: Member Passarelli suggested adding a discussion about the background of the rebranding as item 6. Mayor Pro-tem Staton suggested adding discussions about social media comments as item 7, red light and traffic light issues as item 8, and the emergency after-hour number as item 9.

Motion: The motion to adopt the agenda was made by Member Huntley and seconded by Member Marshall—all ayes.

Water and Sewer Presentation:

Manager Deese gave a presentation about water and sewer. The presentation consisted of how much sewer has been processed over the last three years and how much water has been purchased. The presentation showcased how improvements to inflow and infiltration can help reduce the addition of stormwater into the sewer system. The presentation displayed the capacity and future capacity once the sewer system is entirely turned into Anson County.

Member Passarelli asked about the completion date of Phase 1 of the sewer project. Manager Deese stated December 2025 if there are no issues. Member Passarelli asked when Phase 2 would start. Manager Deese said Phase 2 could run congruent with Phase 1, but the state office is behind. Once the proper documentation is sent, the firms can begin to make bid packages to be approved by the state. September or October would be the ideal time to start the next phase.

Financial Snapshot:

The financial presentation explained the difference between the enterprise and general fund, what the funds are used for, and how they are maintained. The presentation covered the fund and cash balance, showcasing the past five years. It broke down the five outstanding debt obligations and the grants awarded to the town.

Discussion on Sidewalk Project:

Manager Deese presented to the council the three designs the firm has completed per their request. The firm needs the council to choose which design to make a bid package. The council had a common consensus to take on the larger plan. Manager Deese stated he could look into outlets for funding and work in phases on the sidewalk project to complete it.

Background on Rebranding:

Member Passarelli asked how the rebranding was rolled out and what is still to come. He stated that the council should be included in the next decisions.

Manager Deese explained the process of hiring the firm, the survey process, and the compiling of the “story of Marshville.” The town had budgeted \$25,000 to replace the signs and banners. The water tower repainting was the last change for the current fiscal year. He is speaking with the company to correct the town logo sign to enlarge the image. Member Marshall asked what the cost was to paint the water tower. Manager Deese responded that it cost \$50,000.

Social Media Comments:

Mayor Pro-tem Staton expressed her concern about town employees' comments back and forth on Facebook pages, saying it could be negative for the town. Member Marshall asked if the employees had reviewed and signed the social media policy. Manager Deese said he would speak with Lakeysha Medlin to find out. He expressed the need to be careful of possibly infringing on their First Amendment rights. Member Passarelli suggested creating an avenue of communication on the town's Facebook page to help with transparency.

Mayor Smith stated that the town staff has made great strides to improve communication with the public by improving the town website, utilizing Facebook, and relaunching the newsletter.

Red lights and Traffic Lights:

Mayor Pro-tem Staton expressed concern about the frequency of people running red lights in the town. Police Chief Tarlton stated that the combination of more cars in town, faster and quieter cars, and distracted driving could contribute to the cause. He and Lt. Fultz are working on a plan to allow for a peak-time officer position. Member Passarelli asked if the town could instate a red-light camera system. Police Chief Tarlton explained the town had a system fifteen years ago but could be looked into reinstating it.

After Hour Emergency Number:

Mayor Pro-tem Staton spoke about her experience using the after-hour emergency number. Police Chief Tarlton explained the protocol. The issue gets called in, and the issue gets reported to the Police Chief to be handled. He will contact Union County to correct the problem Mayor Pro-tem Staton encountered.

Member Marshall asked about the two Public Works employees being sent to classes. Police Chief Tarlton replied they would both take their tests in March and hoped for good results.

Manager's Comments:

- The Chamber of Commerce event is on February 22nd.
- The planning board has sent a request to the town council to appoint one board member to be a part of the Technical Review Committee. Manager Deese explained his reasoning for not including them to the council. The TRC is a staff meeting with potential developers concerning their ideas for future development in Marshville. No decisions are made. Look at their ideas from a technical perspective and make suggestions. If the developer chooses to move forward, an application is submitted to the Land Use Admin and presented to the Planning Board for review.

Mayor Smith asked who is included in the TRC. Manager Deese said it depends on what the application needs. The TRC consists of town manager, Land Use Admin, Public Works, Stormwater engineer, NCDOT representative, sanitation representative, and fire marshal.

Police Chief Tarlton said these meetings save a lot of time and help streamline the process of bringing the best product to the planning board. It helps keep the planning board unbiased.

Mayor Smith stated within his professional experience that that is how it works in most other places. There needs to be some degree of sensitivity when handling these meetings.

A vote on the request from the planning board will be made at another meeting.

Council Comments:

Paulette Blakeney: Respect one another. Glad everyone is feeling better.

Gary Huntley: Thanked the public for coming out. Prayers for his wife.

Stephen Passarelli: Thanked the public for coming out. Please reach out. For new businesses, be sure to join the Chamber of Commerce. Talk about code enforcement at the retreat.

Monaca Marshall: Thanked the public for coming out. Come in and express concern, reach out. Town council phone numbers are on the town website.

Ernestine Staton: Thanked the public for coming out. Available to everyone and will return calls. Be sure to reach out. Striving to work together.

Mayor's Comments:

- Explanation from the Police Chief about the water break
- Retreat on the weekend, come prepared.
- Reminder for Police Chief and Officer McClellan's retirement parties

- Look into posting town meetings on YouTube
- Code enforcement/zoning permit report to council
- Monthly financial report

Adjournment:

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

Approved this ____ day of March 2024.

Larry B. Smith, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST

Ashlie Vincent, Town Clerk