

MINUTES
Town of Marshall Board of Alderman
Special Meeting
August 1, 2023
5:30 p.m.

Mayor Nancy Allen called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Aldermen in attendance were Billie Jean Haynie, Thomas Jablonski, and Aileen Payne, Christiaan Ramsey, and Laura Ponder Smith. Also in attendance was Town Administrator Forrest Gilliam and Jamie Chandler, Maintenance Supervisor.

Jamie Chandler, Maintenance Supervisor, updated the Board regarding the status of the new in-house operation of the wastewater treatment plant from a staffing and capital needs standpoint.

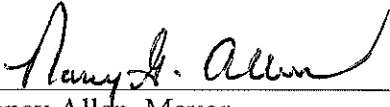
Discussion took place regarding the status of additional water sources. The recent yield test on an existing well on the Town-owned Heck Creek property showed minimal production that will not meet the Town's needs. Additional discussion took place regarding other options for wells and sources for additional water.

The Board reviewed a list of high priority capital improvements that are necessary at the wastewater treatment plant, and Mr. Gilliam shared information with the Board regarding a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration specific to economic development and the 2021 flooding caused by Tropical Storm Fred. This specific round of EDA funding requires a 20 percent non-federal match, rather than the standard 50 percent non-federal match for regular EDA projects. The program could fund some of the highest priority upgrades to the plant. After discussion, the Board agreed for Mr. Gilliam and Mr. Chandler to move forward with Land of Sky and the Town's engineering firm to further refine the project and prepare the grant application, and to pursue additional sources for the non-federal match. The Board will give final approval prior to submitting an application.


Discussion took place regarding the voting location for the 2023 municipal election. Alderman Thomas Jablonski recused himself from the discussion due to a potential conflict of interest regarding the island gym. Earlier in the year the Board had agreed to recommend to the Board of Elections to hold the election at Marshall Housing Authority office. The new owner of the island gym has stated that they are willing to allow the election to take place in the voting room that has been used in recent years in the basement of the gym. The final decision on the location is up to the Madison County Board of Elections, but the Town can make a request that the location be changed back from the Housing Authority to the island. After discussion, Alderman Payne moved to request that the Board of Elections move the voting location to the island gym, rather than the Marshall Housing Authority. The motion died for lack of a second.

Mr. Gilliam shared with the Board that the North Carolina Forest Service has inquired about the willingness of the Town to sell the property where the old swimming pool was located on Skyway Drive to the Forest Service for the construction of a Forest Service Headquarters. There was agreement that the Board would need to see a specific offer or proposal from the Forest Service prior to making any decision about the property. Mr. Gilliam will communicate this message to the Forest Service.

Upon motion by Alderman Ramsey, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 6:48 p.m.



Nancy Allen, Mayor



Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator