

MINUTES
Town of Marshall Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
November 21, 2022
6:00pm

In attendance were Mayor Nancy Allen, Aldermen Billie Jean Haynie, Thomas Jablonski, Aileen Payne, Christiaan Ramsey and Laura Ponder Smith. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Forrest Gilliam and Attorney Larry Leake.

Mayor Allen called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

Item 1

Upon motion by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Haynie, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

Item 2

Upon motion by Alderman Jablonski, seconded by Alderman Ramsey, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from the October 17, 2022 regular meeting.

Item 3

Discussion took place regarding vacancies on the Planning Board and Parks and Recreation Board.

Upon motion by Alderman Payne, seconded by Alderman Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint David Boswell to a three-year term on the Planning Board.

Upon motion by Alderman Haynie, seconded by Alderman Ramsey, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Sherri Hill, Mariah Hughes, and Matt Moreau to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Item 4

Follow-up discussion from the October meeting took place regarding animal waste in the downtown area. A reminder will be included in the next round of water/sewer bills reminding residents of the existing ordinance requiring animals to be kept on a leash when they are not on their owner's property and the requirement for owners to clean up any waste deposited by their pets on public property. Town staff will also assess the location of existing dog waste stations and make adjustments as necessary to see if the changes improve the situation.

Item 5

Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator, presented the Tax Collection and Water/Sewer Collection Report for October, 2022.

The Board reviewed a request from Kristie Griffin, Tax Collector, to release taxes for Parcel 1091 (116 Skway Drive/former Bobby Walker property) for tax years 2005 through 2012. Madison County foreclosed on the property for delinquent County and Town taxes, and collected \$1,577.80 in Town taxes for tax years 2013 through 2021. N.C.G.S. 105-378(a) prohibits counties and towns from use of enforced collections for taxes that were not due within the ten years prior to the initiation of the collection proceedings. As a result, the taxes owed on the property for 2005-2012 are not collectible, and the recommendation of the Tax Collector is to release those taxes. The new owner of the property will be

responsible for taxes due going forward beginning in 2022. Upon motion by Alderman Jablonski, seconded by Alderman Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to release property taxes for tax years 2005-2012 for County Parcel 1091, located at 116 Skway Drive, in the total amount of \$1,728.07.

A copy of the Unaccountable Water Report and Monthly Operating Report for the Town's wells from Byers Environmental was presented to the Board.

The financial report for the month of October was presented to the Board.

Discussion took place regarding the upcoming Marshall Christmas Parade, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 10. The consensus of the Board was for the theme of the parade to be "Christmastime in Marshall".

Mr. Gilliam provided an update on the status of repairs to Fortner Hollow Road. The repairs are mostly complete with the exception of some seeding work on the shoulders of the road. We are awaiting reimbursement from the State for their seventy-five percent cost share portion of the project.

Discussion took place regarding continued improvements to the Town's water system over the past several years. As a result of grant funded projects to replace some of the Town's oldest water lines and improved leak detection by the Town's Public Works staff, the Town's percentage of monthly unaccountable water has declined from over 50 percent in 2009 to less than 12 percent in 2022. The Town also in 2022 utilized funding from the American Rescue Plan and the proceeds of the 2018 Hunter Creek Watershed Conservation Easement to purchase the "Roberts Wells property", bringing three of the Town's previously leased wells which provide approximately 50 percent of the Town's water under Town ownership. While these improvements have removed Marshall from any emergency water shortage, there is still a need to identify other water sources for resiliency purposes. The purchase of the Roberts tract not only secured ownership of existing wells but also includes vacant acreage where other potential wells may be located. Funding was included in the current year's budget for continued well exploration. Town staff and consultants will utilize some of this funding for initial examination on the Town's new property for other wells and will report back to the Board in the coming months to see if there are any areas that deserve further exploration/development.

Reports from Boards and Community Organizations

Downtown Marshall Association – No report

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – Met October 18

Parks and Recreation – Met November 9

The Parks and Recreation Board organized a cleanup day for the pocket park on Saturday, November 5th. About 8 volunteers spent the morning cleaning up the site. The appearance of the park is significantly improved as a result of this work and a planting day will be held in the spring.

Department Reports

Fire Department – Report is in packet.

Police Department – Report is in packet

Water Department – Jamie Chandler

Maintenance Department – Jamie Chandler

Zoning Department – Forrest Gilliam

Public Comment


There was no public comment.

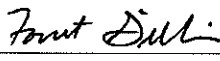
Upon motion by Alderman Haynie, seconded by Alderman Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to enter into closed session for the purposes of attorney-client privilege, property, and personnel.

Upon motion by Alderman Ramsey, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to return to open session.

Continued discussion took place regarding options for improved future water system resiliency and the current availability of funding to assist with projects that serve this purpose. Upon motion by Alderman Jablonski, seconded by Alderman Haynie, the Board voted 5-0 to support Madison County moving forward with design and construction of an emergency water connection between the towns of Marshall and Mars Hill, utilizing \$12 million in Federal American Rescue Plan Act funding allocated to North Carolina and appropriated to Madison County by the North Carolina General Assembly in the 2021 budget.

Upon motion by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.


Nancy Allen, Mayor


Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator