

MINUTES
Town of Marshall Board of Alderman
Regular Meeting
December 18, 2023
6:00 p.m.

At 6:00pm, a ceremony was held for the swearing in of Aaron Haynie as Mayor, and Aileen Sams Payne and Laura Ponder Smith as members of the Board of Aldermen. The Honorable Larry Leake, Retired District Court Judge, administered the oath of office to each official.

In attendance were Mayor Aaron Haynie, Aldermen Billie Jean Haynie, Thomas Jablonski, Aileen Payne, Christian Ramsey, and Laura Ponder Smith. Also in attendance were Town Administrator Forrest Gilliam and Town Attorney Jamie Stokes.

Mayor Haynie called the meeting to order at 6:23 p.m.

Item 1

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

Item 2

Upon motion by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the minutes from the November 20, 2023 Regular Meeting and the December 7, 2023 Special Meeting.

Item 3

Serina Hinson, CPA with Lowdermilk, Church, and Co., LLP, presented the Town's Audit for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Item 4

Discussion took place regarding vacancies on the Board of Adjustment and Planning Board.

Upon motion by Alderman Jablonski, seconded by Alderman Ramsey, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Nancy Dagley as an alternate member on the Board of Adjustment, for a term that will expire in January of 2027.

Upon motion by Alderman Payne, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Jon Svendsen to complete the unexpired term of Emily Patrick, who has moved out of town. The term will expire in January, 2025.

Discussion took place regarding the Town's representation on the Land of Sky Regional Council Board of Delegates and the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee.

Upon motion by Alderman Haynie, seconded by Alderman Ramsey, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Mayor Aaron Haynie as the Primary Delegate to the Land of Sky Board of Delegates, and to appoint Alderman Billie Jean Haynie, Alderman Aileen Payne, and Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator, as Alternate Delegates.

Upon motion by Alderman Ramsey, seconded by Alderman Smith, the Board voted 5-0 to appoint Mayor Aaron Haynie as the Town's representative on the Land of Sky Rural Planning Organization Transportation Advisory Committee.

Item 5

Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator, provided an update to the Board regarding improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. The Town submitted a pre-application to the Federal Appalachian Regional Commission at the end of October to cover part of a fifty percent match for a \$2.3 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. The Town has applied for funding from a special disaster supplemental pot of funding from EDA that would only require a twenty percent local match, but it is anticipated that there will not be enough disaster funding in counties in multiple eligible southeastern states to fund the Marshall project. The ARC funding can be used to match thirty percent of the total project for a regular EDA grant, leaving the Town's match at the twenty percent that was possible under the disaster supplemental funding. The Town has now received notification from ARC that we are eligible to submit a full application for their funding in February. The Town is still awaiting official notification regarding the grant application for the disaster supplemental funding. Staff will come back to the Board in February, once final word on the disaster funding has been received, for approval from the Board to move forward with the combination of ARC and EDA funding for the sewer plant project. Town staff is also meeting with Madison County and Town of Mars Hill officials regarding the \$15 million state legislative appropriation for sewer system improvements, with some of that funding possibly being used for this project.

Item 6

Upon motion by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Haynie, the Board voted 5-0 to change the date of the regular monthly board meeting in January to Monday, January 22nd, at 6:00 p.m., due to the normal meeting night falling on the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

Item 7

Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator, provided an update to the Board regarding the Town's policy for customer water leaks, after the issue was brought up during public comment at the Board's November meeting. Inquiries to other municipalities in the area revealed policies that are similar to the Marshall policy. There are options to contract with a private company that would provide a form of insurance protection for customers and the town for customer leaks, but the program requires a monthly fee from water customers and additional research will need to take place regarding these potential costs. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of altering the policy to forgive the entirety of an excess sewer bill in the event that the leak is an underground leak and the lost water is not entering into our sewer system. Staff will review the impact of this sort of change on various customer scenarios and report back to the Board at a future meeting.

Item 8

Mr. Edward Brown of Sams Road spoke to the Board regarding runoff from his private driveway onto the Town's road. Jamie Chandler, Maintenance Supervisor, stated that the runoff is causing an issue for the Town's maintenance crew to clean up, and that Mr. Brown has cleaned the road out several times himself. Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator, stated that it is Mr. Brown's responsibility to keep debris from his driveway out of the Town's road and ditch, and that any fix would need to be at the owner's expense.

Item 9

A report the Tax Collection and Water/Sewer collection rates for the month of November was presented to the Board. The financial report for the month of November was presented to the Board.

Reports from Boards and Community Organizations

Downtown Marshall Association – No report.

Board of Adjustment – Ben Smith, Board of Adjustment Chairman, shared that the Board met on December 11th and held a hearing to consider a request for a special use permit for a campground on Redmon Road. The hearing was continued to Monday, January 8th.

Planning Board – Met December 12

Parks and Recreation – Met December 13

Department Reports

Fire Department – No report.

Police Department – Report in packet

Public Works Department – Jamie Chandler shared the Unaccountable Water Rate, monthly operating reports for wells, and the monthly maintenance report. Mr. Chandler also provided an update on the contracted work to remove sludge from the sewer plant. The contractor is setting up later in the week and should complete their work in about five business days.

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

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

Upon motion by Alderman Smith, seconded by Alderman Jablonski, the Board voted 5-0 to adjourn at 8:08 p.m.


Aaron P. Haynie, Mayor


Forrest Gilliam, Town Administrator