**TOWN OF MAXTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MINUTES**

**October 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Attendees: Mayor Emmett Morton, Mayor pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner Paul McDowell, Commissioner Victor Womack, Commissioner James McDougald, Town Manager Kate Bordeaux, Attorney Jessica Scott, Tax Collector/Administrator Angela Pitchford, Officer Hubert Graham, Utility Billing Clerk Rosemary Wilkerson.**

# **FORMAL SESSION Call Meeting to Order**- Mayor Emmett Morton

**Invocation**- Commissioner McDowell

**Does any member have any known conflict of interest and appearances of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the board today? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the particular matter involved.**

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda-** Commissioner Gilmore made the motion, Commissioner Hutchinson second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda –** Commissioner McDowell made the motion, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

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1. Minutes from Board Meeting of September 10, 18, 2018 also August 21 Work &

 Closed Session Minutes

2. Tax Adjustments – NONE

**RECOGNITIONS –** Mayor Morton recognized several organizations for their assistance during and after Hurricane Florence. The organizations were the American Red Cross, Cooper’s Group, National Guard, Queheel FD, Authentik’s Sports Bar, all churches, Perdue Chicken, and all those that donated and volunteered.

**PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES ONLY)** Mayor Morton explained how public forum would proceed. You have two minutes to speak, when your time is up we ask that you have a seat. You are only allowed to the podium one time. There will be no one able to give their 2 minutes to another person, you are allowed one time to speak.

Mayor Morton also stated that he wanted to answer some questions that were asked in the September 18, 2018 meeting concerning Town Manager Kate Bordeaux. Mayor Morton stated that when Kate Bordeaux was offered the job with the Town of Maxton, she was fully investigated her background check was handled by legal counsel through a national vetting company that does background checks. Her background, criminal record and credit report came back clean. After running these background checks and speaking with her references, the board offered her the job as Town Manager. The Maxton Charter which is approved by the North Carolina General Assembly states that the Town Manager is not required to live in the Town of Maxton. In her employee contact she was given a car to drive back and forth to work. The town seal at that time had not been put on all vehicles, at this time they have. She is authorized to sell surplus property granted to her by NC General Statute 160A-266 and by Town of Maxton ordinance if vehicle or object is under $5000. There were two vehicles sold, both vehicles were under that amount.

**Sandra McCallum** - 421 Croom Road Maxton, NC Last year one of the neighbors came by to discuss the ditches on Croom Road because they were annexed into the city limits. Robeson County does not keep the ditches clean on Croom Road anymore. Ms. McCallum stated that she called the town and requested them to be cleaned.

**Note:** Mrs. Bordeaux contacted Ms. McCallum concerning ditches on two occasions. On 11/6/2018 Public Works Assistant Director spoke with NC Dept. of Transportation and found out that the state is responsible for these ditches as this is a state road.

**Gena Dial**- 49 John L Road Maxton, NC Met Ms. Bordeaux back in May 2018, when she fell in front of Bill’s Place. Mrs. Dial stated that Ms. Bordeaux said she would get back with her, have her bills paid and she did not. Ms. Dial states that Ms. Pitchford (Tax Collector) had taken notes, states she has some pictures of her bruises but she did not have all of bills with her. Ms. Dial states that she has not heard back from Ms. Bordeaux. Town Manager Bordeaux stated that she turned Ms. Dial information over to the insurance company.

**Note:** Contacted Ms. Dial on 10/26/2018 concerning her public forum statements and concerns. Ms. Bordeaux gave Ms. Dial her ticket number concerning her case #700738 and the telephone number to contact at 1 8100 233-1957. All of this was reported to the insurance company back in May 2018.

**Bernice Locklear**- 372 Boyce Road Fairmont, NC Mrs. Locklear stated that she is Tammy’s mother (Chief Tammy Deese) and that her daughter began working for the Town of Maxton as a police officer at the age of 19. Mrs. Locklear stated that she does not understand how her daughter had all this support throughout all these years and now with Ms. Bordeaux she does not have not support. Ms. Locklear stated that the Town of Maxton has lost the best thing they have ever had. Ms. Locklear stated Mgr. Bordeaux and Commissioner McDougald could kiss her ass and stated that her preacher resigned this week and she did not care if her comments were posted on Facebook.

**Joe C. Hines**- stated to Mayor Morton that he always states that someone will get back those with concerns. Mr. Hines states for over a year has complained about water standing on his street. Mr. Hines states that the standing water has created mosquitos that you have to literally physically fight because they are so big. Mr. Hines states that he has leaf and limbs at one of his properties left from the storm and they have been there for over a month. Mr. Hines also asked the question about the meter reading cycle and stated that he was charged an extra $10 after the reading cycle which he felt should have gone on the next month’s bill.

**Note:** Town Manager Bordeaux called Mr. Hines on 10/26/2018 concerning his water bill, explained that his average bill is in the $65 dollar range, that there have been no over-charge on his water bill. Ms. Bordeaux also explained that any storm debris would be picked up. It will not be picked up at a vacant resident according to Board Policy.

**Gerome Chavis** – Gave a false address. When the Mayor asked him to give the correct address, Mr. Chavis became loud, but gave the address of 674 Crestwood Drive Lumberton (incorrect address). He questioned the Board about selling the vehicles. Mayor Morton told him this had been addressed. He became disruptive to the meeting and the Mayor asked that he be removed from the meeting. Officer Graham approached him and two men who were sitting on each side of Mr. Chavis got in the way so that Officer Graham could not get close to him. Officer Graham asked him to leave and walked him out as Mr. Chavis was continuing to shout out words and was disruptive.

**Sandra Jones -** 302 S Austin Street Apt B2 Maxton, NC Ms. Jones stated that there is a false facebook site that should be investigated.

**David McEachin** – 301 Croom Road Maxton, NC Mr. McEachin stated that he was supporting Chief Tammy Deese. Mr. McEachin stated that Chief Deese lives here in Maxton and been employed here for 24 years. He stated that she volunteers in the community and is well loved. During a personal family emergency, she had to deal with depression. Chief Deese has submitted a letter of resignation. (His time ran out)

**Sallie McLean**- 403 McLaughlin Street Maxton, NC Miss McLean stated that she waited for the town manager to contact her concerning food that she would have served to individuals after the storm and never received that call. Ms. McLean stated the fire department allowed them to serve the food at their facility. She questioned the board of commissioners how they could let something like this happen. Mrs. Bordeaux shared with her that the Fire Department is owned by the Town and that she as Manager approved the site for the meals and apologized that Miss McLean was not contacted.

**Geraldine McLaurin**- 305 McLaughlin Street Maxton, NC She stated that when she was a commissioner that they received a report that included every check that was written. Ms. McLaurin advised the commissioners that they must go to school to learn.

**Cynthia Johnson** – 203 Scotland Street Maxton, NC Ms. Johnson stated that she is concerned about the police department. Ms. Johnson stated that it is hard for Chief Deese to connect with the county and other police departments if she is working at night.

**Pauline Campbell** – 1816 Turkey Branch Fairmont, NC– Ms. Campbell greeted the audience in honor of her late husband Commissioner Berlester Campbell. Ms. Campbell is seeking the support of the citizens as she ask to be fill the seat formerly held by her husband in Robeson County District #2. Thanks everyone for their prayers, words of encouragement and generous gestures during his bereavement.

**Diane Dixon**- 402 N Patterson Street Maxton, NC 910 844-5453 – Mrs. Dixon acknowledged our former commissioners for standing up for the citizens of Maxton. Ms. Dixon stated that this turmoil is not of any color. Ms. Dixon stated that someone described our town as nasty, and she was completely offended.

**David Russell**- 707 McCaskill Avenue Maxton, NC 910 318-4186 – Mr. Russell stated that he has been asking for three years for someone to do something about the trash on the former manager’s front porch. Mr. Russell stated that he asked again three months ago, and the porch still looks terrible. Mr. Russell asked if anything would be done concerning this matter.

**Note:** The Board of Commissioners have been informed that this matter has been turned over to our town attorney.

**Randy McArthur-** 12801 Stratford Drive Laurinburg Mr. McArthur stated that he was there to support Chief Tammy Deese and Captain Jamie Oxendine. Mr. McArthur stated that they have always been good to us. He said he doesn’t know what’s happened but he said that it needs to be fixed.

**Andrew Alewine** – 401 Courtland Street Maxton, NC– Mr. Alewine he volunteered with Bert & Virgil Hutchinson at their distribution sight at Authentiks Sports Bar after the storm. Mr. Alewin states that we can clean up the trash in town if we make it fun and come together.

**Carmen Colon** – 319 N Patterson Street, Maxton, NC Mrs. Colon stated to Mayor Morton that he is responsible for this turmoil and needs to act right away. Mrs. Colon informed Mayor Morton that everything was on his shoulders, and that he needed to take charge of town.

**Evelyn Williams**- 440 N Brooklyn Street, Maxton, NC 910 844-3478 – Miss Williams stated that has worked for the Town of Maxton for 33 years and is getting ready to retire. Ms. Williams stated that we have officers that take from their own children to help other children. Ms. Williams stated that Chief Deese will be moving on to greener pastures. She stated that she will have a higher pay, less responsibilities, and less stress.

**Sara McCall**- 205 Lane Street Maxton, NC Ms. McCall stated to the commissioners and mayor that the town of Maxton residents stand behind Chief Deese.

**Stephanie Lowry** – 226 Jack Drive Maxton, NC Mrs. Lowry stated that she worked for the Town of Maxton as a dispatcher for 18 years. She told Manager Bordeaux that when she resigned due to medical reasons “Not once did you thank me for my time.” Mrs. Lowry told the audience “You are losing a great chief and I pray that Captain Oxendine leave too.” Ms. Lowry said “I feel sorry for you all”. Ms. Lowry stated that you cannot break our bond because we are family.

**Kimberly O. Lowry** – 6045 Iona Church Road Fairmont, NC Mrs. Lowry stated that she was here to support Chief Tammy Deese, her brother Captain Jamie Oxedine, and the Maxton Police Department. Mrs. Lowry asked, how can you support someone who just came here and not the two officers who have been here over 20 year?”

**Edwina Bridges** – 224 W Rockingham Road, Maxton NC Ms. Bridges is requesting that the fire tax be itemized on the tax bills.

**Note:** It has been explained to Mrs. Bridges for the last few years that she has voiced her concern about this matter, that there is not enough space on the bills or in the software program to itemize the fire tax. Mrs. Bridges has also received a letter with the break down included in the letter when she has questioned the bill in the past.

**Donna Locklear –** 212 W Rockingham Road, Maxton NC Ms. Locklear asked the audience did anyone else receive a warrant for their taxes. Ms. Locklear stated that she has lived here all her life and is not about to give up her property. Ms. Locklear asked the town manager why she would get an attorney out of town.

**Note:** Ms. Locklear has been aware of her delinquent taxes. She and her spouse have been informed that delinquent taxes would be sent to the attorney for foreclosure. Pinto (Ms. Locklear’s husband) began to come in two weeks prior to this meeting to begin paying off some of the years owed after receiving the summons from the attorney.

**Yvette McLean Alford –** 707 Rockingham Road, Maxton NC Mrs. Alford stated to Mayor Morton that he was very disrespectful.

**Elizabeth Marshall** – 408 N Hooper Street Maxton, NC Mrs. Marshall stated that you can tell the mark of a good leader. She advised the audience and elected officials to listen to what the co-workers had to say about Chief Deese. Ms. Marshall thanked the Maxton Police Department employees for coming to the town meeting in support of their superiors.

**Annie Galbreath** – 640 Hwy 71N Maxton, NC Ms. Galbreath stated that a lot of things have happened that she would never think would. Ms. Galbreath asked about the ditch between her home and her neighbor’s home. She understood that whoever widened the ditch was attempting to make things better, but during the storm is almost flooded her air conditioner. Ms. Galbreath also stated that dirt surrounding the air conditioner has begun to sink on one side. Ms. Galbreath does not know who widened the ditch, but asked if someone could take a look and see what can be done.

**Note:** The work was completed by NCDOT. Ms. Bordeaux called her on 10/26/18 to provide her with NCDOT contact information.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Asset Management Plan Update Mike Apke

Mike Apke an engineer with McGill Associates spoke to the board concerning the Interim Asset Management Plan for the town Water Distribution System. Commissioner Womack asked how soon this plan will take place. Mr. Apke answered that they are in the process of applying for the additional water lines, it is a work in progress.

1. Resolution for the 2018 Asset Management Plan

Commissioner Womack made the motion, Commissioner Hutchinson second the motion. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

1. Housing Authority Karen Laviner – Ms. Laviner was not present
2. Library Board Appointments

Two opening on the board – Hattie McEachin and Robert Henderson

Commissioner McDougald made the motion, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

e. Approve Amended Laurinburg/Maxton Airport Water Tower Lease

Commissioner McDowell made the motion, Commissioner Womack second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

1. Removal of Old Freight Building

Manager Bordeaux updated the board concerning the removal process and expense associated with removal of the building.

1. Hydro Vacuum Motor for Public Works (Board approval)

Commissioner Gilmore asked where this equipment would be used. Mayor Morton stated that this would be used on the sewer vac. Commissioner Womack made the motion, Commissioner Hutchinson second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**COMMENTS**

Town Manager

Manager Bordeaux briefed the Board on a successful Fall Festival. She thanked Recreation Committee and Chair Jamie Smith for their efforts.

Mrs. Bordeaux contacted the NCDOT concerning storm drainage on Martin Luther King Jr Drive and First Street. Mrs. Bordeaux asked that NCDOT expedite this project, it has been over a year ago. NCDOT has assessed the situation and during this assessment one of the pipes collapsed. (several months ago).

She gave an update on Hurricane Florence and the actions of the town to assist the community.

She thanked the work of several agencies to assist the community (American Red Cross, Commissioner Hutchinson & Authentiks Sports Bar, Mayor Morton & the McArthur Family at Safeway Market, Queheel Fire Dept, and Perdue Farms. Hurricane recovery efforts and information was posted on the town’s website and Maxton Police Department website.

Commissioners

Commissioner Womack asked about debris removal. Manager Bordeaux stated that the debris will be picked up.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Closed session G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6)-to discuss personnel issues only and consult with Town Attorney.

Commissioner Hutchinson made the motion to go into closed session, Commissioner Gilmore made the second. Vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

Motion to go back into open session.  Moved by Hutchinson; Seconded by McDougald.  Passed.

Motion to approve town manager contract.  Moved by McDouglad; Seconded by Gilmore.  Passed; one nay—McDowell.

**ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn.  Moved by McDougald; Seconded by Gilmore.  Passed.

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Mayor, Emmett Morton Tax Collector, Angela Pitchford