

TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
November 16, 2021 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

The Board of Commissioners of Maxton, North Carolina met in formal session in the meeting chambers of the Town of Maxton Town Hall located at 201 McCaskill Avenue Maxton, North Carolina at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance were: Mayor Paul G. Davis, Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack.

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Michael Cousar, Accounts Payable Tech Jasmin Mason, Police Chief Na'Shayla Nelson, Public Works Director Preston McKenzie, and Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

Formal Session: Call Meeting to Order- Mayor Paul G. Davis

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.

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Board Meeting of November 16, 2021.
2. Tax Adjustments from November 11 thru December 15, 2021.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mayor Davis request for the Commissioners to add Item E (Proposed Contract from Earls Electrical Heating and Air Conditioning) and Item F (Budget Amendment of \$4,600.00 for Earls Electrical Heating and Air Conditioning) under New Business. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Adopt the Proposed Agenda

Mayor Davis request a motion to adopt the Proposed Agenda. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

a) Sealed Bid for Sale of Property on Florence Street, Parcel's #330401030 and 33040103001. Town Clerk Michael Cousar opened two sealed bids for the Florence Street Parcel's. The bids were as follows: Mr. Robert Macy made a \$7,000.00 bid and Mrs. Sandra Miller made a \$5,000.00 bid for the Florence Street parcels# 330401030 and 33040103001.

Commissioner Bethea made the motion to table the sale of property on Florence Street and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Adopt Budget Ordinance for CDBG-I (Infrastructure) Grant.

Mayor Davis request a motion to adopt Budget Ordinance for CDBG-I (Infrastructure) Grant. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Approve 160D Zoning Services Agreement with Lumber River Council of Government (LRCOG).

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve 160D Zoning Services Agreement with LRCOG. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Approve Comprehensive Plan Services Agreement with LRCOG.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve the Comprehensive Plan Services Agreement with LRCOG. Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Approve Budget Amendment of \$15,000.00 for 160D Zoning Update Services Agreement with LRCOG.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Budget Amendment of \$15,000.00 for 160D Zoning Update Services Agreement. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

f) Approve Budget Amendment of \$20,000.00 for Town Comprehensive Plan Services Agreement with LRCOG.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Budget Amendment of \$20,000.00 for Town Comprehensive Plan Services Agreement. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

g) Approve Budget Amendment of \$31,650.00 for E-911 Contract Agreement with Robeson County.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Budget Amendment of \$31,650.00 for E-911 Contract Agreement. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Approve Memorandum of Agreement between North Carolina Office of Recovery and Resiliency (NCORR) the Town of Maxton for State Grant of \$325,000.00.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Memorandum of Agreement between NCORR and the Town of Maxton for state grant totaling \$325,000.00. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Approve Beautification Committee By-Laws.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Beautification Committee By-Laws. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Southeast Regional Airport Authority Application.

Mayor Davis appointed Mr. Richie McCrimmon to the Southeast Regional Airport Authority Board.

d) Discuss Purchase of Town Signage.

Commissioner Gilmore made the motion to table the purchase of new town signage and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Approve Proposed Contract from Earls Electrical Heating and Air Conditioning to fix electrical problems at Elizabeth Cole Park.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Proposed Contract from Earls Electrical Heating and Air Conditioning to fix electrical problems at Elizabeth Cole Park. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

f) Approve Budget Amendment of \$4,600.00 for Earls Electrical Heating and Air Conditioning contract proposal to fix electrical problems at Elizabeth Cole Park.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Budget Amendment of \$4,600.00 for Earls Electrical Heating and Air Conditioning contract. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES ONLY) NOTE: Please state your full legal name, address, and phone number the board & staff will not respond to individual comments or questions during the public forum. The appropriate staff member will follow up if needed.

Mr. James McEachin, 301 Croom Road, Maxton, 910-258-6392. Mr. McEachin explained that the Christmas Parade Committee decided not to have the annual Christmas Parade after 27 years for safety reasons. The Committee asked the town to divert some of their funds to the Recreation Committee so they can be successful in the events that they hold.

Ms. Jamaica Campbell, PO Box 2031 Lumberton, NC, 910-536-9003. Ms. Campbell introduced herself as a candidate that is running for Clerk of Superior Court for Robeson County. She is currently working in the Public Defender Office and described herself as a candidate that cares about the citizens.

Mrs. Jamie Smith, Hwy 130 Maxton, 910-785-2665. Mrs. Smith, the Recreation Committee Chairman gave the date of December 11, 2021, for the Towns' First Annual Christmas Festival on Main Street from 11 to 3pm. She describe the safety precautions taken to put on the event and festivities available to the residents. On behalf of the Beautification Committee, she mention that they will be selling Christmas trees for \$75.00 and on Sunday December 19, 2021, the Recreation Committee will be celebrating 250 senior citizens with a drive-through dinner event.

Ms. Charnette Murphy, 412 McCaskill Street Maxton, 267-207-5431. Ms. Murphy mentioned that it is hard to read the town signage due to foliage covering the signs, downtown Main Street is an eyesore due to the neglected buildings, and that there is no town memorabilia to show pride in the town.

Mrs. Mary McNeil, 407 West Central Street, Maxton, 910-217-9294. Mrs. McNeil presented a written letter to the Town Clerk to forward to the Town Commissioners on her behalf. She spoke about the downtown buildings in their present condition and made suggestions to fix the ongoing problems with the buildings. She also asked if the Commissioner could give monthly meeting updates on the RB Dean School and the plans for the school building. Lastly she thanked the towns' Public Works Department for helping her in a stressful situation involving her residence.

Ms. Sara Anderson, 107 Chestnut Street Maxton, 910-844-9532. Ms. Anderson voiced her concern for the lack of lighting on Chestnut Street and asked if the town could give proper notification for trash pickup.

Mr. Robert Macy, 307 N. Florence Street, Maxton, 910-390-4131. Mr. Macy thanked the Maxton Police Department for properly responding to a resident that fell at 504 S. Florence Street. He also mentioned the conditions of Maxton downtown businesses and that he thinks the town is not on one accord as it comes to safety.

Ms. Keisha Thompson, Maxton, NC. Ms. Rose spoke about two different interactions she and her son had with the Maxton Housing Authority that lead to both of them being banned from those housings. She felt their treatment in the situations were handled unfair by the Housing Authority management and wants help from the Board to address her compliant and their unfair treatment.

REPORTS

Police Chief:

The Police Department is currently completing state mandated audits for the following: Grants, Dispatch (SBI reporting) which is now completed, and Juvenile Justice.

Two employees successfully completed training and others are in the process.

The department has four (4) patrol vehicles in need of replacement.

Total calls for service in October 2021 were 1,030 versus 861 in October 2020.

Upcoming events and miscellaneous information are as follows: November 8th starts toy collection for Shop with a Cop, November 17th is target date to deploy new tasers in the field, and December 11, 2021, is the Town's Christmas Festival.

Chief Nelson mentioned that the Police Department has received another grant from the Governors Crime Commission and will be purchasing new body cameras with the funds and that all unsanctioned events held in town will be cited or arrested.

Manager:

The Town Manager, Town Clerk, and Finance Director are in training for the American Recovery Plan (ARP) for funds the town has received from the plan.

A bulletin board has been placed at the Post Office as another resource to get information out to the residents.

Residents please ensure that your trash cans are out the night before sanitation pickup, so that your trash will not missed.

The Thanksgiving sanitation schedule will be on Monday November 22, 2021, for regular pickups on Wednesday and Tuesday November 23, 2021, for regular pickup on Thursday.

Contractors have been in Town Hall to survey the building for repairs in the chamber, conference room, and other areas. We currently have one (1) quote and are waiting on a few others.

The town is waiting on quotes to finish the refurbishing of the Learning Academy building on Hooper Street.

Code enforcement for the downtown buildings is being worked on with Robeson County and the business owners. We are working to resolve problems with those buildings.

Town office will be closed on Wednesday November 24, 2021, at 1pm through Friday November 26, 2021, and will reopen on Monday November 29, 2021.

The Town Manager introduced Mrs. Jasmine Mason. She is the Towns' new Accounting Tech and Tax Assistant.

Commissioner Womack asked Ms. Keisha Thompson to stay behind to gather more information about her Housing Authority issue. He asked the town staff to assist and touch base with Housing Authority Board into the matter.

Commissioner McDowell said the Maxton Ministry is still around supporting residents and will be having a fundraiser at Sandy Grove Baptist Church on Sunday November 21, 2021. He ask that other churches do fundraiser as well to help to support its residents.

Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson stated that the Town has spent \$71,250.00 of the Towns' money on budget amendments tonight, but the things we done tonight is a must to keep the town running. He said Maxton is not a rich town and we are struggling like everyone else is. He suggested looking into grant possibilities to help restore the town.

ADJOURN

Mayor Davis request a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.



Mayor, Paul G. Davis



Town Clerk, Michael D. Cousar