**TOWN OF MAXTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**September 15, 2020 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 (absent), Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner Paul McDowell, Commissioner Victor Womack, Town Manager Roosevelt Henegan, Finance Debbie Hamilton, Attorney Timothy Snead, Town Clerk Jacqueline Johnson, Tax Collector Angela Pitchford (absent), Police Chief Nelson, Dennis Freeman and James Jackson of Public Works department, and Utility Clerk Rosemary Wilkerson.

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

**Invocation**: Commissioner Victor Womack

**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. NONE**

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda**

Mayor Davis requested a motion to adopt the proposed agenda, Commissioner McDowell made the motion, and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes from Board meeting of August 18, 2020 and closed Session.
2. Tax Adjustments August 13th thru September 8th 2020

Mayor Davis requested a motion to approve the consent agenda, Commissioner Womack made the motion, and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Old Business: NONE**

**New Business: NONE**

Mayor Davis briefly mention due to the COVID-19 pandemic there was no new business of the town to bring forward to discuss on tonight, but the staff is constantly working to keep town operations going.

**Public Forum**:

Mayor Davis opened the public forum and advised that there will be a limit of two minutes for speaking, Please state your full name, address, and phone number. The board and staff will not respond to individual comments or questions during the public forum. The appropriate staff member will follow up with all concerns as needed.

**Angela Faulkner, principal at R.B. Dean** – Townsend School in Maxton presented packets and briefed the Board of Commissioners on how R.B. Dean School has worked to greatly reduce the number of students without internet access as the period of virtual learning brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Angela Faulkner, also told the commissioners that at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic there were about 175 families with students at the school that had no internet access. That number is now down to 29 students out of the 458 enrolled at the school, she also mention that chrome books were issues to most of the students.

The students who have no internet access are receiving a flash drive each week with prerecorded lessons and assignments uploaded onto them.

Internet access was the school’s biggest concern when in-person classes stopped in mid-March, Faulkner said. Spectrum has helped by providing inexpensive access for educational use to many families served by the school.

Faulkner said the county soon will be sending out buses that will serve as Wi-Fi hotspots, and some businesses in Maxton have opened their doors to those students needing internet access, progress reports will soon be mailed out and the students is scheduled for state testing in the year 2021. Lastly, she thanked the community for helping out.

**Dennis McArthur of 106 Wells Circle, Maxton**: Commended the Maxton Police department and their team for the food drive held for the residents.

He thanked Public Works for working for cleaning out the ditches and removing the trees on Smith Street. It was also mentioned he has been in contact with CSX to clean the trash out the ditches by the railroad track to get the water flowing. He also mentioned a letter received from the town to cut and remove a tree was completed.

He has an interest in seeing change in the community for the youths, he express concerns that the vacant gym can be used for a center for the youths, also he would like to see the PAL program back up and running in the town.

**Robert Macy** **of 307 North Florence Street, Maxton**: He commend the police department in being on point in the services of their duties, commended the Town Clerk Johnson on her many years of service with the town and to enjoy her retirement.

He thanked the Public Works department for a quick response to the call he dispatched out and would like to know is there any way the recyclable bin can be dump more often. Lastly, he mention due to the littering he picked up 3500 pounds of trash throughout the town.

**REPORTS**

**Town Manager:**

Mr. Henegan briefly mentioned the importance of Maxton residents participating in the census count the last day is September 30, 2020. Public works is still working on the up keep of the town in the process of losing five part-time employees from the COG.

**COMMENTS**

**Commissioners:**

* Commissioner McDowell mention that the food drive at the freight building for the public will start at 1:30 p.m. to avoid increased traffic on main street.
* Commissioner Gilmore mention if the town can enforce the littering ordinance to address the trash problem in Maxton and post do not litter signs throughout the town to remind citizens not to litter.
* Commissioner Womack mention that the town need to find funds to hire more employees for public works and the police department to keep the town up and operating.

**Chief:**

* Police Chief Na’Shayla Nelson said calls for service were up 92% in August compared to the same month in 2019 and contributed the increase to an influx in overdose calls.
* The Police department is reaching out to partners to get more Narcan for use in drug emergencies, making sure its officers are trained in handling drug emergencies, and is gathering data on the issue.
* Officers are having to work overtime because of the increase in calls and because the department has a staffing shortage.
* Maxton Police department is the first in North Carolina to participate in Operation Juice Box. It is a national program in which officers pass out juice boxes to children in the areas they patrol. She stated there will be an ongoing effort to continue the program in the future
* National Night Out was rescheduled to October has been cancelled due to COVID19 concerns.

**Mayor**

Mayor Davis briefly mention that the Lumber River Council of Governments annual dinner and awards ceremony this year will be held virtually.

**ADJOURN**

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

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Mayor, Paul G. Davis Town Clerk, Jacqueline M. Johnson