**February 21, 2017**

**MINUTES OF TOWN OF MAXTON, NORTH CAROLINA**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

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.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

Mayor Emmett “Chip” Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner James McDougald, Commissioner Paul McDowell, Town Manager Kate Bordeaux, Town Attorney Nick Sojka, Town Clerk Jacqueline Johnson, and Town Police Chief Tammy Deese.

**Absent:**

None

**FORMAL SESSION**

Mayor Morton called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and the matters below were addressed.

The invocation was given by Commissioner Gilmore.

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda**

Mayor Morton requested a motion to adopt the proposed agenda. Commissioner McDougald moved that the Board approve the proposed agenda, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes from Board Meeting January 17, 2017
2. Tax adjustments

Mayor Morton requested a motion to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner McDowell moved that the Board approve the proposed agenda, Commissioner McDougald seconded motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**RECOGNIZATIONS**

Mayor Morton recognized Girl Scout Troop #607 Leader Jamie Smith, the girl scouts, and several parents that were present.

**Employee of the month**

Myra Tyndall was employee of the month. Town Manager Bordeaux mentioned that Clerk Johnson and Tax Collector Pitchford chose Myra as the employee of the month. She was presented a plaque and Town Manager Bordeaux thanked her for a job well done as the finance director.

**Schools**

No speaker was present.

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**PUBLIC FORUM**

* **Jamie Smith** is Maxton Troop #607 Girl Scouts leader of forty girls. She also is the vice chair for the Maxton Recreation Board. Ms. Smith spoke about concerns she had with a situation that happen on January 26, 2017 and stated she had calls from several people in the community, officials, and town staff. She also mentioned that her passion is for the youth in the community and working with the citizens to make things happen for the youth. The next event will be on Easter Monday.
* **Sarah Anderson** voiced concern that the Town has several street walkers that are prying on the elderly. Ms. Anderson stated that something needs to be done to protect the elderly citizens in Maxton.

Mayor Morton closed the public forum after no others came forward to speak at 7:25pm.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Budget tine line**

Mayor Morton briefed the Board on the FY2016-2017 budget that was included in the board packet for the Board to review. The March 18, 2017 budget workshop has been canceled. He stated that if any members have questions or concerns to contact the Manager or Finance Director, and the concerns will be discussed in the March board meeting.

1. **Proposal to clear the Burch Property**

Town Manager Bordeaux briefed the Board on the lowest bid proposal from Ralph Nance and Sons for $12,000 to clear the Burch Property at 108 West Graham Street. The bid includes that the steps and the outhouse will remain on the property. The Town will petition the courts to place a lien on the property tax and when the property is sold hopefully the Town will recoup the cost of clearing the property. Mayor Morton requested a motion to approve Ralph Nance and Son bid of $12,000 to clear the Burch property. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson moved that the Board to approve the bid, Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **ABC Board Appointment**

Mayor Morton opened the floor for nominations to fill the seat to finish out John Wilkerson term, which will expire in June 30, 2018. Four applicants were provided to the Board. Commissioner McDougald nominated Ritchie McCrimmon, Commissioner Gilmore seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

1. **North Carolina Guardian Ad Litem**

Ronisha Hammonds briefed the Board on the Guardian Ad Litem program. The Guardian AD Litem is in need

of volunteers to serve as advocates in the court system in Robeson County for children who have been abused, neglected, and removed from their homes for protection. She also mention that currently 300 children from Robeson County are in the court system. Robeson County only has 50 volunteers to assist them. If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, contact the Robeson County office at 910-671-3077.

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1. **Community Youth Empowerment**

Pastor Tony Fairley of Life Changing Ministries briefly spoke to the board with concerns of the youth in

the Maxton area. Pastor Fairley mentioned that the website “areavibes.com” provided the statistics of Maxton’s high employment, crime, and high school dropout rate. He also mentioned that it is his heart desire as a resident of Maxton to try to partner with the Town of Maxton and citizen to work with the youth and families to strive to improve the community.

**REPORTS**

**Town Manager**

Town Manager Bordeaux shared the update on the Community Development Block Grant Water Loss Project.

* The grant is to replace approximately 15,400 linear footage of leaky water lines and equipment including replacement of service laterals, meter boxes, and water meters.
* On February 21, 2017 a Pre-Bid meeting was conducted.
* The Town will receive sealed bids for the project until March 7, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

Update on the Street Sweeper

* All the paperwork has been sent to the USDA for a street sweeper. Mr. Larry Sampson with the USDA will submit the package to Raleigh. At current, we are waiting to hear back from Mr. Sampson. In preparation of Maxton obtaining approval for the grant, Town Finance Director Myra Tyndall has contacted three financial instructions to collect interest rates.

Community Development

Town Manager spoke briefly about community development for the town, she has been in contact with the NC Economic division in Raleigh. In the coming months there will be an Economic Planner assigned to Maxton to provide several ideas.

* Economic development strategic planning and area planning
* Identifying issues
* Organization, promotion, design, and business development planning
* Coordination and collaborating with citizens, business merchants, and stakeholders
* Identifying grant opportunities

She spoke briefly that on last month the Board voted on the Building Re-Use grant, and Driven Contractors has been approved for the grant.

She also shared that Faithful Families – Eating Smart and Moving More classes will be held through the month of February and on March 6, 2017 at the Maxton Housing Authority from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For more information, contact Local Health Coordinator with St. Matthew Church Francine McLaurin at 910-610-5733.

Lastly, she mention that Robeson County has been approved and will receive housing funds as a part of the Disaster Recovery Housing Program. To qualify there are five major requirements to be eligible for the funds.

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* Home must be located in Robeson County and occupied by the owner.
* Income must not exceed 100% of the area median income for the county.
* Home must have received at least $5,000 of damage from Hurricane Matthew.
* Cost of rehabilitation cannot exceed the Disaster Recovery Program limit of $40,000.
* The homeowner must not have been approved to receive a loan from the Small Business Administration.

**Commissioners**

Commissioner McDougald briefed the Board and residents on economic development, several projects, and businesses that have opened in Maxton.

* Commissioner McDougald has been in contact with the Hamlet Credit Union and at their Friday February 24, 2017 meeting they will discuss opening a bank in Maxton. Hopefully, by next month the Hamlet Credit Union will have a decision on their interest of opening a branch in the Town of Maxton.
* He mentioned that the gym located at the old Family Dollar will have a grand opening on March 4th at 4:00 p.m. Six students from University of North Carolina at Pembroke are employed at the gym through the Lumber River Council of Government.
* The Kids Campus Daycare will have an open house on February 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

He mentioned the new businesses opening in town are Smith Tax Service and Tax Prep. Additionally, the DaVita Dialysis Center is still under construction.

Commissioner Gilmore mentioned that the Town has developed a lot in the past. She voiced concerns that there is a lack of housing for the homeless people walking around town.

* There is a need to develop a plan for the homeless for shelter and food.
* Several woman are walking the streets and they are approaching the citizens begging for money.
* Commissioner Gilmore stated the street walkers should be picked up and charged for harassing the residents.
* Lastly, she mentioned that she is going to do whatever it takes to be an advocate for the homeless and anyone interested in helping to please get in touch with her.

Mayor Morton mentioned that Maxton had a lot going on in the past six months.

* Several new homes are being built in the Town.
* Two new businesses have opened. The Kids Campus Day Care will have their grand opening on February 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. He echoed Commissioner McDougald mention of the gym located at the former Family Dollar store will have a grand opening on March 4, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.
* The Maxton Community Watch will have a plate sale at the corner of the Medicine Shop on March 4, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. and the proceeds are to help buy uniforms for the Maxton Tee Ball team.
* Lastly, he thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and commended Town Manager Bordeaux for doing a good job for the length of time she has been with the Town of Maxton.

Commissioner McDowell mentioned that Lent Service will begin on Ash Wednesday March 1, 2017 at the St Paul’s Church.

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**Adjourn**

Mayor Morton requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McDougald moved to adjourn, Commissioner Gilmore seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimous approved.

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Emmett Morton, Mayor Jacqueline Johnson, Town Clerk