**February 19, 2019**

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

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

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.

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 Angela Pitchford, Police Chief Ruppe, Officer Hubert Graham, Town Clerk Jacqueline Johnson(absent), Utility Billing Clerk Rosemary Wilkerson.

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

**Invocation**- Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore

**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.**

Commissioner Womack stated that there was a conflict in new business concerning cemetery quotes.

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda -** Motion to do an agenda amendment – Commissioner Gilmore made the motion to add Police report on agenda above comments on agenda.

## **Approval of Consent Agenda -** Commissioner Hutchinson made the motion, Commissioner McDowell second the motion. Vote unanimous, motion carried.

## 

1. Minutes from Board Meeting of January 15, 2019

2. Tax Adjustments – January 5, 2019 thru February 11, 2019

**RECOGNITIONS**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **Water bill leak Adjustment Assessment** – after much discussion Commissioner Gilmore made the motion to table this discussion until the March 2019 meeting. Commissioner McDougald second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Maxton Housing Authority** - Karen Laviner briefed the board on the policy and procedures of the Maxton Housing Authority. Commissioner McDougald asked questions concerning taxes paid by housing authority and rent control. Housing authority sends pilot check in lieu of taxes once a year based on income. Rent is determined by HUD policies and procedures.
2. **Cemetery Quotes (Board Approval or delay until FY 2019-20 budget)**

**Approval of Budget Amendment on Cemetery Quotes**

Discussion concerning maintenance of both cemeteries no action taken.

1. **Eminent Domain / Nuisance - Attorney Jessica Scott –** Discussion concerning condemning nuisance properties. Condemnation can be costly and time consuming. Commissioner Gilmore stated that we need to concentrate on properties within the city limits first.

c. **NC Civil War & Reconstruction Center - Mac Healy –** Discussed civil war museum coming to Fayetteville, North Carolina. Mr. Healy asked the Town of Maxton to endorse the project with a resolution of support.

**PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES ONLY)**

Resident Aggie Deese stated that she would like to hear crime reports for the town. Resident Mary McNeill stated that crime used to be reported in neighborhood watch, and since chairperson has been ill there have been no neighborhood watch meetings. Mayor Morton stated the Chief Ruppe would be working with the community to resume the neighborhood watch program.

**REPORTS**

Chief Ruppe presented the board and residents with a copy of the crime report for the month of January 2019.

**COMMENTS**

Town Manager Bordeaux briefed the board on public safety and areas of concern in the town and MPD being proactive in these areas, placing signs for children at play in different areas of the community, replacing speed limits signs, the project to replace the Welcome to Maxton signs and new hours for the library due to decreased circulation. Manager Bordeaux stated that Chief Ruppe and the MPD will be reinstating Police Explorers and PALS program. Carolina Military Academy alumni association will be holding their reunion in Maxton April 26-27, 2019.

Commissioner McDougald voiced concern about the shooting that took place in the downtown area. Commissioner McDougald stated that something has to be done, this is a nuisance to the town. Also his concern about the rent in which some individuals have to pay living in public housing.

Commissioner Womack asked if there was funds for the police department to hire more police or give raises.

Commissioner Gilmore raised concerns about the tax collection percentage. Tax Collector Pitchford stated that she utilizes all collection procedures, and has turned over many properties for foreclosure.

Commissioner McDowell announced lent services.

**ADJOURN –** Commissioner McDowell made the motion, Commissioner Hutchinson second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried.

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Mayor, Emmett Morton Tax Collector, Angela Pitchford