**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 on May 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:**

Mayor Emmett “Chip” Morton, Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner James McDougald, Town Manager Kate Bordeaux, Town Attorney Nick Sojka, Town Police Chief Tammy Deese, Tax Collector/Acting Town Clerk Angela Pitchford.

**Absent:**

Commissioner Paul McDowell

**FORMAL SESSION**

Mayor Morton called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and the matters below were addressed. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro-tem Hutchinson.

**Adoption of Proposed Agenda**

Commissioner McDougald made the motion to adopt the proposed agenda, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion. Vote was unanimous, motion carried

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes from Board Meeting April 26, 2017
2. Tax Adjustments- None

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

**RECOGINITIONS**

**Employee of the month**

None

**Schools**

No speaker was present

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Library Board Member Ray Oxendine presented the audience with information on the fundraiser given by the Library Board. Mr. Oxendine thanked the board and the citizens for their help, stated we will be fundraising again in September 2017.

Mayor Morton closed the public forum after no others came forward to speak.

**Public Hearing**-USDA Loan/Grant (Street Sweeper)

Larry Sampson addressed the board concerning the letter of condition of the loan/grant for the street sweeper. The core basic cost for the street sweeper will be 200,000 there will be an applicant contribution of $2000. The loan portion is $170,000 and the grant is $28,000. Interest rate is 3.375% once we sign the papers tonight we will be locked in at the interest rate. If we do not sign tonight this interest rate is good until June 30th, 2017. Interest could go down or up after June 30th. If it happens to go up you are locked in at 3.375%. If we sign the paperwork in July, and the interest rate goes down you will be entitled to the lower rate. This is for a period of Ten (10) years to pay the loan off, annual payments approximately $19,353. You will be set-up on a pre-authorized debit payment, first payment will be due one year from the date of closing. The grant portion is based on the value of the truck, once the truck has depreciated down under $5000 the grant portion will dissolve. Reserve will be setup in audit which is 10 percent annually. Mayor Morton asked for any questions there were none, public hearing closed.

**Public Hearing**- Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget

Myra Tyndall addressed the board concerning the grant for equipment received by the police department. The grant amount this year is $24,500, $9500 increased our budget but it is grant money only. There are no other adjustments. Ms. Tyndall explained that the $188,000 that was on the books has now been brought down to $120,000. Mayor Morton asked for any questions of the board, there were none. Resident Willis Sullivan stated that he would like to speak on the budget. Mr. Sullivan stated that he took a brief look at the proposed budget, but there was one item that he did not see, or would like to see. He would like to see money in the budget for the Patterson Building. Mr. Sullivan the dome is looking pretty bad and needs to be painted. Myra Tyndall stated that we are looking for quotes at this time, once we receive at least three quotes we will bring it back before the board for discussion. Myra also stated that we have the Patterson Building already in the budget under Buildings and Grounds, but there is not enough in the budget for the expenses that it will cost to repair all that needs to be repaired. Manager Kate Bordeaux explained to the citizens that the Historic Society has offered to assist financially with the repairs of the Patterson Building, they are also awaiting for the town to get quotes. Mayor Morton also stated that we will have $7500 of CSX funds to be able to use to make some of the repairs. Myra Tyndall stated that we have found that there is a lot of damage to the outer ledge around the roof. The estimated cost is $30,000, we will have to get some grants or Historic Preservation funds. We also have damage from Hurricane Matthew that we need to access. Myra Tyndall also stated that we need to do some work on the upstairs floors, they are very weak in several areas and she is afraid that the floors may fall. Mayor Morton again asked for any further questions, there were none. Public hearing was closed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Robeson County Mitigation Resolution**

Manager Bordeaux addressed the board about the Robeson County Mitigation Hazardous Plan, we will be under this plan and need to complete final correspondence to finish the process. This plan will be reviewed every five (5) years. Mayor Morton asked for a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion, Mayor Pro-tem Hutchinson second. Vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

**Budget Amendment FY 2016-2017- (Landfill Closure)**

Myra Tyndall stated that the board approved to work with Anderson Engineering on the closure. The cost is $4500 and needs to be amended to be included in this year’s budget. Mayor Morton asked for a motion to amend the budget in the amount of $4500. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, Mayor Pro-tem Hutchinson second. Vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

**USDA Loan/Grant**

Mayor Morton requested a motion to accept the letter of condition for the USDA grant/loan for the purchase of the street sweeper. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, Commissioner Gilmore second. Vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

**FY 2017-2018 Budget**

Mayor Morton requested a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Budget. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion. Commissioner McDougald second. Vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Lucille’s Smart Cities**

Mr. Michael Smith addressed the board, his company Humanoid Playground had developed technology that they call Lucille. Lucille is a streaming intelligence plan. Lucille can take a lot of information from a lot of different sources such as cameras, microphones, sensors, and vehicles, analyze the data and then provide the town with information to assist the town in making decisions about different policies. Mr. Smith stated that he is here to talk about the initiative called “The Smart City Project”. Essentially a smart city is a city that can take information from traffic cameras and other sources, and can analyze that data in real time. The system would be able to analyze the situation or crime follow the person and alert the authorities of the individual’s location. Our vision for Maxton, we want to provide town surveillance to help first responders, police, and help government to see exactly what’s going on in the town in real time. There are a lot of different uses for this outside of crime prevention. One of the features is an integrational residential security system. The idea is, if you have a fiber security system you will be able to feed that data to the town security system and have the town itself analyze that data, and be able to make recommendations. First responders can have data access and respond to emergencies. First responders can real time video access to see what’s happening in the town. When we move forward with this we will be putting out press releases featuring Maxton on our website. There are kick start campaigns that we are looking at doing. We want Maxton to be the poster child for the “Smart City Presentation”. We are looking to fund this project with grant funds. Providing public services for sponsors. We want Maxton to be one of the early adopters, you will have access to all additional systems and software down the line for free. We’ve been developing the technology for a while, as we grow we are looking to have Maxton’s story right beside us. We will build the system in cycles, consulting with the town to determine what you would like to see. We design it, test it, roll it out and then repeat the process. Security is a top priority, we have all major hacks in mind for this system. One thing this will be a closed network, so it will not be accessible to just anyone. Lucille system will also be used for clean energy in the future, water supply management with sensors also, economic forecasting. We want Lucille to be able to collect data from all different sectors and to paint a clear picture of everything going on in the town. Vehicle to vehicle communication, infrastructure management, and whatever else it can manage. Mr. Smith asks for questions. Commissioner McDougald asked “What is the height required for Maxton”? Mr. Smith stated “We are in an evaluating stage, we are going to have cameras in a variety of different angles”. “Cameras on buildings, poles at different levels”. Commissioner McDougald asked “Is this wireless”. Mr. Smith stated that some will be, but the broadest cameras could have interference issues. Mayor Morton asked for a hard copy be given to the board of the power point presentation. Commissioner Gilmore asked “How far Lucille can take the data a mile or two miles”. Mr. Smith stated “ It will depend on how far it’s built out as we grow we can have it reach how far we want it to be, and it also depends on the cameras used, and what sensors. Manager Bordeaux stated that she and Mr. Smith discussed placing eight (8) cameras around town. Initially we discussed ten (10) but scaled down to eight (8) around town. We would like to start out with a smaller system to see how this works. Mr. Smith stated that they were still in the beta stage and growing. The plan is to have cameras in the four entries of the city. Mayor Morton and Commissioners feel that this is a great idea.

**S. Preston Douglas Accounting**

Mayor Morton discussed the contract to be renewed. Commissioner McDougald asked if the fee had increased. Finance Director Myra Tyndall stated that the fee has gone up approximately $2000 due to CDBG grant, and Manager Kate Bordeaux also stated that there are law enforcement actuary that will be done this year which is also included in the fee. Commissioner made the motion to renew the contract, Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, vote was unanimous. The motion was carried.

**Davita Dialysis Center**

Public Works Director- Dennis Freeman explained to the board about two storm drains found on the end of First street and Martin Luther King Jr Dr, that are basically dummy drains. These drains go nowhere sending the water back into the dirt. Once the dialysis center is finished everything from the parking lot will go to these storm drains (catch basins). Mr. Freeman met with the NCDOT to discuss the matter, representatives from NCDOT stated that this was a town issue, and unfortunately they would not be able to assist with this matter, they are not allowed to do these type of projects anymore. Mr. Freeman stated that Hudson Paving was the only one that sent a quote of $24,495 to open the drains up. Commissioner McDougald asked had anyone ever mention these catch basins before. Mayor Morton stated that when these drains were put in, they had arms that would extend so the water would go back into the dirt. When the rain is excessive it will slow down the process, the heavier the rain. Mayor Morton stated that there were a handful throughout the town. Commissioner McDougald asked if this would clear up the problem on Middle Street as well, Mr. Freeman stated that it would not. Mr. Freeman stated that what they have been doing since November is going around cleaning out the catch basins where there are problems. Commissioner McDougald asked if the CDBG project would help with these catch basins. Mr. Freeman informed Commissioner McDougald that this project was for water lines. Mr. Freeman stated that this is going to be a work in progress. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion to allow Hudson Paving to fix the storm drains. Mayor Pro-tem Hutchinson second the motion, vote was unanimous, and motion was carried. Finance Director Tyndall stated that we would have to do a budget amendment. Mayor Morton called for a motion to add letter E to the agenda as budget amendment. Commissioner McDougald made the motion to add a budget amendment to the agenda to approve the budget amendment in the amount of $25,000. Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, vote was unanimous, motion carried. Commissioner MCDougald asked if there was any way that we could locate all of the catch basins throughout the town. Mr. Freeman stated that he was not sure, Mr. Freeman did state that he believes the catch basin by Walgreens is also a dummy drain as well. Mayor Morton asked that as they go around cleaning them out, to make a list and come back and let the board know about the catch basins. Commissioner Gilmore stated that over by Graham Street and R.B. Dean elementary there is a problem. Commissioner Gilmore stated that she took this on as a project when she first became a Commissioner. Commissioner Gilmore states that there are quite a few of them, where the yards are flooded when it rains.

**R.B. Dean Elementary Ordinance**

Mayor Morton explained to the citizens the concerns about the children going to R.B. Dean and making the area around the school one way traffic. R.B. Dean PTO and Principal Park contacted Mayor Morton requesting Hooper Street to Baldwin, and Baldwin to First Street be deemed a one way street to protect the children. Arms and signs will be placed stating one between the hours of 7:30a.m. through 3:30 p.m. The resource officer or custodian can then go out in the morning and roll the arm out on both ends of the one way. This will not affect the Housing Authority parking lot, Mundy Street, or First Street. Mayor Morton proposes that we pass Town of Maxton Code of Ordinance Section 32-116 designating a one way street bordering R.B. Dean School between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. during school hours or school activities. Commissioner McDougald made the motion and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson second the motion, vote was unanimous, the motion was carried. Commissioner McDougald asked when this would start. Mayor Morton the new school year.

Budget Amendment Davita Dialysis

Mayor Morton asked for motion to approve budget amendment in the amount of $25,000 to repair storm drain at the corners of First Street and Martin Luther King Jr Dr. Commissioner McDougald made a motion to amend budget in the amount of $25,000. Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, vote was unanimous, the motion carried.

**Reports**

**Manager Bordeaux**

We have had ordinances for the community for properties to be cleaned up. We have had our attorney involved concerning residents with past violations. We have had staff to look at properties, we’ve used letters, and we’ve done a lot of different things. We did not have the resources to enforce. The Tax Collector Angela Pitchford, Public Works Director Dennis Freeman, and I have surveyed the town. We’ve done it collectively and individually. We set out one day and through one side of the town it was every other house in violation. In order to set everyone up for success we wanted to make sure all residents received a letter stating that it’s time to clean up, some of it is out of town residents who may not be aware of what their property looks like. Some property it is not appropriate to have trash in your yard. Some people just need to mow their grass, there is a whole host of things. Again, to set everyone up for success, we’ve sent letters out asking them to clean up their property by May 31, 2017. As you’ve seen we will start enforcing on June 5th, 2017 when we go out again. I’ve received several calls from residents asking what they need to do to comply. The response has not been negative, but it has been positive.

Last month Commissioner Gilmore brought to us Beacham Park in partnership with Robeson County, with move more eat less initiative (Smart Eating). I have met with representatives from Smart Eating Mr. Greer of the Robeson County Health Department, and we are moving forward. We will be having some benches (stretch benches) placed at the park, we will also do some things with trees and shrubbery, and identification to educate our community. We will be moving forward with Smart Eating to learn about healthy eating because this is what the initiative is about.

The CDBG water loss project, residents who will be effected by this project have been notified. The project will go on until the end of the year. As each is area is affected we will make sure that they get a letter stating what to expect. I would like to thank Acting Town Clerk Angela Pitchford for what she has done to help us, “this is a busy time for you and I thank you for the assistance. Also thank you for your insight in what we’ve done in the past. I know you’ve worked diligently with trying to get the code enforcement letters out. So hopefully with you and Mr. Freeman we can get it together because I think that it does take a whole team to do this, so I appreciate your help. Commissioner McDougald asked how many houses that we were going to cleanup that are on the books. Manager Bordeaux stated that it takes a lot of money to do this, and that’s part of what I was explaining about lack of resources. With enforcement, we have had letters to go out to residents and with that you will have to have money for the attorney to take these individuals to court. So we had the one piece of property that we hope to close on it very soon, we are trying to get it turned over to us. So when we have that money we would propose to use it to clean up other properties, we need seed money. Ms. Pitchford, Mr. Freeman and I can send out code enforcements, we can penalize people but when we don’t know who owns the property, all we are doing is cleaning up the property and placing the lien on the taxes. You all have done this before, and that’s why some of the properties are sitting like they are. It’s not from lack of someone trying to clean up, or trying to enforce, you don’t know who to send the letter to. If we had a large pot of money we would have them all cleaned up but with the attorney with expertise and the steps that we have to take in the court system, it cost money to do that.

Mayor Morton stated our hope is with this first one that we get a good amount of seed money out of that to be able to do more than just one. I don’t think the other properties are as big as the first one. Then when we do the next ones and retrieve the funds we would repeat the process. Resident Lillie Dumas asked if she could ask a question “Are letters being sent to people with properties who are not in North Carolina? Manager Bordeaux stated that she is sending those letters out and has talked to several people this week and the latter part of last week. These individuals are asking for us to take pictures of their property and e-mail it to them. They don’t live here and their concerned as they should be. Again I have to lean on our Tax Collector Angela Pitchford “How many letter have you sent out?” Ms. Pitchford stated very many. Mayor Morton stated he had one guy to come in the store and had the letter. He was from Florence, he has two pieces of property here and it is heir property. There are 2 or 3 owners so together they paid someone to take care of the property, and they discovered that you cannot see the property, so they were very upset.

**Mayor’s Comments**

We had a really good turnout for the health fair. St. Matthew AME Zion together with Scotland Memorial and others had a great turn-out. There were eight to nine vendors. Scotland Memorial was there, our police, our rescue, our fire, and our Maxton Police Explorers. They all did a great job. Everyone was happy about the turn out, it was the 2nd Annual event and they will do it again next year. On the same day two (2) bathrooms were dedicated in the name of Dr. Charles McDowell at the Maxton football field now known as Townsend Middle School Football Field. Dr. Charles McDowell is the person that obtained the $10,000 and donated it to the town a few years ago, and the funds sat until something was approved to do with it. The building was dedicated to Dr. Charles McDowell, the brother of Commissioner Paul McDowell. Dr. McDowell is now deceased but he did a great job getting the town the funds and they were utilized just as he would have wished. The bathrooms are gorgeous.

I have received a lot of comments about the streets looking good, residents cleaning up property on their own. The public is recognizing things going on and we are happy that they are. Our police force is showing initiative, I’m hearing from fellow merchants that they enjoy them walking in speaking and getting a drink or just seeing how things are going.

There are two (2) houses being built, the habitat house which is now up, and the NC Indian House have now begun clearing the lot for another house to go up. Commissioner McDougald stated there is a home that has been put up on Brandie Road as well. Mayor Morton states that things are being doing little by little. Hopefully with Davita, Dialysis, Driven Contractors, and Smith Tax service someone riding through see’s something and will turn around and inquire.

**Commissioners**

No reports

**Adjourn**

Mayor Morton requested a motion to adjourn. Commissioner McDougald made the motion, and Commissioner Gilmore second the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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Emmett Morton, Mayor Angela Pitchford, Acting Town Clerk