

**TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
May 18, 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, Police Chief Na'Shayla Nelson, Public Works Director Preston McKenzie, and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

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

Invocation: Commissioner 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

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Budget Workshop Meeting of April 20, 2021
2. Minutes from Board Meeting April 20, 2021
3. Minutes from Budget Workshop Meeting of April 27, 2021

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

Mayor Davis requested a motion to add Item C: Resolution for Receiving Federal Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Act to the proposed agenda. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Adoption of Proposed Agenda

Mayor Davis requested 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) Pay Classification Job Study

Board of Commissioner decided to meet for a Budget Workshop Meeting in the chambers of the Town of Maxton Town Hall located at 201 McCaskill Avenue Maxton, North Carolina at 10:00 a.m. on May 27, 2021.

New Business:

- a) SB 349/HB 401 Local Zoning and Land Use Controls.

Mayor Davis request to motion to approve the SB 349/HB 401 Resolution. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- b) Economic Development Five-Year Plan.

Mayor Davis and the Board of Commissioners reviewed the Town Manager's report on the Economic Development Five-Year Plan. Current committee members will have to reapply for their seats as their annual seat period has expired.

- c) Resolution for Receiving Federal Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Act.

Mayor Davis request to motion to adopt the Resolution for Receiving Federal Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) Act. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Public Forum:

Mayor Davis opened up 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.

Mr. Enrique Colon of 319 North Patterson Street Maxton, NC: Mr. Colon expressed hope that the Council would have shared updates on the Economic Development Strategic Five-Year Plan. He stated that communication with the public would be key along with documentation going forward with the plan. He continued with the North Carolina Main Street and Rural Planning Center's willingness to work with the town Council and Manager if asked to. He read Sections 4-7 from the Economic Development Strategic Five-Year Plan, reiterating needs suggested by the residents and Economic Development Committee. He finished by reading the Economic Development Strategic Five-Year Plan Vision Statement and said that he appreciated the things that have been done thus far in the plan.

Mrs. Diane Dixon of 402 North Patterson Street Maxton, NC, (910) 217-5400: Mrs. Dixon stated her interest in the Economic Development Strategic Five-Year Plan and suggested that funds from the ARP Act could be used for small business improvements.

Mr. Robert Macy of 307 North Florence Street Maxton, NC, (910) 844-1882: Mr. Macy stated that County Parks and Recreation delivers zero service to our youths, town water is a critical resource that should be secured and safeguarded, and that the street signs in Maxton are labeled incorrectly. He spoke of Mr. Gene Walters, the Robeson County Director of Solid Waste

Management. He said Mr. Walters would love to work with the town to investigate the littering and solid waste management issues the town has. He pushed for more town communication with residents and thanked the Board of Commissioners for supporting the Town Manager and law enforcement.

REPORTS

Police Chief:

- Calls for service in April 2020 were 415 vs 1,151 calls for March 2021.
- Police Department (Department) continues to donate bottled water and water bottles to the students of RB Dean due to COVID-19 concerns and access to water at the school being limited.
- Department will participate in the Summer Youth Job Program.
- 420 hours of training were conducted in the month of March 2021, in Basic Academy and Leadership Training. She spoke of the Explores Program and helping young people stay, live, and work in the Town of Maxton.
- Department purchased a new vehicle, the K9 Vehicle is now on patrol, the entire patrol fleet is now black and marked, and there are four (4) patrol vehicles that are in need of replacement.
- May is the National Bicycle Safety Awareness Month and Operation Juice Box will start in June 2021.
- Chief Nelson asked residents to participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Town Manager:

- Robeson County Board of Education plans to demolish the burned down classrooms at the RB Dean School, renovate the gym, and build a new administrative office.
- Meet with the Housing Authority on several issues to include the shooting of guns, cameras, and speed bumps being place in the housing area.
- Letters were sent out to business owners of vacant downtown buildings requesting a meeting with the Town Manager, Mayor, and Mayor Pro Tem to address issues the town has with regards to their buildings.
- Letters are also being sent out to residents not abiding by the towns' code ordinances.
- All unpaid taxes over \$500.00 will be sent to the Foreclosure Attorney. The Towns' tax collection percentage is 83% and second notices were sent out in January 2021, once interest began to accrue.
- Town is now issuing Event and Yard Sale permits.
- Meet with Bill McGowan of WithersRavenel concerning CDBG Water Grant that was approved and a Wastewater Grant that was not. WithersRavenel plan to appeal the Wastewater Grant.
- Mr. Jason Stanley wants to purchase the plot of land at 155 Wilmington Street.
- Mr. Hermit Chavis wants to donate foreclosure land he inherited to the town.
- Four-wheelers and dirt bikes are not allowed on public streets and violators will be ticketed with possible vehicle confiscation.

Commissioners:

Commissioner McDowell spoke of last month's regular meeting about funds to be received from the ARP Act. He said there were a lot of questions in the County meeting as to why it was certain amounts for different towns. He stated that the amounts are effected by Census data and we need to get our residents more involved in that process. He offered information on a six (6) million dollar grant program for start-up businesses that the residents and town could use.

Commissioner Bethea mentioned that thirty-three (33) high school seniors from the Town of Maxton will be graduating and asked for help to celebrate their accomplishment. A parade will be held on June 6, 2021, from 2 to 4 p.m.

ADJOURN

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



Mayor, Paul G. Davis



Town Clerk, Michael D. Cousar