

**TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
March 16, 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: Interim Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Attorney Timothy Snead, Town Clerk Michael Cousar, Police Chief Na'Shayla Nelson, Officer Patrick Hunt, Officer Christopher Parsons, Officer Raphael Mason, Public Works Director Preston McKenzie, 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

Adoption of Proposed Agenda

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

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Board Meeting of February 16, 2021
2. Minutes from Special Board Meeting of February 22, 2021
3. Tax Adjustments month of February 10, 2021 to March 8, 2021

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

Recognition:

1. Officers' Patrick Hunt and Christopher Parsons

Mayor Davis recognized both Officers' Patrick Hunt and Christopher Parsons for their actions taken on Tuesday February 23, 2021, while responding to a call for medical assistance. Officers' Hunt and Parsons helped a residential mother in labor deliver her baby boy before the Emergency Ambulatory Service arrived.

Old Business:

- a) Learning Academy Mold Removal

Mayor Davis requested a motion to move forward with the removal of mold from the Learning Academy building. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Gentry Restoration

Mayor Davis requested a motion to pay Gentry Restoration \$3,600 for services to remove the mold from the Learning Academy building. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

New Business:

a) Maxton Rescue Squad Update – Diane Dixon.

Mrs. Dixon thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak with them today and introduced her administrative team supporting the Maxton Rescue Squad: Mr. Wilbur Harris, Christy Lowry, and James Strickland. Mr. Harris thanked the Town of Maxton for supplying funds to restart the Rescue Squad and gave an overview of the current condition and needs of the Rescue Squad which currently stands at 25 members. Mrs. Christy Lowry proposed partnering with the Town of Maxton to start an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) class that would be free to residents volunteering with the Rescue Squad and beneficial to all parties. Mr. Strickland thanked the Town of Maxton for all they have done to restart the Rescue Squad.

b) Southeast Regional Airport Authority Update – Commissioner Womack.

Commissioner Womack briefed the Council on the changes of the Airport Board with the passing of Senate Bill 795. He spoke of the newly formed board structure and the new name change to the Southeast Regional Airport Authority, as well as the board members representing the Authority.

c) Museum Air Conditioner Replacement.

Mayor Davis requested a motion to approve A Plus quote of \$3,950.00 to replace the Museum air conditioner. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Womack. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Purchase of Police Department Vehicle.

Mayor Davis requested a motion to purchase Police Department vehicle. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Budget Amendment of \$10,000.00 to purchase Police Department Vehicle.

Mayor Davis requested a motion to amend the budget \$10,000 to purchase a Police Department vehicle. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

f) Interchange US 74 and NC 71 Lighting Project.

Mayor Davis recommended further discussion on the Interchange US 74 and NC 71 Lighting Project.

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.

Ms. Aggie Deese of 106 Smith Street Maxton, NC (910) 844-5946: Ms. Deese thanked the Interim Manager Angela Pitchford and her staff for helping cleaning up cemetery and mentioned the problem the town has with its abandon homes.

Mrs. Diane Dixon of 402 North Patterson Street Maxton, NC (910) 217-5400: Mrs. Dixon expressed the concerns of the owner of Bills Place to the Council of how dangerous our Main Street is with its lack of lighting.

REPORTS

Police Chief:

- Maxton Police Department is now meeting requirements for reporting to state and federal government in terms of crime trends.
- Purchased new recorder, Record Management System (RMS) server for better reporting and data collection, and a new radio system through the Cares Act.
- Police Department Policies and Training Manuals have been revised, department website is live and being used as a recruiting tool, and five (5) new officer's and one (1) dispatcher have been hired.
- Police Training: Police Department is in 100% compliance with the state mandated in-service training and have enrolled in RISKNET. RISKNET provides free training and other investigative resources for officers.
- Taskforce: Police Department has joined the multi-agency crime force, ALE is currently assisting with multiple ongoing investigations, and SBI is assisting with investigations.
- Funding: Police Department has acquired approximately \$123,700 in grant funding.
- Field Operations/Patrol Review: From March 2019 through March 2020 patrol officers responded to 6,404 calls for service and from March 2020 through March 2021 patrol officers responded to 9,065 calls for service.
- K-9 Program was re-implemented.
- Nuisance and Abatement: Police Department has disseminated a press release providing guidance concerning illegal dumping in the town with enforcement action and property owners with accumulated trash are being issued 15-day notices to comply with applicable ordinances in addition to civil citation and fine of \$500.00.
- Community Engagement: Police Department has hosted three (3) food drives feeding over 1,000 families, Shop with a Cop, collected coats for students at RB Dean, and participated in Back-to-School Drive-Thru and Halloween Night Trunk or Treat Drive-Thru.
- Moving forward: Vetting of the new Animal Control Officer candidates has started, a Commander's Corner will begin in late April that allows citizens to meet with senior staff to address concerns in the town, and the reformation of the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Town Manager:

- Duke Energy is working on the Main Street lights and the problem is a wiring issue.
- Chamber of Commerce had a leak that was fixed by Public Works that delayed the signing of the new lease. We are waiting to get in touch with Ms. Campbell to sign the lease.
- Public Works and Wastewater have worked diligently to clean up the Oak Grove Cemetery.
- Tax collecting percentage is at 78% plus and I continue to work hard to improve that percentage.
- Town is continuing to work on Code Enforcement and now are issuing citations to residents.
- Richard Jones of the Lumbee Tribe Council Number six (6) have called and advised they will be doing a Spring Clean at the Maxton Pond area on April 24, 2021. At 9:00 a.m.
- Still getting quotes for the Town Hall ceilings.

Commissioners:

Commissioner McDowell talked about getting the dates out to the residents for Spring Clean where they plan to put out their brown or bulk trash and have the town pick it up for them.

Commissioner Womack mentioned the trash build-up around the 74 and 71 bypasses and asked if the Towns' Public Works could coordinate and clean the area up bi-weekly as those areas are state responsibility but still reflects on the town.

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