

**TOWN OF MAXTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING  
April 20, 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, 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 March 16, 2021
2. Minutes from Special Board Meeting March 11, 2021
3. Minutes from Budget Workshop March 18, 2021
4. Minutes from Special Board Meeting March 30, 2021
5. Minutes from Special Board Meeting April 8, 2021

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

**Recognition:**

1. New Town Manager Affirmation

Mayor Davis spoke highly of Ms. Angela Pitchford's experience, many years of service to the Town of Maxton, and her unanimous select as the Town's new Manager. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson performed Ms. Pitchford's Oath of Office.

2. Town of Maxton Tree Board

Mayor Davis recognized the Town of Maxton Tree Board members Mr. Willis Sullivan, Mr. Robert Henderson, Mrs. Flora Morton, and Mr. Harold Maynard. He spoke briefly of their efforts to the community and the Town of Maxton receiving the 2020 Tree City USA recognition for the thirty-fourth (34) year. Mr. Willis Sullivan invited everyone to join the Tree Board in celebrating the Town's Arbor Day on April 23, 2021 at 10 a.m. on downtown Main Street.

**Old Business:**

a) Pay Classification Job Study

The Pay Classification Job Study was tabled with no action taken.

**New Business:**

a) Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) Projects.

Mayor Davis request to motion to approve the Transportation Alternative Program Projects. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Womack. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Town Property at 307 Florence Street.

Mayor Davis request to motion to have the Town Manager and Town Attorney take the necessary step to move forward in the sale of the Town's property located at 307 Florence Street Maxton, NC 28364. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Sustainable Utility Management.

Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman briefed the Board of Commissioners on a workshop put together by the North Carolina Rural Water Association on Sustainable Utility Management and encouraged the Board of Commissioner and Mayor to attend if possible on May 4, 2021, at the R. E. Community Bldg., 111 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street St Paul, North Carolina.

**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.

Reverend Michael Ellerbe of 606 Coral Street Maxton, NC, (910) 844-6304 and Ms. Gloria Taylor of 306 North Florence Street Maxton, NC, (757) 470-2244: Reverend Ellerbe spoke of helping the residents of Maxton gain more access to the COVID vaccine with future plans for a drive-thru vaccination clinic. Mrs. Taylor encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and stay safe.

Mr. James McEachin of 301 Croom Road Maxton, NC: Mr. McEachin thanked God and then thanked the Town Council and those involved in honoring and hiring a hometown girl (Ms. Angela Pitchford) who is so deserving of the position.

Mr. Willis Sullivan of 309 North Patterson Street Maxton, NC, (910) 844-6184: Mr. Sullivan stated moving Animal Control under the Police Department was a great move and would like to see more measures to help control the current problems residents are having with dogs in the town.

Ms. Geraldine McLaurin of 305 East Cottingham Street Maxton, NC, (910) 844-5765: Ms. McLaurin thanked the town for putting seats and trash cans in the park, recommended the town install cameras around town to caught litters, and look at addressing junked cars in residents yards.

## **REPORTS**

### Police Chief:

- Call for service in March 2020 were 391 vs 1,231 call for March 2021 showing an increase activity of almost 300%.
- Police Department donated bottled water and water bottles to the students of RB Dean. Due to COVID concerns water access at the school is limited.
- 300 hours of training was conducted in the month of March 2021. Two officers gained their radar certification and the department completed their Firearms training.
- Police Department purchased a new vehicle.
- Commanders Corner was held by Chief Na'Shayla Nelson on April 6, 2021, with no attendance.
- National Prescription Drug Take Back Day will be host by the Maxton Police Department on April 24, 2021, at the Police Station on 105 North Florence Street, Maxton NC 28364.
- Field Operations-Patrol:
  - a. Increase in property crime thefts for the month of March 2021. Asking all residents to secure their valuables and contact law enforcement if they see suspicious activity.
  - b. Asking residents to participate in the Neighborhood Watch Program.

### Town Manager:

- The Towns' Museum air conditioner has been replace and secured within a locked cage and effort to obtain more quotes on cages to secure other town owned air conditioning units is in process.

- Spring Clean will began on the 19<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2021.
- The Towns' Arbor Day celebration will be on April 23, 2021, at 10 a.m. The Tree Board will be planting a new tree on downtown Main Street in front of the Chef King restaurant.
- Public Works Department street sweeper and sanitation trucks are down. The town has an agreement with St. Pauls, NC to used their equipment when needed and in cases where trucks breakdown.
- Town Manger met with Chuck Miller of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) on the rerouting of large truck through downtown Maxton. Mr. Miller stated that at this time there is no feasible way to accomplish the rerouting. There is currently a feasibility study being done on the rerouting and Mr. Miller said he would try to add it to the State Transportation Improvement Program.
- The traffic light requested at the Rockingham Road and Patterson Street intersection was denied by DOT. Ms. Janet Robertson, the Rural Transportation Organization Planner with Lumber River Council of Governments researched the intersection and found there was no criteria for a traffic light at this time, but asked if the town would consider putting a round-about in this area.
- The North Carolina DOT Lightning Committee decided that the 71 bypass does not need any extra lightning at this time, but will repaint the highway lines for better viewing.
- The Town Manager asked the Board of Commissioners to review the Towns' ordinance on the ability of town residents to put double-wide homes in the town limits and Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) due to the numerous request of town residents.

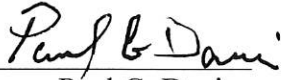
#### Commissioners:

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson stated he spoke with Ms. Patricia Hammonds of Work Force Development at the Lumber River Council of Government in Pembroke North Carolina about a new hiring program that would reimburse the town for new hires. The program will pay seventy-five percent (75%) of newly hired personnel salaries for six (6) months. He also spoke with David Richardson of the Lumber River Council of Government about the possibility of the Town of Maxton receiving six hundred and ninety thousand dollars (690k) from the American Rescue Plan. The Plan would likely pay three hundred and fourth-five thousand dollars (345K) in June 2021 and the remainder in 2022. He told the Town Manger that he would get with her to discuss the criteria for the funding.

Commissioner Womack mentioned the outstanding work of the Public Works Department to keep the 74 and 71 bypasses clean, the problem with the trash cans overflowing on Wilmington Street, and the broken windows of businesses on downtown Main Street.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Davis request to motion to adjourn the board meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson 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