

**TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
January 16, 2024 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.

Attendees: Mayor Christopher Bethea- McDougal, Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Michael Hines, Commissioner Paul McDowell (Absent), and Commissioner Victor Womack

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Amber Quatkemeyer, Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Police Chief Shirra Johnson (Absent), and Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

Call to Order- Mayor Christopher Bethea-McDougal

Invocation- Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson

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 Board Meeting of December 19, 2023
2. Tax Adjustment November 16, 2023 through January 12, 2024

Mayor Bethea- McDougal request a motion to approve Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Approval of Proposed Agenda:

Mayor Bethea- McDougal request a motion to approve Proposed Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Old Business:

- a) Robeson County Church and Community- Approval of agreement and area to place equipment

Mayor Bethea- McDougal ask if anyone was in attendance from Robeson County Church and Community, no one was in attendance for them. Manager Pitchford stated that this topic had been talked about in the work session. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson suggests that the Town

approve the proposal but measure the area by the football field to make sure the playground equipment will fit. Mayor Bethea-McDougal asks if that is the motion, Mayor Pro Tem replied yes, that is the motion and Commissioner Bethea seconded the Motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

New Business:

a) Election of Mayor Pro Tem

Mayor Bethea-McDougal opened the floor for nominations for the position of Mayor Pro Tem. Commissioner Womack made a motion to elect Commissioner Hutchinson Commissioner Hines Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson thank the Board for reelecting him as Mayor Pro Tem and stated he will do his best. He stated his goal is to support the community and move Maxton forward.

b) Beautification Board Applications

Mayor Bethea-McDougal stated there are three applicants but only two seats available at this time. He Ask the Board for any nominations and if anyone from the Board was in attendance. Commissioner Bethea replied yes, she is a member. Commissioner Womack made a motion to approve Ms. Bethea and Ms. Dixon's Applications. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Recreation Board Application

Mayor Bethea-McDougal asked for a motion to approve Angela McDougald's application. Commissioner Bethea stated she thought Recreation Board was full. Ms. Jamie Smith from recreation stated they are currently full. There is a discrepancy between Recreation's roster and the Town Clerks roster. Manager Pitchford Asked that the topic be tabled until we can find out for sure. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson Made a motion to table this topic Commissioner Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Well Contractor Video Inspection- Approval of Invoice

Mayor Bethea-McDougal ask for a motion. Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to approve and Commissioner Bethea seconded. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Planning and Zoning Board Application

Mayor Bethea-McDougal asked for a motion to approve Vincent Hall's application. Commissioner Bethea made the motion to approve and Mayor Pro Tem Seconded the motion. Commissioner Hines was opposed to the motion, however the motion was approved by majority vote. The motion carried

f) Civil Affairs use of Freight Building

Mayor Bethea-McDougal stated Civil Affairs would be using the building from March fourth through the eighth. He asked for a motion to approve the use. Commissioner Womack made the motion to approve and Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

g) Budget Amendment

Mayor Bethea-McDougal asked if there is a motion. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Public Forum: (2 MINUTES ONLY) NOTE: Please state your full legal name. The board & staff will not respond to individual comments or questions during the public forum. If you want our staff members to follow up with you, you can give your address and phone number to the Town Clerk.

Elizabeth Gilmore presented the winners of the Christmas decoration contest. As for the citizens 3rd place went to Ms. McNeil, 2nd place was Ms. Ellabe, and 1st place was Mr. McCray. For Businesses 2nd place went to No Loose Ends and 1st place was Little Mary's.

Aggie Deese stated that she cannot go two blocks without seeing burnt and dilapidated houses and would appreciate it if there was something the Town could do.

Allen Encinosa stated that he is concerned about the water conditions. Questioning what tests have been done and asking for more information from the state on if the water is safe. He also asked if citizens were going to continue getting charged for bad water because his home is spending over \$100 per month on bottled water.

Elizabeth Gilmore Stated that there are cars that constantly speed down highway 71. Stating the speed limit is 35 mph but traffic is going 60 mph and she can barely get out of her driveway. Police have given tickets but it doesn't seem to help.

Geraldine McLaurin stated there is an end to dilapidated houses in our ordinances. stating there are rules and regulations to end it.

Ishmel Graham stated he should be compensated for his water bill because his mother has cancer and she drinks the water.

Geraldine McLaurin stated his mother got an infection after her cataract surgery due to getting water in her eye.

Reports:

Public Works

Dennis Freeman spoke on the radium concern stating that he is working alongside Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson and Town Manager Pitchford. Informing the citizen that the Town is working with the state as well and that all testing that has been done since has come back at normal levels. They are working on doing a video inspection of the well that will be able to tell if there is anything down there that could have caused the spike.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson spoke on the notices from the state and let the citizens know that the state will not send notices out again until the water test are good for a period of time. Also the notice stated that the water is safe to use but if anyone had medical concerns to visit the doctor. He stated that the new well will cost a significant amount of money but will hopefully help. The

Town is talking to Representative Danny Britt and his team to try to help with funding. He stated the Town is doing everything the state is telling us to do and that is why the Town is having the video inspection done.

Recreation

Jamie Smith reported on Recreation stating the committee is currently working on the 2024 calendar. She also issued a reminder that the Recreation Committee is built up of volunteers. Ms. Smith stated that if anyone wants to volunteer to please come to the February 20th meeting to sign up.

Manager

Manager Pitchford stated she had met with the North Carolina Department of Transportation and Lumber River Council of Governments. Together they went over the Robeson County Comprehensive Transportation Plan and discussed sidewalks, bike lanes, and future street improvements. She stated this would be a thirty year plan. She also met with Civil Affairs and the 95th Brigade concerning community needs. As well as the Lumber River Council of Governments on the updates of our Zoning Ordinance 160-D and code enforcement.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Womack thanked the citizens for keeping the Town clean Stating we don't expect to be like UNCP but we can do better.

Mayor McDougal stated that the Dr. Martin Luther King Program was a blessing and he enjoyed hearing stories from the seniors who were alive during that time.

Adjourn

Mayor McDougal request to adjourn meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.


Mayor


Town Clerk