

TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
February 20, 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, and Commissioner Victor Womack

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Amber Quatkemeyer, Finance Director Myra Tyndell, Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Police Chief Shirra Johnson, and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

Call to Order- Mayor Christopher Bethea-McDougal

Invocation- Commissioner McDowell

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 January 16, 2024

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

Approval of Proposed Agenda:

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

Recognition:

- a) Proclamations for Former Elected Officials

Mayor Bethea-McDougal presented Former Mayor Paul Davis with a plaque and proclamation to recognize his hard work and dedication to the Town during his time of service. Mr. Davis was very appreciative thanking the Board and citizens. Mr. Davis stated that all of his service to humanity was the best work of his life. He said that if the Town continues to work together that we can continue to make Maxton a better place to live.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson Presented Former Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore with a plaque and Proclamation to recognize her hard work and dedication to the Town during her time of service. Mrs. Gilmore stated all she has ever known is public service and she will not stop now. She thanked the citizens and the Board for her recognition.

Presentation:

a) My Future is Brite Leadership Program- Michael Gales

Mr. Gales Thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to speak about the program. He began giving background about himself and how the business started. He stated that a part of his program is having veterans in schools to work hand in hand with school resource officers. That gives the access to reach out to the kids so they have someone to talk to and ask questions that they may not be able outside of that interaction. The program also has an athletic side with traveling teams to keep the kids busy and away from bad activities. The program also offers a teen table talk which give the kids a place where they can verbalize things they may not feel comfortable expressing in other environments. The children's parents are also encouraged to participate. He stated the he knows we currently have the Pals Program and he would love to partner with them. The program is currently in Fayetteville and he would love for it to come to Maxton because he wants to help as many kids as possible. He also offered athletic clinics to reach out to the kids as well.

Public Hearing:

a) CBDG-I

Mayor Bethea-McDougal introduced Monica Chevallier from Withersravenal to explain the Public Hearing. Ms. Chevallier stated the purpose of the public hearing is to clarify the project area for the project and allow residents an opportunity to express their views for the CBDG-I Grant # 20-I-3618; Water Infrastructure project. PROJECT DESCRIPTION: In April 2021, the Town was awarded a total of \$1,999,299 in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CBDG-I funds (100% of total project costs) from NC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Division of Water Infrastructure (DWI). The original approved project scope included the following major activities: Like-for-like replacement of approximately 12,729 LF of aged 4 and 6-inch diameter water mains on portions of McCaskill, Cottingham, Graham, Central, First, Hooper, Henderson, Martin Luther King Jr., Holly, and Sixth Streets that experience frequent failures. After three rounds of advertising for construction bids, the project scope was negotiated with the lowest responsive responsible bidder. Due to bid prices received, the **Amendment 1** project construction scope will be reduced down to replacement of approximately 5,695 LF of aged 2-6" diameter water mains on portions of McCaskill, Cottingham, Graham, Central, Hooper, Henderson, and Holly streets. The base bids and alternate bids received were more than the available CBDG budget. To reduce the construction scope, first all the alternate bids were removed from consideration. Then, project area segments to be addressed were selected by ranking the low- and moderate-income (LMI) percentage per water line segment. The ranking came from the grant application phase when households were surveyed for income to determine benefit to LMI households. The project must benefit as many LMI households as possible to meet national CBDG requirements. The project's original LMI was approximately 78.91% while the updated LMI is approximately 97.72%. The project area has a population that is at least 51% LMI, and therefore, 100% of the CBDG funds will be used to benefit LMI persons. The attached maps show the alternate bid area, the base bid area, and the

final reduced construction scope. She asked if anyone had any questions. No questions arose and no discussion.

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested to motion to close the public hearing. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion to go into a five minute recess. Commissioner Womack made the motion and Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Old Business:

a) FY 2022-2023 Audit Review by Lee Grissom

Mr. Grissom stated there were no internal control findings and the Town's books are in great shape. There were also no budget findings and no difficulty with management. The audit was done on time and no disagreements. The general fund is strong but the utility fund needs improvement. Commissioner Womack asked Mr. Grissom how we compare to other towns our size. Mr. Grissom stated that the general fund is really strong on our level but it does seem that all smaller municipalities struggle in utility funds. No other questions were ask.

b) Brianna Goodwin- Robeson County Church and Community

Ms. Goodwin stated there will be a few design meeting around June or July and hopefully the build of the playground equipment will take place in September. A committee will need to be formed that will be responsible for helping design and plan the build when the time comes. The committee will be required to be at those meetings and giving their feedback on what type of equipment would be beneficial. She asked if there were any question and no questions arose. Ms. Goodwin stated that she can come back anytime the Board would like her to give updates.

New Business:

a) Adopt Minutes from CDBG-I Public Hearing

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion to approve the minutes. Commissioner Womack made the motion and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Adopt CDBG-I Amendment Resolution

Mayor Bethea-McDougal asked Monica Chevallier to give the board insight on this. Ms. Chevallier stated the bid had been up three times and only received one bidder and normally they would have to get three bidders and pick the best one. However they never received more than the one bid but it was for 3.3 million dollars which was 1.3 million over. Because of the cost and scope of work not lining up the scope of work had to be reduced so that we can proceed. Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner Womack made the motion and Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Adopt CDBG-I Tentative Award Resolution

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion to adopt the resolution. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Adopt CDBG-I Procurement Policy and Plan for Grantees Resolution

Ms. Chevallier informed the Board that they have already gone through the procurement of this plan. What needs to be adopted is the updated procurement policy and nothing else will need to be done by adopting this resolution. Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to adopt the resolution and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Amendment for Planning- Zoning Board Bylaws

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell asked it could be open for discussion. Mayor Bethea-McDougal opened for discussion. Commissioner McDowell stated that reducing it from ten members to seven is fine but we need to specify how many people from the Town. Commissioner McDowell suggest there be five members from the Town, one from Scotland County, and one from Robeson County. Mayor Bethea-McDougal asked if that is the motion. Commissioner McDowell said yes, Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

f) Approval of Tsurumi Pump for Wastewater Plant

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner Womack made the motion to approve and Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

g) Approval of Ordinance Declaring Road Closures for 150th Birthday Parade

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

h) Amendment to Budget

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the amendment and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

i) Well Cleaning, Repair, and Pump System

Mayor Bethea-McDougal ask Dennis Freeman to speak on this matter. Mr. Freeman stated that is the cost to get that pump back into working order. This well will enable us to stop the well that the radium hit was at so that we can begin to look for a new well. Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the cost and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson 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.

Diane Dixon thanked Dennis, John, and Jamerle for getting the time capsule out of the ground but unfortunately everything inside of it was ruined due to water. She stated there will still be a birthday celebration but there will not be a time capsule reveal.

Sandra McCallum request a digital sign for information and would like a response to her request in thirty days.

Mickea Fuller stated her and her husband are new to the Town. They are opening a new business coming soon and hopes that it will do good for the town.

Reports:

Recreation

Jamie Smith reported on Recreation stating the committee currently has the food pantry happening February 22, a senior bingo night on March 12, and spring festival on April 6. She said that if anyone wants to be a vendor or donate to let Recreation know.

Police Department

Chief Johnson stated that calls have gone up. The Police Department has retrieved ten

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