

**TOWN OF MAXTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
March 19, 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 (absent), 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 February 20, 2024
2. Tax adjustment from January 13, 2024, through March 13, 2024

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

**Approval of Proposed Agenda:**

Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to add an item to new business regarding the purchase of an aerator for the Town at the cost of \$12,000.00 Commissioner Womack seconded that motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to add to closed session to the end of the agenda for the Board to consult with the Attorney. Commissioner Womack seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous and the motion carried. The 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.

**Old Business:**

a) Budget Amendment- Well Cleaning, Repair, and Pump System- \$49179.17

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

b) Budget Amendment- Tsurumi Pump at wastewater plant- \$6185.14

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Amended Grant Project Ordinance for Maxton American Rescue Plan Act of 2021

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

d) Landscape Issue- Do we re-bid or go with next lowest bidder

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to rebid the proposed landscape work after preparing a uniform set of guidelines upon which all bids would be based. Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson suggest the Town arrange a pre-bid meeting wherein any interested bidders will be required to meet to discuss the requirements and expectations of the project. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**New Business:**

a) Approval of Stormwater Master Plan

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the Stormwater Master Plan and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Approval of Special Use Variance- 208 South Patterson Street

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion to approve the variance at 208 South Patterson Street and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Approval of letter to NC Dept of State Treasurer

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the letter to the NC Dept of State Treasurer and Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Possible Dates for Board Retreat- April 5, April 26, or May 3

The Board reached a consensus to conduct the Board retreat with assistance from the Lumber River Council of Governments (David Richardson) on April 26 at 10:00 a.m.

e) Budget Amendment – Accepting ABC funds of \$10,000.00 which would be used for public safety overtime

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

f) Approval of aerator purchase for the Town- \$12,000.00

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner Womack made the motion to approve the budget amendment 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.

James McDougald expressed concerns regarding recent fires and squatters in homes throughout the Town, emphasizing the need to close vacant properties. He also asked that the Board be more transparent in the actions being taking to correct the issues surrounding the properties.

Geraldine McLaurin stated that the council should take into consideration the vacant homes during the budget planning.

Sandra McCallum emphasized the need to look into the demolition of the dilapidated properties. Expressing concern that the buildings could hurt someone if they are not demolished.

### **Reports:**

#### **Police Department**

Chief Johnson stated that calls have gone up. The Police Department has taken numerous guns off the streets this month and is looking into buying multipurpose dogs to assist the officers.

#### **Town Manager**

Ms. Pitchford stated she has been in talks with public works about the smaller dilapidated houses. She has also been working with Commissioner Bethea and North Carolina Regional Fitness discussing a possible outdoor gym at Region Park. It would include an area for class and possibly yoga. She stated that the Town is trying to get the Police Department built and fixing the old building to be used for the community. The proposed contractors are suggesting tearing the current building down and rebuilding on that site. Also spring cleaning will take place April 13- 20.

#### **Commissioners Report**

Commissioner Womack stated that the Town is looking into the digital sign that was requested during the February meeting.

Mayor McDougal thanked everyone for coming out and he looks forward to seeing everyone at the pep rally and parade in April.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made a motion to go into closed session and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Closed Session**

§ 143-318.11. Closed sessions. (a) Permitted Purposes. – It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required: (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged. General policy matters may not be discussed in a closed session and nothing herein shall be construed to permit a public body to close a meeting that otherwise would be open merely because an attorney employed or retained by the public body is a participant. The public body may consider and give instructions to an attorney concerning the handling or settlement of a claim, judicial action, mediation, arbitration, or administrative procedure. If the public body has approved or considered a settlement, other than a malpractice settlement by or on behalf of a hospital, in closed session, the terms of that settlement shall be reported to the public body and entered into its minutes as soon as possible within a reasonable time after the settlement is concluded.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made a motion to return from closed session and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Adjourn**

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

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Mayor

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Town Clerk