

**TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
October 19, 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 (absent), Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack.

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Michael Cousar, Police Chief Na' Shayla Nelson, Public Works Director Preston McKenzie, Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

Formal Session: Call Meeting to Order- Mayor Paul G. Davis

Invocation: Commissioner Gilmore

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.

Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from Board Meeting of September 21, 2021.
2. Tax Adjustments month of September 8 - October 13, 2021.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Adopt the Proposed Agenda

Mayor Davis request a motion to adopt the Proposed Agenda. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution to Adopt Compliance Plans for CDBG-I (Infrastructure) Project.

Mayor Davis request a motion to adopt Compliance Plans for CDBG-I (Infrastructure) Project. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Dr. Leslie Sessoms – President of Ministers For Justice Organization in Robeson County.

Dr. Sessoms spoke about her organization (Ministers For Justice) and how they can and want to partner with the Town of Maxton to promote equity for all in the area. They are an ethnically diverse group of eight (8) ministers working together to promote unity and justice in Robeson community.

- b) Approve Low Income Household Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Water and Wastewater Vendor Agreement.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Low Income Household Assistance Program (LIHWAP) Water and Wastewater Vendor Agreement. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- c) Approve Data Share/Use Agreement with NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services and Data Recipient.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Data Share/Use Agreement with NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services and Data Recipient. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Womack. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- d) Approve Proclamation – Safety First on Halloween.

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Safety First on Halloween Proclamation. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

PUBLIC FORUM (2 MINUTES ONLY) NOTE: Please state your full legal name, address, and phone number the board & staff will not respond to individual comments or questions during the public forum. The appropriate staff member will follow up if needed.

Carol Bethea, 19 Martin Luther King Drive, Maxton, 910-414-2654. Ms. Bethea spoke of a shooting that occurred on September 12, 2021, and wanted to address it with the Maxton Chief of Police. She felt that she was treated unfairly in the shooting incident and mentioned another shoot after the first incident. She said she was receiving threats, did not feel safe, and just needs help with the matter.

Mrs. Diane Dixon, 402 North Patterson Street, Maxton, 910-217-5400. Mrs. Dixon spoke about how at the last town meeting she was hit with plaster falling from the chamber ceiling, the poor condition of the building within town, and how no one follows up on comments and questions presented during the Public Forum.

Ms. Debra Braddy, 64 Fence Road, Maxton, 910-390-9236. Ms. Braddy addressed the shooting incident on September 12, 2021. She stated that she called the police department on the day of the shooting for help and said they had no one to send to her aide and received the same response for the shooting that followed. She said the town needed more police officer to protect and serve the Town of Maxton.

Ms. Myra Love, 3185 NC Hwy 71, Maxton, 910-844-2265. Ms. Love spoke of the shooting incident that occurred on October 4, 2021, and the involvement of both parts. She feels her family is not safe and wants the police department to address the matter.

Mr. James McDougal, 383 Hwy 71, Maxton, 336-426-6966. Mr. McDougal said the towns' police response to crime is not there for the community and that it is more reactive than proactive. He mentioned

the street in front of his business as being like a drag strip. He said we, the police department, Board, and community must do something.

Mrs. Jamie Smith, (910) 785-2665, Maxton. Mrs. Smith spoke representing the Recreation Committee and community. She talked about concerns of not taking care of the Town of Maxton first as a non-profit organization was giving support and assistance that she feels was unfair. She mentioned the inabilities of the Recreation Committee to provide support to the youth and to work together with the Beautification Committee, and events held by the Recreation Committee for the month of September 2021.

Ms. Aggie Deese, 106 Smith Street, Maxton, 910-844-5946. Ms. Deese asked those in attendance to give a donation to the Town Recreation Committee.

Mrs. Mary McNeil, 407 West Central Street, Maxton, 910-217-9294. Mrs. McNeil said the Recreation Committee needs funding and support to help the community.

REPORTS

Police Chief:

Police Chief Na'Shayla Nelson deviated from her report to address the concerns presented in the Public Forum by town residents. Chief Nelson stated that there is an influx in calls for service, 400 more calls at this same time last year and with the same overall number of staffing (10). The Police Department has reached each out and currently are being assisted by the state police, Scotland County, Robeson County, and commissioners. She said arrest have been made in each of the shooting incidents and that the information has been released to the media. Chief Nelson said she is always available to the community.

Commissioner McDowell said the town is two (2) weeks away from the November 2, 2021, Municipal Election and that we have two seats open.

Commissioner Bethea mentioned that Christmas trees are on sale for \$75.00.

Mayor Davis said that Chief Nelson has been working diligently to organize the Community Watch Program and that no one from the community has assisted in the program. He told all in attendance that we must do our part to help out the community.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6)-to discuss personnel issues only and consult with Town Attorney. **Pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11. Closed sessions. (a) Permitted Purposes. (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**

Mayor Davis request a motion to go into Closed Session. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Womack. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Mayor Davis request a motion to close Closed Session. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Womack. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Commissioner McDowell made a motion to extend Town Manager move into town limits to March 2022, and it was seconded by Commissioner Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Mayor Davis request a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.



Mayor, Paul G. Davis



Town Clerk, Michael D. Cousar