

**TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
May 20, 2025 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 (Absent), Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Michael Hines (Absent), Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Amber Quatkemeyer, Finance Director Jasmin Mason (absent), Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Interim Police Chief Schirra Johnson, Public Works Director Desoney Diggs, 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 Work Session of April 15, 2025
2. Minutes from Board Meeting of April 15, 2025
3. Minutes from Budget Retreat of April 23, 2025
4. Minutes from Special Meeting of April 30, 2025

Mayor Bethea- McDougal request 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.

Approval of Proposed Agenda:

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

Public Hearing:

Mayor Bethea- McDougal request a motion to open the Public Hearing. Commissioner Womack made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Manager Pitchford explained that the Board is set to approve a 15% increase in the water rate that would take effect July 1, 2025. She went on to add that the increase would enable the Town revenue to increase enabling the Town to do much needed work on the Town's infrastructure. Mayor Bethea- McDougal asked the citizens if there are any questions. There was no community involvement during the Public Hearing period.

Mayor Bethea- McDougal request a motion to closed the Public Hearing. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

New Business:

a) Approval of the Water Rate Increase

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion to approve the water rate increase of 15 percent. Commissioner Womack made the motion to approve the 15 percent increase and Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Amendment of the Water Policy

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion to amend the water rate policy to reflect the updated water rates. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Replacement of the Learning Academy Roof

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the lowest bidder (Roof it Rite) at a total of \$18, 200.00 and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Replacement of the Flow Meter at the Water Plant

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve Charles R. Underwood for a total of \$6,890.00 and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Street Sweeper

Water/ Wastewater supervisor Dennis Freeman explained to the Board that while looking into the option of trading in the current street sweeper he had been informed that the trade in value is only \$10,000.00 while the Town still owes upward of \$55, 000.00 on the original loan. Mr. Freeman suggest fixing the current street sweeper and having the company come to do training with the employees to help mitigate the need of constant repairs.

f) Removal of Two Dilapidated Properties

Mayor Bethea-McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the lowest bidder (Corey Locklear) at a total of \$10, 350.00 and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

g) Resolution of Support to Abandon Trooper Lane
Mayor Bethea- McDougal request a motion. Commissioner McDowell asked if the City of Laurinburg has also committed to the Resolution of support. Clerk Quatkemeyer explained that the City Manager has stated that the City of Laurinburg is in full support but the matter had not been voted on as of yet. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to table until the June Meeting and it was seconded by Commissioner Womack. 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.

John Michael Beranek expressed concern about the water main failures asking if there is a long term fix for the constant breaks. He also expressed concern about the police department stating that he had called the police department's non-emergency number about possible criminal activity within Scotland Forest and was told by dispatch that Scotland Forest is not within the Towns' jurisdiction.

Reports:

Recreation

Sandra McCallum reported for Recreation stating that there will be a food giveaway on May 22, 2025 for Maxton residence only.

Police Department

Chief Johnson reported that there were 269 calls for service and 127 cases that were currently opened.

Manager

Manager Pitchford explained that the Town has begun finishing the new playground and while doing so have had to clean up twenty beer bottles and other trash. She expressed how disheartening it is that these items are out there when it is made to be a safe space for children and families to enjoy. Manager Pitchford went on to add that prior to the meeting plumbers had to be called to the Freight building due to copper pipes being stolen from under the building.

Commissioners Report

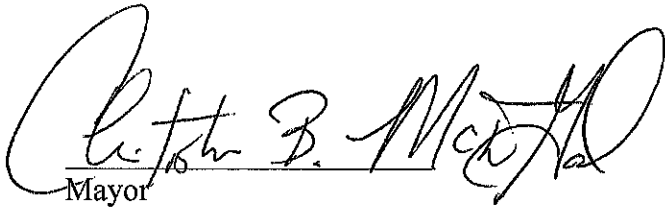
Commissioner McDowell stated that the ministerial alliance will be doing a walk through prayer at Townsend on May 27, 2025 at 9:00 am if anyone would like to join.

Commissioner Bethea stated that she would like to have cameras put in at the park to cut down on foul behaviors.

Mayor Bethea-McDougal thanked everyone for coming out and wished everyone a safe evening.

Adjourn

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


Mayor


Town Clerk