

The Maxton Board of Commissioners met in Special Work Session meeting for the purpose of discussing the Council Retreat with the following members present:

Mayor Gladys Dean
Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Morton
Commissioner Ray Oxendine
Commissioner Sallie McLean
Commissioner Vivian Morrison
Commissioner James McClanathan

Staff present: Town Manager Tatum and Town Clerk Roberson

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dean gave the welcome, declared a quorum present and called the March 4, 2008 Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 7:00 p.m. Commissioner Oxendine gave the invocation.

Mayor Dean stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the Council Retreat. She and Mayor Pro Tem Morton sent out a memorandum and retreat agenda on February 25, 2008. This meeting is called at the request of Commissioner McLean and Commissioner Morrison.

Commissioner Morrison stated that in response to the memo, she is not pointing fingers at anyone. She was elected by the citizens of Maxton and they put their trust in her. She stated that Maxton is a Mayor-Council form of government. She said that she takes exception that the memo was drafted by Mayor Dean and Mayor Pro Tem Morton. Her concerns include the manager evaluation, the strategic plan and there is nothing on the budget. It was her understanding that the Manager and Mayor would plan the retreat as said on the night of the meeting and it appears from the tone of the letter that the Manager was left out of the loop. This means that the form of government that we have is not taking place. Commissioner Morrison went on to say that she is thoroughly against it and that we should work together cohesively to help Maxton to grow and progress.

Commissioner McLean stated that she concurs with Commissioner Morrison. She feels that this date does not allow enough time to have a retreat that will be beneficial nor does it allow the manager and staff to prepare. She corrected the form of government that was mentioned by Commissioner Morrison to reflect that we are a "council-manager" form of government. She went on to say that we really should know where we need to be and that the role of Mayor is not the role of Town Manager. Commissioner McLean said that she doesn't want us to be in a position where we are paying someone and not letting them do their job. The Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem should keep the manager in the loop. Even though it is a proposed agenda, we should have had input in it. As I (Commissioner McLean) have said before, "back up and let her do her job and she is doing an excellent job". She suggested to Mayor Dean that she go back and reevaluate her duties. This is the first time that I have been on the Board that I feel there is no direction. She has not been here long enough to evaluate her. She has not been the manager for a year and some members have not been on the Board for a year.

Commissioner Morrison stated that she would like to have been more involved in the process of the proposed agenda. She stated that the agenda needs to be revamped or tabled.

Commissioner McLean stated that there appears to be no communication and it does not flow.

Commissioner Oxendine stated that he did not take it that way and does not feel slighted. He stated that he figured that when he attends the workshop he will have input.

Mayor Pro Tem Morton stated that this is an outline of a starting agenda of 5 years ago. It was sent out as a proposed outline to amend or change. He said that the Town Manager's contract talks of an evaluation in 6 months. When we left the meeting a month ago, we were to set a date for Jim Perry to facilitate. Our retreats use to be held in February. Jim Perry was contacted and he agreed to that particular week. This was an outline not the agenda to go by that we had when maybe Eric, maybe Jim Perry was here. Mayor Pro Tem Morton stated that he too has been on this Board for over 13 years and nobody is trying to take over or change anything.

Commissioner McClanathan stated that he doesn't think that we are in the right atmosphere for what we are doing. He stated that if you are having a problem with an issue with either the Mayor or a Commissioner, that you should talk to them outside of the chambers. It makes us look petty that we are airing our dirty laundry in an open session in the Town of Maxton. The memorandum says, please do not hesitate to call either of us should you have questions or suggestions. Another section says, we appreciate your comments and input at our next Council meeting. He said that he doesn't see this as anything other than an outline. As far as the manager evaluation – I don't see this as a time we can evaluate her, we are not at that point. In the retreat we can write up and/or talk about what we can look for to evaluate. Give her some guidelines and directions. He said that he didn't see any complaint in what is in the memo. After you give some directions then you can evaluate. He stated that he has been a manager for more than 30 years of his life and you have to have concrete guidelines.

Mayor Dean stated that we are a "council-manager" form of government. The Manager works at the pleasure of the Council. The Mayor chairs the Board of Commissioners. It is up to the majority of the Board to give direction to the Manager. None of that has been violated. You as the Board of Commissioners decided to hold the retreat to discuss goals for the Town. This memorandum was an attempt to get the ball rolling. So the Mayor Pro Tem and I met with the facilitator, we are requesting that the Board of Commissioners and the Town Manager give input.

Commissioner Morrison stated that her concern was that you met with the facilitator.

Mayor Dean stated that she called the Town Clerk and asked her to type the memorandum and she said that she did not have time. She was going out of town for the week.

Commissioner McLean said that at the last meeting, Mayor Dean said that she would get up with the Town Manager later to work with her on planning the retreat.

Commissioner Morton stated that he was appointed with mixing the impossible. Having come thru with that is making him look like a gang war is going on. He asked the Board if they would like to cancel the retreat.

Commissioner McLean motioned to table the retreat and give Town Manager Tatum a later date and time to pull the material(s) together. Commissioner Morrison seconded. Discussion. The vote: Favor - 4 – Mayor Pro Tem Morton, Commissioner Morrison, Commissioner McLean and Commissioner McClanathan. Against-1 – Commissioner Oxendine.

Mayor Dean asked the Board if they would like to set another date or set the date after discussion with Town Manager Tatum. Mayor Pro Tem Morton stated that his next weekend available will be the third weekend in April. Mayor Dean said that she was sorry if she caused any confusion. She thought it was in the best interest to pull together an agenda. She went on to say that her role as Mayor has not been violated or ineffectively executed. She stated that she will meet with Town Manager Tatum.

Commissioner McClanathan motioned that we charge the Town Manager with the responsibility of formulating a tentative date among the Mayor, Commissioners, Manager and her staff and come up with a tentative date that will be approved hopefully by our next meeting so that we can set a date for the retreat at our next meeting. Commissioner Morrison seconded. Discussion. Commissioner McClanathan – I am asking that the Town Manager be charged with the responsibility of polling those people that need to come to the meeting, come up with a tentative date that can be used by all of us and then we can focus on that date at our next meeting. The motion carried.

Adjournment

Mayor Dean entertained the motion to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Commissioner McClanathan motioned to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Morton seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Gladys Dean

Town Clerk Jacqueline B. Roberson, CMC