

The Town of Maxton Board of Commissioners held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 16, 2008 with the following members present:

Mayor Gladys M. Dean
Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Morton
Commissioner Vivian
Commissioner Ray Oxendine

Those absent were:

Commissioner Sallie McLean
Commissioner James McClanathan

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gladys M. Dean called the Regular Meeting of the Town of Maxton Board of Commissioners to order, gave the welcome and called a quorum of the Town of Maxton Board of Commissioners at 7:30 pm. Commissioner Morrison gave the Invocation

Consent Agenda

- **Minutes:**

Regular Meeting: August 19, 2008

Mayor Dean entertained the motion to accept the Regular Meeting minutes of August 19, 2008. Commissioner Ray Oxendine made the motion; Commissioner Vivian Morrison seconded motion. The vote was unanimous.

Commissioner Morrison made a motion to add the Maxton Chamber of Commerce and the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Award.

New Business

1. Spanish Classes

Enrique J. Porrua, Library Board member and his wife are willing to offer Spanish language classes to the community of Maxton free of charge. The classes will be held in the Resource Center provided there is enough interest. The ideal schedule will be Monday and Wednesday from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm for the first session and from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm for the second session. In order for this to work well, a minimum class of 4 is needed. However, they will accept any number of students over 4. No current knowledge of Spanish is necessary; participants may start at any level. No text books are required.

2. Financial Management Policies

The Purchase Procedures (Contracts & Bidding requirements)-FN01, Purchase Requisitions-FN-02, Balancing Standards, an Internal Control Policies are presented in the work session folder for your review. These policies were included in your packets in the financial folder last month. If you have not already read them, please do so. We would like to officially adopt these policies.

3. St. Matthews AME Zion Church Response – PALS Center

A letter of interest to St. Matthews AME Zion Church concerning the proposed PALS Center site. The church has declined to accept the \$12,000 budgeted for the site and proposed the sale price of \$33,440. They have also requested that the Mayor and two commissioners participate in the negotiations.

4. NC Small Town Main Street Program – Grant Award and Participation Resolution

Secretary of Commerce James Fain and Bob Murphrey, Program Director of the North Carolina Small Town Main Street Program notified us that the Town of Maxton has been selected to participate. At the June Board Meeting, I presented a request to apply for this designation. The following is a summary about the program:

The Small Town Main Street Program addresses the growing number of small, rural towns that need downtown development assistance but are not likely, due to size or resource limitations, to pursue the regular Main Street program. Selected communities receive on-site technical assistance from the Small Town Main Street staff including:

- Organizational development
- Market analysis

- Business assistance
- Promotions
- Design

As previously mentioned, there is no local match for this program. Please review the documents in your work session folder for details concerning an organization meeting, which is scheduled for the 24th. The schedule for the day's activities are also included. You will be individually notified with further details.

5. USDA Housing Preservation Grant Award

The Town was notified by Congressman Mike McIntyre that the Town of Maxton has been awarded \$90,393.45 in USDA Housing Preservation Grant funds. You approved application to USDA some time ago for a \$95,000 grant to defray rehabilitation costs associated with the CDBG Revitalization Grant for the Graham Street area. The local match used to secure the CDBG Grant was also used to apply for these funds.

6. North Carolina Department of Transportation – Memorandum of Agreement

In order to participate in the NC DOT emergency removal of debris program during a State of Disaster or Imminent Threat of Disaster and/or a State of Emergency Declared pursuant to Chapters 14 and 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes, the town must enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with DOT. This agreement allows the town to secure funds and assistance in the event a substantial amount of debris is received during a state of emergency.

7. North Carolina League of Municipality – Wellness Initiative

Some time ago, the NCLM presented their Wellness Initiative for your consideration. At that time the cost per employee, depending on the status of the employee was \$150-\$350. The NCLM is now offering this program to the town free of charge for each employee currently enrolled in the League's Medical and Worker Comp Programs. I have already requested enrollment and await the registration of our employees. During this program medical screenings are done and a wellness plan is developed for each employee. If an employee drops out of the program, the cost will be \$150.00. However, if an employee chooses to enroll in the program, they will be required to commit to payment of that fee in the event that they decide to drop out.

8. The North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program – Laurinburg-Maxton Airport

The North Carolina Highway Historical Marker Program, which erects approximately 10 historic markers per year, has included the Laurinburg-Maxton Airport in its program in recognition of its history as a military air base. When erected, it will be located at the Hwy 74 and Airport Road interchange. The sign is made of cast aluminum and is silver with raised black lettering. It has already been made and reflects the following language:

US Army Air Force
Glider Base, 1942-1945
Trained Units Acting In
D-Day Assault, June 6,
1944 Field 3 Mi. N

They would like for the town to set a date for an unveiling if you choose to have a ceremony. With your approval, Paul Davis and I will make the preparations for the celebration. Mr. Hill, the director of the program suggests that Mr. Winston Tornell be asked to speak because he is familiar with the base when it was an Air Force Facility. He also indicated that we may want to have as many Veterans attend as possible and invite the press.

9. Maxton Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Gary Gallman came before the board to request that the Town absorb the cost for repairs needed at the Chamber of Commerce Building and a new air conditioner. He stated that the Chamber had not been able to meet in their building because of the repairs needed and a lack of funds to make the repairs. He also requested that the lease agreement be renegotiated in an effort to ease the financial burden on the Chamber. Questions were entertained by Mr. Gallman and Manager Tatum from the board.

After a brief discussion Mayor Pro Tem Morton made a motion to approve the repairs and the purchase of an air conditioner for the Chamber. The motion included an instruction that the Manager and Mr. Gallman meet to draft lease terms. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Morrison. The vote was unanimous.

10. 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant

Commissioner Morrison announced that the Town has been awarded the of a \$78,000 per year, 3 year grant from the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. She thanked Roger Sheats and the NC STEP Education Committee for their efforts in conjunction with writing the grant.

Commissioners Oxendine gave a report about the cleanliness of the cemeteries and asked about the status of St. George United Methodist Church. Ms. Tatum responded that the church stopped using the Family Resource Center in June as instructed by the Board.

Manager's Report

A. NC STEP – The NC STEP monthly meeting was held Thursday, September 4, 2008. There was a small reception to celebrate the approval of the \$200,000 NC STEP grant approval. Art Jackson, Yolanda Burwell and Roger Sheets were in attendance to join in on the celebration.

B. URGENT REPAIR PROGRAM – Most of our units are complete or bid out and waiting the contracting. A monitoring visit was held with Cal Jordan, the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency program representative on July 10, 2008. The findings should no significant deficiencies.

C. CDBG – The Wooten Company has completed the plans for the PALS Center. Warren Wooten prepared the grant documents for submission to the North Carolina Community Development Initiative for consideration of a \$100,000 award. Steve Player of the Wooten Company and I have talked with USDA Rural Development about grant funds to supplement this project. Although they can not start the process to commit funds for the project, they are very interested in a collaborative effort to build the center. We are continuing efforts to explore additional funds to build a larger facility.

D. DOWNTOWN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT –All contracts for Progress Energy have been signed and returned. Embarq has indicated that the cost to install will be approximate \$26,000. Koonce Noble and Associates has sent the current plans and bid proposal to the state for approval prior to bidding out the project. The state is still in the review process.

E. CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND – The state has approved the revised cost plans for this project and all grant agreement documents have been executed and sent back to the state. The town will be required to contribute another \$20,000 to secure the \$2,000,000+- in grant funds. Our initial investment was \$60,000.

F. NEW AND OLD WATER TOWERS – All work is complete on both water towers. Staff is isolating the water lines for better distribution of the water.

G. S. Preston Douglass and Associates are performing the preliminary work to complete the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 audit report. John Masters will meet with staff on September 16, 2008 to complete final preparations for audit completion.

H. The AC Shultes has completed its examination of our new well. They have estimated a cost of \$31,200 to repair. Apparently some concessions were made by either our consultant or the town, which cause severe malfunctions in the well mechanism leading to the breakdown of the well. Staff is in the process of getting two additional bids

I. One-Stop Voting Center – The North Carolina Board of Elections canceled the September 4, 2008 meeting to determine the fate of the Maxton One-Stop Voting Center. The meeting was rescheduled for September 12, 2008.

Police Report

Chief McDowell gave a report on the Crime Stopper's Program and reported the first fundraisers.

Announcements

- 1. The Robeson County Municipal Association will be hosted by the Town of Red Springs. It will be held at the Community Center on Cross Street, on September 25th, at 7:00 pm.**
- 2. You are invited to the Town of Rowland's Chamber of Commerce Building Grand Opening and NC STEP "Kick-Off" Celebration which will be held September 20, 2008. The Grand Opening will be located at 208 East Main Street and the Kick-Off will be held in the park located on the corner of East McCormick and South Watson Streets. See the FYI folder for scheduling details.**
- 3. The Annual Collard Festival will be held on November 8, 2008, from 9:00 – 5:30. Maxton Under the Stars will begin at 5:30pm. Mayor Dean is looking for volunteers to assist with the planning of this event.**
- 4. The Robeson County Church and Community Center will have their 2007-2008 Annual Meeting and celebration Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 6:30 pm. It will be held at the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church on the corner of Chestnut and 8th Streets, in Lumberton.**
- 5. Purnell Swett High School Booster Club is having a membership drive. The Levels of participation are as follows: One-\$25.00, Two-\$50, Three-\$75 and Four-\$100.00 per year. Contact the school if you wish to participate.**
- 6. The NCLM Centennial Conference will take place October 12-14, 2008. Anyone interested in attending must notify staff before 5:00 pm September 16, 2008. Staff can not register you without your input.**
- 7. The First Annual Benefit for the Redhill Community Recovery Center, located at 3163 Redhill Road, Maxton, NC will be held on October 17, 2008 at 10:00 am.**

8. Internationally acclaimed author, Miss P.M. Terrell, will have a book signing at the Osterneck Auditorium, Thursday, September 18, 2008 at 7:00 pm. There is no cost for attendance.

Public Forum

Former Mayor Lillie McKoy came forward to commend Commissioner Morrison and Manager Tatum on their work in conjunction with the successful 21st Century Community Learning Center grant and commended all who worked on the NC Step Program.

David McEachin reported on the upcoming Christmas Parade.

Closed Session

Mayor Pro Tem Morton made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mayor Pro Tem Morton made a motion to come out of closed session. Commissioner Morrison seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Adjournment

Mayor Gladys M. Dean entertained the motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Morton motioned to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Oxendine. The vote was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Mayor Gladys M. Dean

Katrina Tatum, Town Clerk