

**TOWN OF MAXTON, NORTH CAROLINA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
September 19, 2023, 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 Paul Davis (absent), Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack (absent).

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Town Clerk Michael Cousar, Finance Ursula Goins, Police Chief Johnson, Accounts Payable Jasmin Mason, Public Works Director Preston McKenzie, and Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

Call to Order- Mayor Paul G. Davis

Invocation- Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson

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.

Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson recused himself from New Business item a) Maxton Housing Authority Board Application.

Approval of Consent Agenda:

- a) Minutes from Special Meeting of August 2, 2023
- b) Minutes from Board Meeting of August 22, 2023

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

Adoption of Proposed Agenda:

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson request a motion to approve Proposed Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion, the motion was seconded by Commissioner McDowell. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Old Business:

- a) None

New Business:

- a) Maxton Housing Authority Board Application – Bert Hutchinson

Mayor Davis asked Mrs. Bert Hutchinson to stand and acknowledged her for her service to the Maxton Housing Board. The Honorable Mayor Davis reappointed Mrs. Bert Hutchinson to the Maxton Housing Board.

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.

Ms. Aggie Deese, 106 Smith Street, Maxton, 910-844-9946. Ms. Deese spoke about the dilapidated home and how they affect her and the community.

Mrs. Diane Dixon, 402 North Patterson Street, Maxton, NC, 910-844-5400. Mrs. Dixon spoke about Maxton celebrating yet another milestone, its Sesquicentennial. She said there is much to be done in preparation for the Sesquicentennial and that she hope the Town’s leadership will step up and meet the challenge of preparing and publishing the event.

Mrs. Mary McNeill, 407 West Central Street, Maxton, NC, 910-844-5376. Mrs. McNeill asked the Town to consider paving its road and sidewalks needing repair. She said it has been quite a few years since work has been done to Town roads and asked the Town to look into what can be done in this matter.

Mr. Shelman Spencer, 504 South Florence Street, Maxton, NC, 910-920-8171. Mr. Spencer thanked the Commissioners for answering the concerns of residents in its last couple of sessions. Mr. Spencer said there need to be more incentives for residents to pick up trash around Town.

Mr. Emmitt Morton, 408 Lombard Street, Maxton, NC, 910-610-5847. Mr. Morton said the Town needs to establish a committee for the Sesquicentennial and open the time capsule. He also thanked Mrs. Jamie Smith and the Recreation Committee for the great job they did with the Back to School event and in passing out food to the community.

Mayor Davis closed the Public Forum.

Reports:

Recreation Report

Mrs. Jamie Smith spoke about past and present events the Recreation Committee has and plans to put on. They’re Back to School Bash served over four hundred (400) people in delivering school and hygiene supplies and hot meals. One of the committee’s partners came out and registered over one hundred residents who were without insurance or Medicaid. The Cancer Awareness Walk took place on September 16, 2023, at Beachum Park and a Memorial at Elizabeth Cole Park. On Saturday, September 23, 2023, the Senior Prom for adults 55 and older at the Renaissance building from six (6) to ten (10) p.m. The First Community Yard Sale will be on Saturday, October 7, 2023.

Manager Report

Town Manager Ms. Angela Pitchford introduced the Interim Chief of Police for the Town of Maxton Mr. Schirra Johnson from Fayetteville, North Carolina who was hired on 15 August, 2023.

Police Department Report

Interim Chief Johnson spoke and said his focus is to bring more support and assistance to the Town of Maxton by communicating with other local law enforcement agencies, work on new organizations to bring to Town, and will soon be making visits to local business owner to talk about local needs.

Commissioner’s Report

Commissioner Gilmore talking on behalf of the Beautification Committee said there focus has on cleanups at Beachum Park and at the R.B. Dean School. She said that the R.B. Dean School area trash cans are being misused, the grass has not been cut, locks on gates have been broken, and playgrounds are not secured. She has spoken with the Assistant Superintendent Bobby Locklear with the Robeson County education system about the upkeep of the property and he has ensured better upkeep of the property in the future. She also mention to the residents to not allow their kids to play in the area.


Manager Report

Town Manager Ms. Angela Pitchford said the Town is still working on the funding for the new multiplex building to house the Town administrative department and the Police Department and the required permits for the Town’s Air Burner. She mention this year that yearly tax information has been sent out in a letter format instead of the tax card to give tax payers more tax information and privacy and for the residents to please give the Town their opinion on the change to see if the Town wanted to continue with the letter form. There has been a lot of turnover with Public Work employees due to pay and the number of required Police Officers in Town is down from what is required. She said that active recruitment for both departments is underway and then addressed concerns she heard of about a lack of Manager reporting.

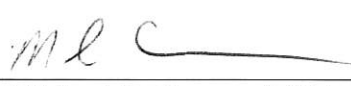
Mayor Davis asked the Administrative staff to look into a solution so that residents will not have to give their person information during the Public Forum which has been a concern for some residents.

ADJOURN

Mayor Davis request a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Gilmore made the motion and it was seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.



Paul Davis, Mayor



Michael D. Cousar, MBA