

**TOWN OF MAXTON**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING**  
**October 17, 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, Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore, Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack.

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Interim Police Chief Shirra Johnson, Public Works Director Preston McKenzie, and Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

**Call to Order-** Mayor Paul G. Davis

**Invocation-** Mayor Pro Tem Victor Womack

**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 Board Meeting of September 19, 2023
2. Tax Adjustment September 19, 2023 thru October 9, 2023

Mayor Davis request a motion to approve Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Elizabeth Gilmore. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Approval of Proposed Agenda:**

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

**Presentation:**

1. South Robeson Middle School Junior Beta Club – Jamie Burney
2. Southeast Regional Airport Authority Update – Seth Hatchell

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

- a) Resolution to Approve a Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement

Town Manager Angela Pitchford explained to the board and citizens the agreement between the Town of Maxton and the North Carolina League of Municipalities about a blanket agreement at no cost to the town for Cybersecurity & Technical Services, Finance Assistance and Blackwater Software, and legal services which can assist in finding grants and funding to assist the Town with the issues of burned and dilapidated houses and street paving.

Mayor Davis asked for a motion to approve Resolution. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

- b) True Gospel Holiness Church Tent Revival

Pastor Thomas Deese addressed the Board requesting to use Beacham Park for a tent revival for 7 to 8 days. Mayor Davis explained to Pastor Deese that the days requested had already begun October 15, 2023 and today was October 17, 2023. Pastor Deese asked for the following dates October 20, 2023 to October 28, 2023.

Unfortunately Recreation will be doing Trunk or Treat on Friday, October 28, 2023. Mayor Davis stated that something was going on with those dates and asked Pastor Deese if he wanted to keep the same original dates. Pastor Deese agreed to keep the original dates.

Mayor Davis asked for a motion to approve the application as is. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and Commissioner Gilmore second the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Attorney Snead asked the Town Manager if we informed Pastor Deese about the required insurance and that we needed to be sure to do the same thing we did in the past. Town Manager Pitchford explained that Pastor Deese had been informed about the event insurance.

- c) Ordinance Declaring Road closed for Christmas Parade 12/9/2023 7am to 3pm

Mayor Davis asked for a motion to approve the Ordinance for the street closing for the 2023 Christmas Parade. Commissioner Womack made the motion and Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. 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 members will follow up if needed.

Ruby Gilchrist, 78 Jonathan Street, Maxton, NC. Mrs. Gilchrist has a concern about the old jail house sitting on East Central Street. She would like for the jail house to be torn down and thinks it's a sore eye just sitting there. She said it would be nice if it were torn down and a memorial put in place. We could put several names there for example Dr. Dean or others who has done a lot of

work in the community. She mentioned it is a bad memory in history and a slap in the face and it needs to be torn down. Her other concerns were does the Town have an Ordinance to clean up these old mattresses, sofas, chairs, and debris and about burned houses and dilapidated houses. She feels that the Town can do better than this to make our town a better place to live.

Sandra McCallum Croom Road has concerns about transients taking over a home on Elm Street and Baldwin Street. Ms. McCallum is concerned because we have kids out there practicing, people walking the tracks and we don't know who these people are, they could be pedophiles. She is asking that someone please address the matter.

Teresa Kelly, owner of TKO Hair Store wanted to thank the Town for allowing her to open up her business in her hometown. The store hours are Tuesday 9 am -7 pm and Saturday 9 am -5 pm.

Michael Hines, 401 Scotland Street, Maxton, NC. Mr. Hines asked about Trunk or Treat and placing extra lighting out at Beachum Park because there are abandon homes with transients live near and he is concerned about the children.

Shelman Spencer, S. Florence Street, Maxton, NC. Mr. Spencer thanked the Town for filling in some street potholes.

Emmett Chip Morton, 408 Lombard Street, Maxton, NC. Mr. Morton talked to everyone about the Town's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday to be held on April 6, 2024. He said we need to declare that day in the near future and it will be held at Beacham Park where the time capsule will be pulled up and open at the park. Mary McNeill, Virgil Hutchinson, Paul McDowell, Diane Dixon, Gloria Strickland, Lorenzo and Rita McEachin, and Nicole McLean are all on the committee. We hope to have a true timeline at the next meeting for approval.

### **Reports:**

### **Recreation**

Mary McNeill reported on Recreation with the following calendar of events:

**October 24<sup>th</sup>** - will be Senior Bingo 5:00pm to 8:00 pm at Townsend Elementary Gym.

**October 28<sup>th</sup>** - Trunk R Treat & Movie Night at Beacham Park. Individuals that wish to give candy please be there at 5:30pm. Candy giveaway starts at 6:00 pm and the movie will start at 6:30pm.

**November 4<sup>th</sup>** - we will have a community yard sale located in the parking lot of Old Food Folks in between Napa & Dollar General from 7 a.m. – 2 p.m. Signup by November 2<sup>nd</sup> at town hall. The cost to rent a space is \$5 and will be collected the day of the event.

**November 11<sup>th</sup>** - Collard festival from 10am – 6pm at Beacham Park (fireworks will start at dusk).

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Community Yard Sale in the parking lot of Old Food Folks parking lot.

**December 9<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Parade & Toy Give-a-way lineup at 8:30 at (Townsend Middle School) parade at 10 a.m. and toy give-a-way following parade.

**December 16<sup>th</sup>** – Senior Christmas Dinner located at Queheel Fire Department from 2pm-4pm.

She said the Recreation Committee is collecting donations for candy for Trunk or Treat and that the candy can be dropped off at the Town Hall. She also stated that she has extra copies of the event calendars if anyone wanted one.

### **Police Department**

Interim Chief Johnson greeted the audience. He said since we met last month, we should be getting counter surveillance to help survey the Town and hopefully by next month we will have two new additions to the Police Department (K-9 Officers). The Police Department is beginning a Police Explorer Program that will be available for teenagers ages 14-17. The program will work alongside the Boy Scout Troop Beginning on November 20, 2023.

### **Manager Report**

Manager reported that she had spoken with Janet Robertson of the North Carolina Department of Transportation about the continuance of the Robeson County thorough plan for long range improvement in small towns for sidewalks and bike trails. The original plan had stalled due to Coronavirus outbreaks. The Manager also spoke with Julie Metz of the North Carolina League of Municipalities to express concerns within the Town referring to the burnt and dilapidated houses. The Town has received a CDBG grant to begin on water replacement and is waiting on bids for that job to begin and there is currently a problem with small towns receiving bids. The town currently has job listings available such as Town Clerk, Finance Officer, and positions within Public Works.

### **Commissioners Report**

Commissioner Gilmore expressed concern about the cleanliness around R.B. Dean Elementary School. The Beautification Committee has contacted the Public Schools of Robeson County Superintendent about R.B. Dean Elementary School campus before and little change has been made. Mrs. Gilmore is asking that the Mayor or Manager reach out to the school board to see if the problem can be resolved.

Commissioner McDowell stated that individuals are required to have a valid identification and be registered to vote in order to vote in the upcoming election.

Commissioner Womack mentioned that it takes little effort and doesn't cost anything to help keep the Town clean. He stated that Maxton is a great place to live if we all help keep it that way.

### **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 requested to go into Closed Session. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

Mayor Davis requested to come out of Closed Session. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

**Adjourn**

Mayor Davis requested to adjourn meeting. Commissioner McDowell made the motion and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, motion carried.

  
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Mayor

  
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Town Clerk