

**TOWN OF MAXTON
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
May 21, 2024 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, Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Amber Quatkemeyer, Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Police Chief Shirra Johnson, and Water and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

Call to Order- Mayor Christopher Bethea-McDougal

Invocation- Commissioner Paul 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 Board Meeting of December 19, 2023
2. Tax Adjustment November 16, 2023 through January 12, 2024

Mayor Bethea- McDougal 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.

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 Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

Presentation:

a) John Larch (NCDEQ)

Mr. Larch works for the public water supply section of the Department of Environmental Quality. He stated that the state regulates community water systems and that each community is required to do periodic testing some of which are done monthly. If there are any samples out of accordance the samples become flagged and require further testing. He said that there was a contaminant called radium that was higher than the allowable level and that it has been

monitored. He explained that radium is a natural occurring chemical that is in the environment and under certain geological conditions can get into the water. Mr. Larch explained that within the past two quarters there has not been any exceedance and we will have to have two more quarters of low readings until the public notices cease. The state is continuing to work with the Town. He informed the citizens that there is a lot of information on the DEQ website concerning radium if anyone was interested. Mr. Larch ask the citizens if there were any questions and no questions were asked.

Public Hearing:

a) Lumber River Council of Governments (160-D) –Darrien Locklear

Mr. Locklear proposed for the Town to adopt the new 160-D General Statute. He explained that this statute helps with planning and development regulations. He stated that our current ordinances were out dated and this would bring the Town up to code with what is required by the state.

b) Lumber River Council of Governments (Comprehensive Plan) - Randi Dagenhart

Ms. Dagenhart proposed for the Town to adopt the Comprehensive Plan. She explained that a Comprehensive Plan is now required for every Town per North Carolina General Statute. The plan ultimately expresses Goals and necessary improvements for the Town.

Old Business:

a) Cemetery Landscape Proposals

Mayor Bethea-McDougal opened the sealed envelopes reading aloud the prices of each. Zkutt Lawn Care totaled \$31,252, McQueens Lawn Care totaled \$34,000, and Locklear’s Hauling and Roll off Service Totaled \$ 43,000. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the lowest bidder (Zkutt Lawn Care) Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. Commissioner Bethea voted nay. The vote was 3-1 and the motion carried.

New Business:

a) Approval of Freight Building Plumbing Installation

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the lowest bidder and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Approval of Repairs at Wastewater Building

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner Womack made a motion to approve and Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Approval to remove Two Burnt House on McCaskill Avenue

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve the lowest bidder (East Coast Earthworks) and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Approval of Road Closures for Juneteenth Parade

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner Womack made a motion to approve and Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The Vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Approval of Repairs to Vac Truck

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve and Commissioner Womack seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

f) Proclamation for National Cities, Towns, and Villages Month

Town Manager Angela Pitchford read aloud a proclamation declaring the month of May to be National Cities, Towns, and Villages month.

g) Approval of 160-D

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

h) Approval of Comprehensive Plan

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner McDowell made a motion to approve and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

i) Approval to Build, Replace, and Install Shafts for Aerator #1

Mayor Bethea-McDougal requested a motion. Commissioner Womack made a motion to approve and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion.

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.

Sarah Anderson stated the street in front of her home has large holes and is causing people to drive into her front yard to avoid them. She would also like to know if it is legal to fire firearms in the city limits.

Harold Maynard thanked the Town for cleaning up but has noticed a lot of debris on South Austin Street.

Angela McDougal thanked everyone for helping the head start and invited everyone to their ceremony May 25, 2024.

Michael Stanley stated there are cars consistently speeding on Rockingham Road and would like there to be something done concerning that. He also thanked the Mayor for representing the Town at the Board of Education meeting.

Sandra McCallum would like information about the digital sign she has requested.

Kim would like to know what can be done about the water being turned off and her being evicted from her deceased boyfriend's home.

Kimberly McClain would like to know what can be done about stray dogs in her area. She currently fears for the safety of the children and the elderly in the neighborhood.

Mr. Smith has a youth sports program for kids within the community and would like to know about the availability of the fields for practices and games in order to raise money for the program.

Reports:

Recreation

Jamie Smith reported on Recreation stating the KaBoom! playground design day is May 22, 2024. May 24th is the food giveaway by Church and Community, June 1st is the community yard sale, June 11th and 12th will be a Narcan training, July 6th will be the Independence Day celebration, and August 13-15th will be the playground build days. She also issued a reminder that the Recreation Committee is built up of volunteers.

Police Department

Chief Johnson stated that Youth Day on June 8th will be a day of fun for the kids. He gave a reminder that Memorial Day weekend was coming up and the Police Department will be out to try to prevent drunk drivers. He stated that arrests are currently up and there have been several drug related arrests. They have also just had someone in Radar detection classes and that will assist in stopping people from speeding.

Commissioners Report

Commissioner Womack thanked the Town for doing a good job and further advocated for the digital sign. He also asked about the status of the air burner permit.

Adjourn

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


Mayor


Town Clerk