

**TOWN OF MAXTON  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
October 15, 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 (Absent), Mayor Pro Tem Virgil Hutchinson, Commissioner Toni Bethea, Commissioner Michael Hines, Commissioner Paul McDowell, and Commissioner Victor Womack

Staff Present: Town Manager Angela Pitchford, Town Clerk Amber Quatkemeyer, Accounts Payable Jasmin Mason (Absent), Town Attorney Timothy Snead, Police Chief Schirra Johnson, Public Works Director Desoney Diggs, and Wastewater Director Dennis Freeman.

**Call to Order-** Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson

**Invocation-** Commissioner 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 September 17, 2024
2. Tax Adjustment September 10, 2024 through October 7, 2024

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**Approval of Proposed Agenda:**

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to approve Proposed Agenda. Commissioner Womack made the motion to approve the Proposed Agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner Bethea. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Closed Session G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3)-to 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 Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to enter into Closed Session and Commissioner Bethea Seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried. Closed session was entered into at 7:01 pm.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to come out of closed session at 7:27 pm. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to come out of Closed Session and Commissioner Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**New Business:**

a) Approval of Letter Addressing Miscellaneous Invoice

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to approve the letter addressing the miscellaneous invoice. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the letter addressing the miscellaneous invoice and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

b) Budget Amendment to add the Finance Services Agreement to the Budget

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to approve the budget Amendment. Commissioner Womack made the motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

c) Budget Amendment to add the Code Enforcement Contract to the Budget

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to approve the budget amendment. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the budget amendment and Commissioner Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

d) Approval of Lease with Making Ways

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to approve the lease with Making Ways. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the lease with Making Ways and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

e) Approval for Ordinance Declaring Road Closure for the Christmas Parade

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion to approve the ordinance for road closure for the Christmas parade. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to approve the road closure and Commissioner Hines seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

f) Beacham Park Swing Set Project

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion. The Board had a brief discussion on which set would have the most longevity. Commissioner Hines made a motion to approve the set from BYO Recreation for a total of \$6,844.00 and Commissioner McDowell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

g) Approval to Repair/ Replace the A/C unit in Town Hall

Manager Pitchford asked the Board to table this topic until we can receive all of the quotes for a new unit due to some of the bidding companies stating that the new compressors may not work due to contamination from the old compressors. Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson requested a motion

to table this topic to next month. Commissioner McDowell made the motion to table this topic and Commissioner Bethea seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the motion carried.

**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.

Sandra McCallum stated that she has not received feedback about the digital sign she has requested. Also insisting that senior citizens need the digital sign. She expects an answer about it at this meeting.

Mary McNeil has concerns about the town's rescue squad stating that a man was passed out for an hour prior to any rescue squad showing up. She asked why there is a rescue squad building without anyone to operate it. She demands that Maxton do better.

### **Reports:**

#### **Recreation**

Mary McNeill reported on Recreation stating that Trunk-r-Treat will be October 26<sup>th</sup> at Beacham Park. Setup will begin at 4:30 pm and the movie will begin at 7:00 pm. November 9<sup>th</sup> will be the Collard Festival the time is to be determined. December 14<sup>th</sup> will be the Christmas Parade and December 21<sup>st</sup> will be the Senior Dinner with a time to be determined.

#### **Police Department**

Chief Johnson stated that he is on the search for people that are CPR certified to help out in town. The department has received two hundred and sixty calls for service since the last meeting and has recovered four firearms. Chief Johnson went on to say that the department has been working with Red Springs and Hoke County to complete saturations. He also asked the Board if they would be interested in doing a mass CPR class in town.

#### **Manager**

Manager Pitchford expressed that the trash truck is currently down and the town is having to contract out through Pembroke Waste until the truck is repaired. The street sweeper is also down at this current time. There are three buildings that have leaking roofs that need to be repaired and the Library has a leak that is under the building. The playground is not completed however there are rules for the park such as no parking on the grass, no pets, and the common curiosity of cleaning up are yourself. There have been several water leaks that are due to aging infrastructure going on to say there were seven that had been located in just one day. Ms. Pitchford addressed her concerns such as having to consistently put out little fire due to people making false accusations such as Planning- Zoning meetings not happening. Ms. Pitchford also addressed concerns about taxes being raised stating that the town is charging ten percent less than what the county recommends. She went on to address Ms. McCallum concerning the digital sign stating that the two had met on this topic and it was explained to Ms. McCallum at that meeting that there are bigger things that the town is facing right now and that it is not a financially feasible request at this time. She then addressed Ms. McNeil about her request to recognize volunteers

stating she would love to recognized the volunteers but she is not sure if that is feasible due to financial constraints. Ms. Pitchford stated expressed that we have to fix the major things like infrastructure before looking into other ideas.

**Commissioners Report**

Commissioner Womack reminded the citizens about the upcoming event at the airport.

Commissioner Bethea asked Manager Pitchford what the Rescue Squad had said in their meeting. Ms. Pitchford stated that they expressed the need for more volunteers and they said the county only lets them have certain calls. Commissioner Bethea said the County had cut their calls because they were not doing what they were supposed to. Manager Pitchford stated that she will being getting in touch to have another meeting with them.

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson stated that we have some major infrastructure problems to continue working on and thanked everyone for coming.

**Adjourn**

Mayor Pro Tem Hutchinson request a motion to adjourn the 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