

TOWN OF MAIDEN

January 14, 2020

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Maiden Town Council met on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for their regularly scheduled meeting, held in the Council Chambers at the Maiden Town Hall.

Present for the meeting were, Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr., Councilmembers, Trina Michael, Beth Rudisill, Bob Sigmon, Danny Hipps and Ronnie Williams.

Also, present were Town Manager Todd Herms, Town Attorney Scott Conrad and Town Clerk Wanda Barnes.

Others attending: See attached sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr.

The invocation was given by Councilmember Beth Rudisill.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Beth Rudisill.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED AND MOVE ITEM # 11 BEFORE CITIZENS REQUESTS AND COMMENTS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Proclamation

D. Proclamation in recognition of the heroism and courage of Sergeant Joseph Painter

Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr. read the Proclamation signed by Mayor Bumgarner recognizing Sergeant Joseph Painter.

Police Chief Tracey Ledford commends the Mayor and Councilmembers for recognizing the officers for their community service, while presenting a plaque and pin to Sergeant Joseph Painter for his heroism and courage.

Sergeant Joseph Painter acknowledges the Mayor, Councilmembers and Chief Ledford for the Proclamation.

5. Citizens Requests & Comments

Councilmember Hipps suggests acknowledging Police Officer of the year Brittany Broadwater at the next Council meeting and congratulates Blake Wright on 1st Child.

Councilmember Hipps request an update on the food truck and recommend sponsoring a 5K run with the Police safety week. Mr. Herms advises that Blake, Planning/Zoning Director would need to review the ordinances before a final decision is made, but he made contact with a few vendors about setting up behind the gazebo on Friday or Saturday night. Chief Ledford recommends Hamilton professional Running Company to the Council for planning the 5K run and Jody Rogers Recreation Director, supports Chief Ledford's recommendation and suggests organizing and advertising through the police and Recreation Departments.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams requested elaboration on options for the old Ballpark facility. His recommendation is to mow and lime the field before creating a few youth soccer and practice fields. The Elementary field may be gone in the near future. Mr. Herms said a price was given twice, Council voted to make an offer and rescinded the offer in the next meeting. He is unsure of the next step.

Councilmember Williams said we were looking at Carolina Terrace Property at the same time, but it's been sold. Mr. Herms asked if a public hearing is needed before negotiating the price. Councilmember Williams said the first step is to find out if it is for sale. Councilmember Hipps said it's been for sale for a while, the other option is to lease it for a year, test it out and see what the turn out is before we purchase. Jody Rogers said we use our baseball and softball fields for soccer. The things you will run into with Carolina Mills property is the restrooms, which isn't cheap, parking and lighting at the end of practice. Councilmember Hipps suggest, just pay for the restrooms and lighting can be portable. Mr. Herms said use portable restrooms, but his chief concern is what the neighbors would think and how we will move forward. Councilmember Williams did not understand the concern. Councilmember Hipps said it was a big outcry about the traffic in the neighborhood. Councilmember Williams said there is two creeks that separate the development. Right or wrong, we need to decide on soccer. Mr. Herms said he has been dispatched twice to negotiate a price, and do not want that to happen a third time. He is unsure if Brian Bill will even negotiate with him now. Councilmember Williams said maybe a Councilmember or Jody can express the town interest in the property. Mr. Herms advise public feedback, before we have the same issue. Councilmember Williams does not think there will be an issue, since its just the ballpark property. Mr. Herms said they would not just sell the ballpark without the land behind the houses. Councilmember Hipps asks Blake to pursue other available property. Mr. Herms said the other options are a 99-year lease on the dollar for old Martin Marietta Property. When they looked at the property the engineer thought the property had to many underground springs and cost too much to renovate. There are four or five places that have been viewed. Mr. Herms requested a month to research, then present it to the Council. Councilmember Williams thanks Mr. Herms and Jody.

Councilmember Rudisill asked for an update on removing the curb at the entrance door at the recreation center. She said it is difficult for people with walkers to get in and out the door to vote and especially the people that ride the bus. The curbing does not allow them to step up or down. Mr. Herms said he is meeting with Gene Haynes the general contractor/engineer and he would discuss it with him. He isn't an engineer, but his understanding is those changes will require the entire entrance be brought to ADA standard. He will get a quote. The building was built in 1985, and he feels confident that it is not up to standards. He will research the requirements. Mr. Rogers said the handicap parking is on the Bob Symers side. The seniors park in any parking space, so it is difficult for them. When bringing it up to standard you will lose four or five parking spaces because handicap landing gear is required. Mr. Herms confirms not being an engineer but will research it. Councilmember Rudisill said her Oath wasn't on the minutes. Mr. Herms confirmed the revised minutes.

6. Approval of Minutes

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY BOB SIGMON COUNCILMEMBER TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF 12/10/2019 MEETING, CLOSED SESSION MEETING AND THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MINUTES MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Consent Agenda Items

A. Finance Officer’s Report

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL TO APPROVE THE FINANCE OFFICER’S REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. 2019 -2020 Audit Report

A. Debbie Wentz presentation of the 2019 – 2020 Audit Report.

Councilmember Williams and Hipps commended Dianne, Finance Director for finding additional money for the town. Councilmember Hipps asks if the town needs a credit risk policy. Auditor Wentz said most small towns do not have a policy, but will check on it by noon tomorrow. She also confirmed that no one in the county has a credit risk policy. Mr. Herms said that made him feel better, since she audits everyone in the county. Councilmember Hipps questioned, if the town did better in the investments this year. Auditor Wentz confirmed the investments did better. Mr. Herms said it was due to the market and this was for the fiscal year 2018 – 2019 finishing up projects. The year 2019 – 2020 do not have any projects budgeted, therefore the fund balance should be a positive and not negative. He said the main thing about the 281 is the sinkhole on the East Klutz street. Councilmember Hipps thought it was easy to read and she did a good job. Mr. Herms said to only lose a hundred thousand dollars, considering what happen he is very happy. The town had major issues with the substation and two sinkholes. Auditor acknowledges everyone for being able to serve the Town of Maiden.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIIPPS TO APPROVE THE 2019 – 2020 AUDIT REPORT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Public Hearing

A. ZMA – 5 – 2019

Blake Wright, Planning/Zoning Director Present Ordinance #3 – 2020 An ordinance to Amend the Town of Maiden Zoning Maps. Councilmember Williams questions access to water/sewer and electric in the area. Mr. Wright confirms the Palisade in Lincolnton is the builder’s vision. Councilmember Hipps said he visited the development in Lincolnton and thought it was nice.

MAYOR BUMGARNER CLOSED THE PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE # 3-2020.

10. Bids for Waterline Extension – Salem Church Road

Mr. Herms Presents the Bids for Waterline Extension and asking the council to approve the lowest bidder, Piedmont Utility group with a bid of \$115,704.00. The next meeting will require a budget amendment to approve the bid. Councilmember Michael said she has concerns about such a low bid and have we done business with them. Mr. Herms confirmed their work is excellent from Rutherfordton City Manager and they are expanding. We will also require a per unit price. Councilmember Williams would like to know which side is it on. Mr. Herms said the left-hand side of the road, if going out of town and the bulk of the price is getting under the railroad. He recommends going with the lowest bidder and the project may start in early spring.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO ACCEPT THE TOWN MANAGERS RECOMMENDATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Ordinances/Resolutions/Proclamation

A. Ordinance # 1 – 2020 An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2019 – 2020 Budget in The Electric Fund (Motion)

Mr. Herms said we received a \$5000.00 Grant from Electricities to replace the lights on Union Street and Rosenwald park. He spoke to the eclectic supervisor and it is 5th or 6 on his to do list. This Amendment is to allow us to accept the funds.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETH RUDISILL TO ACCEPT ORDINANCE # 1 – 2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Ordinance # 2 – 2020 An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2019 - 2020 Budget in the Electric Fund. (Motion)

Mr. Herms said this \$54,775.00 Amendment is to pay for the expansion line project for Lawrence Lumber.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL TO ACCEPT ORDINANCE # 2 – 2020 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Ordinance # 3 – 2020 An Ordinance to Amend the Town of Maiden Zoning Maps. (Motion)

Mr. Herms explains this is the ordinance from the public hearing.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO ACCEPT ORDINANCE # 3 – 2020 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. New Business

A. 2020 Recreation Christmas Parade Participation Staging

Mr. Herms explained that a recommendation was made to make some changes to the Christmas parade. The recommendation was to change the parade to a nighttime parade. The committee recommended not to change the time, but its Council's decision. Everyone agreed that Merry Maiden and the luminaries are on the same day. Butch will turn over Merry Maiden to the Town. The question to Council is do we move it to a nighttime parade? Councilmember Michael concern is safety. Chief Ledford said he reached out to other towns and they start their parades before dark and finish right at dark. Mr. Herms said that other towns host nighttime parades and no one had issues. Councilmember Hipps said he would like to tie in a tree lighting after the parade. Councilmember Michael thought the tree lighting was a great idea. Councilmember Rudisill said it was a lot of discussion about the tree lighting with Merry Maiden. Mr. Herms suggested moving the day of the parade to the Saturday before Thanksgiving. He would like to keep it on a Saturday, for staffing purpose. Council just needs to decide on a start time and date. Councilmember Sigmon said keep the parade the same. Councilmember Hipps said he wanted a night parade, but will go with the majority. Councilmember Rudisill said staff can never travel for Thanksgiving by having the parade after Thanksgiving. Mr. Herms thinks it is expected by staff to work the Saturday after Thanksgiving. He also thinks we need to have guidelines in place. We can find out best practices for the parade. Councilmember Hipps said we need to poll the citizens. Councilmember Michael said she wasn't aware how the parade affects the small businesses. Business owners suggest moving the time back. Councilmember Michael wants to do what's best for the Citizens. Mr. Herms said its January and we have time. Councilmember Sigmon said table it for now. Councilmember Williams and Hipps said put a poll on social media. Mr. Herms said shorting the parade would not be a bad idea. Councilmember Michael said table it and put the poll on Facebook. Mr. Herms said a simple poll asking a day or night parade will be best for social media. He said we will start it on Monday and finish it on Monday. He hasn't done a poll and unsure if Tammy have, but they will figure it out. Mr. Herms confirmed that he and Blake will come by on Thursday to address the concerns of business owners.

12. Adjourn (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted:

Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk

Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk