

**April 12, 2022**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN OF MAIDEN**

The Maiden Town Council met on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. for their regular scheduled meeting, held in the Town of Maiden Council Chamber.

Present for the meeting were, Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill, Councilmembers Bob Sigmon, Danny Hipps, Cameron Ramseur, and Holly-Crafton-Lay.

Also, present were Town Manager Todd Herms, Town Attorney Scott Conrad, Town Clerk-HR Officer 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 Holly Crafton-Lay

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Holly Crafton-Lay

4. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO APPROVE THE 3/8/2022 REGULAR MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

6. Citizen Requests & Comments

A. Karen Henson Children's Advocacy & Protection Center child abuse awareness month presentation.

The Town of Maiden Business Association President, Mrs. Samantha Saunders states, Saturday we had our Maiden mystery egg event. It was a good success. Had the weather been more friendly, we would have had a huge event. We had 380 stuffed animals given away. That many kids did not attend the event. A nonprofit, New Hope ministries set up and gave away small stuffed animals. We haven't given out the \$300 Food Lion gift card yet. The winner has not been notified. They are going to be notified Thursday. We had about 20 businesses that were registered and participated. Thank you to the rec department for supplying the Easter Bunny. We had a Easter Bunny that went around and took pictures with kids. It's a lot better now. We don't have to do the social distancing. Next year's gospel night, maybe we could have some local talent that could open up for the gospel group

to extend the time of the event.

IT CIO, Tammy Hawn states, I wanted to introduce you to my new employee Jeremy Brooks. He came to us with 15 years' experience. We are excited to have him. He worked in the private sector before, but I think he is going to warm up to the way we do things. His kids play sports at the Rec Center and attends school down the street. His two days have been great.

Citizen Mr. Jeffrey Ramseur states, I had two issues, there was a trailer and I asked could the fire department take care of it, burn it down and get rid of it. They told me no, so I had to do it myself. If it would have caught on fire you would have had to come down there. I noticed there was an abandoned house on the 500 block on West main. They had everything blocked off and burned it down. I don't know if they did it for practice or it caught on fire. I just want to know the proper protocol for the fire department to have taken care of it. Councilmember Mr. Danny Hipps states, we are allowed to burn practice, it must be a freestanding structure which is safe. You cannot go in a house that is falling in or can't make entry into. That approval comes from the state. There is a permit that must be done in addition to sending in an application. Fire Chief, Luke Shoffner states, we must be able to justify that they are getting training before we can come out and burn a structure. We must verify the proximity, because we do not want to risk ruining someone's house for something that doesn't have any value. We have to make sure it is safe for everyone involved. Councilmember Hipps states, that a mobile home burns at a high rapid rate. It is very dangerous to burn them. Every fireman loves to burn something. If it was up to the fireman, they would have burned it.

Mr. Ramseur states, my next concern is one of Maiden's football players, Caleb Farley, plays for the Tennessee Titans NFL team. Maiden is called the biggest little football town. We had about 60 people that went on a bus to see him play. We didn't have anywhere to park our vehicles. I called the town I asked the town and ask could we use the parking lot of Galaxy. Which has no signs saying there is no parking overnight, but I was told that they would probably be towed. I don't know all the procedures of law, but who would call the police? I go through town and there is cars and tractor trailers parked overnight. I am going again next year, hopefully. Can I get some help from the town? Councilmember Hipps states, there is a lot of tour buses that park at the middle school. I don't know where they get permission, but they park there. On the way to church a lot of Sunday mornings I see a parking lot full of buses. Mr. Ramseur states, he is our first NFL player, and I didn't get much support from the Town. Our football games bring the town together. Town Manager Mr. Todd Herms states, there has been a breakdown in communication. Can I get your phone number?

Mrs. Samantha Saunders states, the Maiden Business association would be happy to advertise the event for you.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Finance Officer's Report (Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE MARCH FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

8. Presentation

A. Preliminary Budget Report

Town Manager Mr. Todd Herms states, this is preliminary budget report for the council. We hope to have the full budget later this month. We can go over everything at the next council meeting. I don't expect to recommend any

changes to the property tax rate or the electric rates. A water increases 82 cent to the base rate and 3% overall for the 3000 gallon minimum. The wholesale rate has increased in the city of Hickory, by implementing this the average citizen will pay \$1.33 a month more. A sewer rate increase of \$0.97. To the base rate 3.2% of uses over the minimum which acquaints to about \$1.52 average for the inside customer. The water is really a pass through and inflation. The sewer is directly related to the inflation. A report came out today that inflation right now is 8.5%. The chemicals and it cost more to treat. The two utilities Republic waste and CPI are in the last year of a contract. That was set at 3.5% increases. You can expect a significant increase next year if we go to the 75% of actual cost. which would be the next step of the 100% implementation that would equal increase of \$1.52 per month to a total of That would bring your average monthly utility bill up at about \$4.37. I know times are tuff, but \$4.37 to maintain a properly utility is not a bad rate. Everybody asked about the tax rates. We are significantly lower than anyone else. They also have a vehicle tag fees. Hickory is 15, Claremont 15, Conover and Newton are 30 per vehicle per year. You can use \$25.00 of the money for anything. What most municipalities use it for is to pave the roads, supplement the general fund, or operate a public transit. You can charge up to \$30. Councilmember Hipps ask, how many taxpayers we have last year. Town Manager, Mr. Todd Herms states, right at 2300. Councilmember Holly Crafton-Lay states, the town has never charged a tag fee. Mr. Herms states, not since I have been town manager. Everybody always asks what a penny on the tax rate do. This upcoming year penny would equal roughly \$106,000. We are the lowest town in Catawba County and Lincoln County by 11 cents. I'm not saying we will. Don't freak out, but we could raise taxes \$0.10, still be the lowest in the county and generated a million dollars. We are not recommending that, but I always get asked. We started in 2008 with around \$300 million we are at 1.9 billion today. That is 443% increase since 2008 and That is directly related to expansion in our economy economic development. Tax rates for other local governments, since 2010. Brookford has been flat, town of Catawba was flat. In 2018 they did a 10-cent increase. Catawba County had a slight decrease and then had to increase it again in 2015. Claremont has been pretty flat , but they had a little bit of that increase in 2013. Conover is steadily increased and then leveled off over the last four years. Hickory was flat and the bond has forced some of an increase. Long view climbed steadily and leveled off in 2018. Newton have had two years of increases and then flat. The town of Maidens had two years of decreases, then flat and the lowest in the county.

Tax basis for each county, 15 million for Brookford, Catawba 75 million, Long View 300 million, Claremont 500 million, Newton 1.18 billion, Conover is 1.2 billion, Maiden 1.9 and Hickory 5.3 billion. Hickory and Maiden have grown the fastest. We have the lowest water and sewer rates. The second lowest trash rates and this is based off of 3000 gallons worth of usage. We are \$45.88 a month for these three services at the 3000 gallons minimum rate. The cost to live in Maiden graph. If you house is based to 2000 sq foot, a \$200,000 home, two vehicles at \$20,000 each and use 3000 gallons a month it's roughly going to cost you \$1400.00 a month to live in Maiden. Hickory is about \$955 more than we are. This data backs it up in 2016 we had decrease 8.2. No rate increase in 2017 and 2018. We had a two percent decrease in 2019 and we had no rate increases since then. However, 2009, 2010, 2011 we had a 5% increase in cross the board. For three years, we got the reputation of having high power rates. Ten years later we are still fighting that reputation, even though we decrease rates 10.2% since 2006. We may have some shifts in commercial and industrial rates due to the cost study. Those are significantly decreased, since the last time he came with our wholesale rate being decreased.

Projected revenues last year versus next year, general fund 9.9 million, it is projected to come in at 10.8. That is directly related to our economic development of our largest tax dollar payer. Electric is 7.6, this year we are projecting around 8.2. The Water and Sewers 2.4 and projecting 2.8 next year. Remember last year, we took the conservative approach to the revenues cause of COVID. You will see that we have a surplus in certain areas this year. We are still being conservative, but not quite as conservative. These are the numbers that we are looking at for the next year. We still don't get some of the projections until late May. We feel good about these numbers as of today. Our business personal makes up about 80% of our revenues. We are at the back-end incentive package with GKN. We entered it in 2016. This is the last year, and it is estimated to be around \$100,000. Our total incentive package this year is 233. Compared to two years ago, it was over 500,000. It significantly went down on the back end. This is directly related on how much property tax they pay. It is 20%, and two years ago it was 60%. They still pay high property taxes, but the percentage of the incentive decreased. This is also the last year that we have an agreement with Southfork. That was not included in next year's budget.

A 12% increase in Health insurance and then the market study. We are proposing a \$50 per meeting for the planning board and recreational members. It will be a one-time payout at the end of the year. The branding logo creation is \$16,000. We have we have some extra money in the budget for the down payment. We want to paint inside the town hall building. We would take a mid-range used vehicle from the Police Department and they would get another SUV. That would stay in the two-to-three-year vehicles per year model. We would have another vehicle to replace the admin vehicle. Tasers \$9600 that's the per year, records management system \$43,000.00 per year. Three additional full-time firefighters for \$180K. Councilmember Mr. Danny Hipps states, are we going to try and supplement that with any grants? Mr. Herms states, we were looking at two. We have one that is starting to roll off. I put 8.5 million, I couldn't remember if that includes a little of the architect fees. We are applying for USDA loan right now. We probably will not qualify for the grant that pays at 55%. We had a meeting with USDA, if we have no hiccups, we will have the funds in a year. The guy the process loans live in Dallas. Right now, the rate is 30 years at 2.5% and they will fund the full project. This is my first USDA loan; I'm leaning on other people and the guy from the federal agency. Councilmember Mr. Danny Hipps states, where do we stand on City Hall. Mr. Todd Herms states, we do have a budget surplus. We will pay off the town hall this fiscal year. We will be 100% debt free rolling into next year for the fire department. We currently owe seven years on the police department. We will have to go through the LGC to get approval for the construction loan, but you do not have to go through them to get approval for the USDA. The garage truck replacement is \$32000.00, service lift \$12,000, Tire changer \$9.5, Street department F 450 \$65,000.00 and the motor replacement \$10K. The asphalt roller \$20K and the duck trailer we are going to keep. Currently projecting \$135,000 in paving. The new playground equipment at Rosenwald and Union Street will be replaced and relocated. It is time to service the gym floor and it is on a rotating schedule. A replacement of electric pickup bucket truck \$50,000.00. We are looking at LEDs for the field and 2 tree trimmers. We will also take advantage of the grant \$250,000. that we got from representative Proctor.

Councilmember Mr. Danny Hipps states, the idea of a dog park will be near the dog field. I ask council to come up with a plan in the future for a dog park. Town Manager Mr. Herms states, we have plans, but we must look at our insurance.

B. App Presentation

Assistant to the Manager Anna Dellinger Town of Maiden App Presentation.

9. New Business

A. Sewer Study Contract (Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE SEWER STUDY CONTRACT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

B. Yard of the Month Committee (Motion)

Planning and Zoning Director Blake Wright presents nominations for yard of the month Mrs. Ann Byrd

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON- LAY TO APPROVE THE YARD OF THE MONTH COMMITTEE MEMBER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

C. Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair Appointment (Motion)

Planning and Zoning Director Blake Wright presents nominations for Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair appointment Von Wilfong.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT CHAIR APPOINTMENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

10. Old Business

A. Public Works Director, Bryan Duckworth Discuss Outstanding Budget Items with Council.

Bryan Duckworth discuss the current outstanding budget items and supply chain issues.

B. Discussion of Vehicle of Equipment Purchases

Public Works Director, Bryan Duckworth seeks direction on future town vehicles.

C. Speed Limit Signs (Motion) Tabled to Next Meeting

D. Cemetery Contract (Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON RAMSEUR TO APPROVE THE NEW CEMETERY CONTRACT WITH BROTHERS MOWING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

E. Market Study (Motion)

Town Manager Mr. Todd Herms and Town Clerk/HR Officer Wanda Barnes discuss town employee's position and the market study. Close Session – Personnel Discussion.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE THE MARKET STUDY AND REMOVE MANAGERS SALARY UNTIL CLOSE SESSION DISCUSSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

F. Brand Contract (Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE MARKET STUDY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

11. Ordinance/Resolutions

A. Ordinance #25-2022 An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2021-2022 Budget to Amend Fund 56-WPCOG Grant (Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #25-2022 TO AMEND FUND 56-WPCOG GRANT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

B. Ordinance # 26-2022 an ordinance to Amend the FY 2021-2022 Budget to Amend Fund 10.(Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #26-2022 TO AMEND FUND 10. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

C. A Proclamation Proclaiming April 12, 2022, as Maiden’s Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.

April 12, 2022, Declared as Maiden’s Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month.

12. Closed Session

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0 8:13 PM**

- a. Property (N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (3))
- b. Personnel Discussion

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0 9:20 PM**

13. Adjourn (Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO ADJOURN REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING AT 9:26 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0**

Respectfully Submitted:

Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk

---

**Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

---

**Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk**

