

May 10, 2022
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF MAIDEN

The Maiden Town Council met on Tuesday, May 10, 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 Mayor Max Bumgarner, Jr.
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Max Bumgarner, Jr.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED.

11 CLOSED SESSION - PROPERTY # 12 ADJOURN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO APPROVE THE 4/12/2022 REGULAR MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

6. Citizen Requests & Comments

- A. Samantha Saunders from Maiden Business Association states, I am here for your feedback from the April the 29th Jive After Five. Secondly, I'm here to inform you that our business group meets Thursday at 6:00 o'clock to discuss the possibility of helping Cameron and Anna with having a beer garden. If our committee approves that, I will have to pull an additional permit. It would not be a problem. Town Manager, Mr. Todd Herms states, we are going to decide tomorrow around lunchtime whether to postpone this week's Jive After Five because of the bad weather. Currently the only day available would-be July 22nd. If we pick that date, we may start at 6:30 or 7:00. Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr. states, I heard nothing, but good comments about Jive After Five. Town Manager, Todd Herms states, March for Success and Adopt A Cop will be held on the May 19th and 20th. Maiden is the only Police Department in the area that provides an Adopt A Cop Program. Each second-grade student adopts a cop at the beginning of the year. The Police have lunch with the

student, and they go on field trips. At the end of the year, they have a celebration at the park for the students. Police, Fire and Public Works all come together for the celebration.

Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, I would like to see some beautifications take place at the cemetery. I know we recently planted flowers with mulch, but I would like to sow some grass. It needs some serious beautification. Public Works Director, Mr. Bryan Duckworth states, I apologize for the calls that you have received about the cemetery. We have addressed that with the current contractor. He has adjusted his contract from every other week to every week. We explained the importance of the cemetery. Councilmember Danny Hipps states, A lot of residents visit the cemetery, but especially on holidays, Easter, and Mother's Day. We have addressed with the grave diggers that they have not replaced the sod. We will plan to fertilize in the Fall, and we have plans to install a cremation scatter garden at Rosenwald. Todd asks that I look at bringing the work back in house. Right now, it is not cost effective when you look at the purchase of equipment and insurance. Councilmember Danny Hipps states, I would expect us to be prepared as a maintenance group, if another contractor leave on a short notice. Mr. Duckworth states, we are equipped to handle it on a part-time bases if necessary.

Councilmember Holly Crafton-Lay states, is there anything to report on the Fire Department? Town Manager Todd Herms states, we have three sketches that Luke is working through to make sure it works operationally. He will go out and get estimates to present to Council. If everything goes well with the architect, we should have something at the June meeting. Finance Officer, Jessica White states, I have been working diligently on the USDA application. They require that we get letters from commercial lenders with rates and terms. I received the third one today, therefore I should have everything to complete the application and send it in for approval. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, how long does this process takes. Mrs. White states, he said it will take about a year.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Finance Officer's Report (Motion)

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

8. Presentation

A. Budget 2022-2023 & CIP – Public Hearing (Motion)

Town Manager, Mr. Todd Herms states, we would like for you to call for public hearing for next month for this budget. The budget objective is the balance and to set constraints on the towns revenues with the responsibility to provide quality municipal services at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers that are made in North Carolina under state law expenditures and must equal revenues. There are two or three small changes to what you have in your agenda because we got updated numbers. We may even have better numbers by the time you get it in June. Our health insurance and wholesale electric there is no change. The wholesale electric is going down. The wholesale rate has been stable. The wholesale water rate from the City of Hickory is a 3% increase, Republic Services the trash collection and recycles 3.5%

increase. This is the last year of the contract, so we will enter negotiations probably after the first January. Employees health insurance we are still negotiating currently. We budgeted for 12.5%. We got it down to 7% without the change affecting our employees. We recommended no changes on tax rate, no changes on electric rates, water rates will go up \$0.82 to the base rate and then 3% over 3000 gallons, sewer is 97 to the base, 3.2 uses over 3000. That is related to inflation in chemicals. Chemicals have doubled since the beginning of the year. Council had the goal of bringing sanitation fees up to actual costs as we add more homes. That spreads out that cost, so the actual cost per house went down. To bring it up 75% that is \$1.52 monthly and sanitation rates and fees increase. The average inside resident total bill will increase \$4.37 a month. That is less than \$60 a year. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, what is the average four-person home in Maiden use for water and sewer? Town Manager Mr. Todd Herms states, it is around 3100 gallons. We do have a significant number that use below the 3000-gallon mark. That is not meant for a base rate, that pays for the pipes and the infrastructure to get it to the home. When somebody say, I only used 2000 gallons a month. We had to pay for the pipe to get it to your house, so the 3000-gallon mark is not based off uses, it is based off what the break-even number is to get it to your house and serve the house.

We make transfers to offset cost, electric we transferred 5%, out of water transfer 5%, so that is around \$541,000 a year. This year for general fund is a 10.8 million, electric funds 9.6 million, water and sewer funds 2.8 million, for a total operating budget of 23 million. That is broken down into a pie chart, to give you a graphic of what that looks like. This is a breakdown of salary and benefits percentage wise. The mechanics is the easiest one to review, they work on vehicle across the board. They get their salaries broken up across the board. Eight million property tax, sales tax is almost 700,000, franchise tax 800,000, and others is 1.8 million. We went conservative on sales tax this year. Tax base is 1.9 billion, one penny after incentives is equal to about \$160,000. You will see the growth in the line over the years. We recommended some increases to our water tap fees. We recommended going up \$200 on the water tap fees and that basically just covers material. We want to do actual cost plus 25% administration fee. The 4-inch sewer tap is going up to 200 inside 100 outside. That is just the offset of the cost of materials to install for the first time. After 17 years we are also recommending an increase to deposits. All utilities are currently 300. We are recommending going to 350 water sewer or going up by \$25 each. We also are working to develop a way that we can be more like the private sector. If you have good credit, but you don't have the deposit, you can establish it with good credit. We pay \$50 per meeting to the planning board, non-elected, non-staff members and the recreation advisory committee for coming to the meeting. We increased it to \$100 a month. We also wanted to increase the life insurance by two times salaries up to \$200,000, pay elected officials \$350 as well as \$200,000 cap for life insurance. This is all included in the in that quote from Blue Cross Blue shield. Wanda is going to see if we do not offer spouse coverage, if they can go on the open market and depending on their income get a reduced rate. You have \$3.7 million in economic development. We increase the contribution and donations to \$15,000 for different organizations. The Maiden yearbook staff and the united Arts Council. We increased community activities to \$65,000. That will cover all the festivals. We are also moving \$14,000 from newsletters into departmental supplies. We want to go to an electronic newsletter. It is more economically feasible, and we are one of the last municipalities in the state that still mails out a physical newsletter.

We have a \$230,000 finance budget; the technology budget is a \$185,000. The police budget highlights are staying with the rotation of police vehicles, implementing a new taser replacement program and the new records management system. The fire department budget includes three additional full-time firefighters. We are also applying for the USDA funding for the fire station. The plan is to pave West Finger Street and Hudson Street this year. The sanitation budget nothing changed. We also have \$80,000 in there for playground equipment for Rosenwald and union street. We are going to put key fobs in at the Recreation

Center. We took the drink machines out of the lobby because the price went through the roof. We are going to put in coolers and fountains and sell it like we do at the concession stand. This will be cheaper for our citizens. We are also looking at moving part time employees to \$13.50 an hour with the goal of getting to \$15.00. We have 1200 electric customers inside town limits and 933 other residents. I'm confident that our rates for residential customers will not be up anytime soon.

We had our engineer come in and we are not trimming enough trees each year. We more than doubled the cost of tree trimming. We got a grant for \$250,000, to pay for more than half of the cost. We are going to really focus on circuit 4 this year. A water and sewer fund 1.3 million. For water 743 and 685 for wastewater. we have total budget for next year 2.8 million. A water treatment plant semi-truck that hauls the slush is \$40,000. It is important to know by state law that we must ride our sewer lines once a week. I went through \$23 million, but this is the third time we have been over the budget.

Assistant to the Manager, Anna Dellinger states, the Capital Improvement plan is to identify the challenges for long term needs in the areas of economic and physical development. It will cover the years 2022 to 2029. All the projects noted are tentative projects. All projects will require council approval and further planning in the years to come. These needs are based on community, council, and department heads suggestions. The upcoming year is estimated around \$600,000 for the general fund \$437,000 for the electric fund and \$125,000 for the water and sewer fund. The projects for this year include branding, signage updates, equipment, vehicles, and additional personnel for the fire department. The 2022-2023 is the Buffalo Shoals water line and that is because we're working to see about grant funding for that project. The Police Department they had traffic cameras listed, but Chief Ledford is exploring the legal implications of cameras before we move forward. The Ford F-450 under water and sewer is going to be changed to \$70,000. Town Manager Todd Herms states, this is the Foundation, everything for this year CIP was included in this year budget. It gives us a good foundation to move forward. Next year we will provide each elected official a CIP form to see if they would like to add anything. In January when we discuss the CIP along with the budget. It will be a living document, that extends for seven years.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS FOR A BUDGET AND CIP PUBLIC HEARING . MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

9. Old Business

A. ARPA Grant Project Ordinance Revised (Motion)

Finance Officer Jessica White states, for the revised ordinance, I have met with most of the council to discuss how we would be using the funds. We are using the funds to replace salaries and pay salaries for police officers. The final guidance was from the treasurer. That being the easiest way for municipalities to spend those funds. We are going to use the funds that we received in September of 2021 for this fiscal year which was \$548,000. The second half of next September 2022, we would use that in the upcoming fiscal year. That will replace salaries in the police officer's department. Town Manager Todd Herms states, this is based off recommendations from our grant administrator. Keep it a one-line item. The \$548,000 would go in the Police Department salary line and we would draw out the same amount to put in the general fund account.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON RAMSEUR TO APPROVE THE REVISED ARPA GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

B. West Pine Street Speed Limit (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE NEXT MONTH COUNCIL MEETING PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEST PINE STREET SPEED LIMIT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

10. Proclamation

A. A Proclamation Proclaiming Friday May 27, 2022, as National Poppy Day 2022.

11. Close Session - Property (N.C.G.S. 143-318-11)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO ENTER CLOSE SESSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0. 6:53 PM.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO ADJOURN CLOSE SESSION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0. 6:59 PM.

12. Adjourn (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO ADJOURN REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING AT 7:00 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

Respectfully Submitted:
Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk

Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk