

June 14, 2022
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
TOWN OF MAIDEN

The Maiden Town Council met on Tuesday, June 14, 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 Pro Tem Beth Rudisill
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE THE 5/10/2022 REGULAR MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

6. Citizen Requests & Comments

A. Citizen Ms. Patricia Rhinehart 308 West Pine Street states, It's a drainage in between my house and Willie Farley house. When it rains, it comes down from Westside Baptist Church. It brings everything with it, stops up the drain and flooded out my backyard. It's been flooding for a while now, but I didn't know I had to come to the meeting and bring it to the council until I spoke to Cameron. Town Manager, Mr. Todd Herms states, leave your contact information and Bryan and I will investigate it.

Finance Officer Mrs. Jessica White states, I would like to introduce Miss Addey Ikard. She is our new customer service representative and a Maiden resident. Currently a student at Appalachian State, studying business and accounting. We are very excited to have her.

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 MAY FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

8. Public Hearing

A. Budget 2022-2023 & CIP

Open: 6:07 pm – 6:11 pm

Finance Officer Mrs. Jessica White states, budget ordinance # 29 - 2022 in the amount of \$23,365,854 for your consideration. In this operating budget is a general fund allocation of \$10.8 million and electric fund allocation of \$9.6 million, rate stabilization fund of \$1.2 million and a water and sewer fund allocation of \$2.8 million. This budget ordinance maintains our current tax rate of \$0.38 per \$100 which is the lowest in Catawba and Lincoln County. This tax base of \$1.9 billion are estimated collection rate is 99%. There is no increase to the electric rate and very minimal increases to the water and sewer rates and fee schedule. This has been presented in the budget ordinance. Councilmember Danny Hipps states, how many years has it been since we raised the taxes, 14 or 15? Town Manager, Mr. Todd Herms states, I've been here 14 years and we had two debit tax increase prior my hire date. At that time, it went from 38 to 40. It's been 17 or 18 years.

Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, this budget report was very well put together, nice job Anna. Town Manager, Mr. Todd Herms states, the budget is a budget ordinance, and the CIP is a plan we will try to follow. The CIP can be adjusted depending on how things go from year to year. Councilmember Mr. Danny Hipps states, I am in favor of the CIP 100%. I think that we did a really good job on this. As we move forward, I would like to start earlier so we could have more involvement. We get to hear from the department heads about their needs and our finance group. I would like for us to also to be able to have more time to echo or voice on the things we hear in the community. Mr. Herms states, we have developed some form for the Council to use going forward. Councilmember Danny Hipps states, the CIP is a living document that we can change as needed going forward. Mr. Herms states, yes, we can change it.

B. West Pine Street Speed Limit

Open: 6:12 pm – Closed 6:15 PM

Citizen Ms. Tamika Howard states, I reside at 518 West Pine Street. I'm here to do a follow up, to see where we are on the speed limit for West Pine Street. I have been in contact with Maiden Police Department. They have been working; however, I would like to see where we are as a town with this situation. They have been down there. I am aware that it's going to be a task and it isn't a quick fix. Mr. Herms states, we have to follow state law and regulations. We had to complete a data assessment, that took a couple months. We have done that and now we are here for a public hearing. Later in the business, the council will vote on the speed limit for West Pine Street. Maybe tomorrow or the next day, the signs will be up. Police Chief, Tracy Ledford states, Officer Tyler Whisenant gave you a proposal to reduce the speed limit to 25. We do not want to go around just changing speed limit signs. We take in the whole study and the merits to back up the change. That street almost a mirrors East Pine Street, if you familiar with that

curve. It is 25, so this type of mirror mapping response.

9. Old Business

A. Award Parks and Recreation Project Bid (Motion)

Parks and Recreation Director Mr. Keaton Miller states, Friday May 27th we had three bids that we opened, and the lowest bid was from MHK floor imaging at \$56,550. Mr. Herms states, we need council to accept the lowest bidder. Mr. Miller states, this will increase wheelchair accessibility. This is bid for the concrete work only.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECT BID MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

10. New Business

A. Water Plant Demo (Motion).

Public Works Director Mr. Bryan Duckworth states, we decommissioned a water plant several years ago when Maiden got out of the water production business and contracted with the city of Hickory. The old water plant building has become unsafe. It is a safety liability for the town of Maiden. We would like to proceed with demolition of the old plant and look at possible reuse for that site for the future. We have contracted with KCI engineering to create some bid specs. We did do some preliminary work to a local demolition contractor to give us a budget. That budget estimate came back somewhere around \$210,000 for demo. There is \$327,000 roughly left in the dam project fund. It's our wish for council to approve the spending of the money so we can continue with the project and send it out to bid. Mr. Herms states, we are asking for you to approve us sending it out for bid and see what exactly the project would cost. We would bring it back to council for approval. If we do not demo, we must make some repairs. Like he said, the building had become unsafe. For you all that may not know, we had a water dam project at that location. We completed it in three or four phases. We set up a budget and \$327,000 remains in it. Duke Power has agreed to move some power lines. which has greatly reduced the cost. Therefore, it is being presented now. Before with us having to move power lines, it was going to be more expensive. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, how much property is it on? Mr. Herms states, 9 or 10 acres. Mr. Duckworth states, the entire property with the pond is close to 30 acres. Councilmember Bob Sigmon states is the pond still there. Mr. Duckworth states, the pond was drained, but the creek is still there. Mr. Herms states, if we would have kept the pond, it would have cost \$1.3 million for the project. We did what was best for the taxpayer's money.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO RECUSE COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS FROM THE WATER PLANT DEMO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4-0

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE PUBLIC WORKS TO SEEK BIDS ON THE WATER PLANT DEMO PROJECT MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4-0

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO APPROVE COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO REENTER THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4-0

B. Lineman Enrollment Program (Motion)

Town Manager Mr. Todd Herms states, we have a system betterment grant through Electricities's for \$5000. Me, Bryan, and Wanda been trying to figure out a way to retain and recruit young lineman. If you hire them younger, they stay longer. We have asked Electricities, it's a matching grant, if we could use that for a linemen enrollment program. We have asked the street and water department if they would like to attend lineman school. The program is a 50/50 match up to \$10,000 to basically send any of our employees to lineman training school. After school they must work for the town for four years. After two years, it would become a prorated amount. We have also looked at doing something similar for the police department. The program will run about 10 weeks, and they will probably attend Caldwell or Cleveland Community College for lineman training. We will have something on paper and have it worked out for the police BLET program. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, do you have to be an employee to take advantage of this opportunity. Mr. Herms states, if someone comes to us about the program and Bryan and Wanda wants to hire them, but we must have an opening. Councilmember Danny Hipps states, I would feel more comfortable with an employee that we can get a contract for a year or two. Mr. Herms states, this is a four-year contract. Councilmember Holly Crafton-Lay states, any employee that separates, that means quit or terminated. Mr. Herms states, yes. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, have we ever had to collect from an employee? Mr. Herms states yes. Mayor Pro Tem states how did that work out. Town Clerk-HR Officer Ms. Wanda Barnes states, it worked out well. Mr. Herms states, they wrote us a check. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, it should be made clear that a percentage of their last paycheck could be held. Mr. Herms states, unlike the private sector we are public, therefore they can be put on debt set off and we can get our money. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill states, we should have someone attend career day at the high school. Mr. Herms states, this isn't something new. We just using the grant to offer the training. We have always offered continuing ed for employees and council.

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO APPROVE THE LINEMAN ENROLLMENT PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

11. Ordinance / Resolutions

A. Ordinance #27-2022 An Ordinance to Amend the Code Ordinances. Appendix B Section 222 Speed Limit. (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON RAMSEUR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #27-2022 TO AMEND THE CODE ORDINANCES APPENDIX B SECTION 222 SPEED LIMIT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

B. Ordinance #28-2022 An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2021-2022 Budget in the General Fund Community Activities. (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON RAMSEUR TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #28-2022 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE FY 2021 -2022 BUDGET IN THE GENERAL FUND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

- C. Ordinance #31-2022 An Ordinance Authorizing Updates to the Maiden Comprehensive Plan. (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #31-2022 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING UPDATES TO THE MAIDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0

- D. Resolution #8-2022 A Resolution for the Town of Maiden to Apply for Sidewalk Grant Funds Through GHMPO Local Administered Project Program (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #8-2022 A RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR SIDEWALK GRANT FUND THROUGH GHMPO. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

- E. Resolution #9-2022 A Resolution Approving Disposal of Donation of Various Computer Equipment pursuant to N.C.G.S. 160A-280. (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #9-2022 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE DISPOSAL OF DONATION OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

12. Budget Ordinance For 2022-2023

- A. Ordinance #29-2022 An Ordinance to Approve for 2022-2023 Budget (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #29-2022 AN ORDINANCE TO A APPROVE 2022-2023 BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

- B. Ordinance #30-2022 A Capital Project Budget Ordinance for Fire Department Facility Construction. (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #30-2022 A CAPITAL PROJECT BUDGET FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT FACILITY CONSTRUCTION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

13. Adjourn (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO ADJOURN REGULAR SCHEDULE MEETING AT 6:53 PM MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted:
Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk

Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk