

TOWN OF MAIDEN

April 3, 2017

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Maiden Town Council met on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. for their regular meeting, held in the Council Chambers at the Maiden Town Hall.

Present for the meeting were Mayor Robert L. Smyre, Mayor Pro-Tem Fore Rembert, Councilmembers Trina Michael, Max Bumgarner, Jr., Marcus Midgett, and Ronnie Williams.

Also present were Town Manager Todd Herms, Town Attorney Scott Conrad and Town Clerk Elizabeth Krige.

Others attending: See attached sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Robert L. Smyre.

The invocation was given by Mayor Robert L. Smyre.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Fore Rembert.

Mayor Robert Smyre greeted the audience and thanked them for coming, especially the Boy Scouts from Mays Chapel.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Citizens Requests and Comments

Jody Rogers, Recreation Director, announced the Rec Department will host a community yard sale May 6th. The spots are \$25.00 and information will be available on the Town website and Facebook page.

5. Approval of the Minutes (3/20/17 Meeting):

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FORE REMBERT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 20, 2017 REGULAR MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. New Business:

John Marshall from the Western Piedmont Council of Governments addressed the Council concerning traffic congestion and possible options in downtown Maiden. He stated there have been issues for many years. Mr. Marshall began his presentation with a thoroughfare plan from 1976 which was the oldest he could find-pictures are attached. Mr. Marshall stated the past plans had the same problem we have now, with a proposed road going down the railroad track. A 1989 thoroughfare plan still had the proposed road going down the railroad track. Mr. Marshall's presentation used several photographs showing the difficulty large trucks have getting around. One photo showed an eighteen-wheeler scraping the side of a downtown building. The building had a scrub plate. A recent photo showed the difficulty trucks still have making this turn. E Main Street has an average of 12,000 vehicles per day.

Mr. Marshall stated he and the Congestion Management Team from DOT developed a few possible solutions for this intersection. Some are feasible and some are not. The first option Mr. Marshall presented is an oblong roundabout, which would work however, two commercial business would be lost. The second option calls for removing one commercial structure which would remove the dogleg. The third option comes off 321 Business and parallels the rail road tracks. This would involve working with the DOT Railroad Division, which can be a challenge. The final option was making some roads one way streets. Mr. Marshall asked if the Council wanted to request a study from the Congestion Management Team.

Mayor Bob Smyre stated he believed we need to get this issue fixed in the down town area.

Manager Herms wanted everyone to know this is a long process. The presentation of the options from John Marshall and the Congestion Management Study are the first steps in a long process.

Trina Michael stated she wanted to proceed with the study.

7. Public Hearing for Mixed Beverage Election:

Mayor Bob Smyre called the public hearing for a Mixed Beverage Election at 7:10 P.M. He requested everyone who wanted to address the Council state their name and physical address.

Doug Ledford of Carpenter Street stated he is not against wine or beer. He has a problem with liquor by the drink. He has a problem with people taking shots of whiskey and driving and if it passes, he believes there should be limits on the amounts of alcohol served to patrons.

Jessica Lequiro of Tenth Avenue said she believes this issue is about the Mexican restaurant going in. Mayor Smyre confirmed that the business owners requested to serve liquor by the drink. She stated the owners of the restaurant began working eight months ago and this should have been addressed at that time. Ms. Lequiro said, "This is way overdue and this is the 21st century and we need to move forward." Ms. Lequiro believes this will help keep a small town like Maiden vital and alive.

Samantha Saunders of 10 East Main Street asked for clarification if this issue was going to be put on the ballot. "Who decides if this goes to ballot?" Mayor Smyre and Trina Michael answered stating the Council decided if it went to ballot.

Ms. Saunders stated she believed this was good for Maiden's future. She also stated that many people use designated drivers. She believes it will be a plus for Maiden's economy and hates to see the Town lose business opportunities.

Miriam Brown of 117 Union Street, stated she would like to see the Mexican restaurant get off the ground. She did not believe the restaurant would make it without margaritas. She would like to see the Town move forward. She stated she frequents many Mexican restaurants and has never seen drunk people leaving. Ms. Brown stated that restaurants and bar tenders are aware of how much patrons drink and do not allow drunk patrons to leave due to liability issues. She would really like to see this put on the ballot.

Town Manager Todd Herms stated he saw many new people and asked that everyone address comments to the Council and to be respectful to those speaking.

Jenn Brown from East Carpenter Street believes this should be up to the citizens. She thinks this is a great idea. Please give us a chance to vote on this issue.

Mayor Smyre thanked Ms. Jenn Brown for her comments and addressed the audience. Mayor Smyre stated, "I want to ease everyone's mind, we do not have the authority to vote this in or out. We only have the authority to put it on the ballot."

John Dagle of Ivy Creek, quoted the newsletter which states "we continue to seek new businesses and industries to locate in our area." Mr. Dagle stated he liked to spend money in the local economy. He goes to nearby cities to eat and drink. For tax purposes, Mr. Dagle believes we should bring bars and restaurants into Town. "I hope the Council gives the people the opportunity to vote."

Danny Hipps said he thinks there is an amicable solution and it is great to see so many people out here. "I have been to many restaurants where they serve liquor and no one ever infringed on me and my rights." Mr. Hipps stated this decision should be in the hands of the citizens.

Matt McQuire 201 North Tenth. There was a very depressing story about Maiden in the Charlotte Observer about industry moving out. Mr. McQuire believes downtown Morganton has experienced a lot of success due to allowing alcohol in their restaurants. Many of those speaking tonight live close enough to walk to the Mexican restaurant. Mr. McQuire said, "Please let it go to vote."

Annie Ramseur stated this was a fantastic idea because Maiden needs to grow. The citizens spend so much money outside of Maiden and it is wonderful to be able to walk to a restaurant.

Mayor Smyre asked if anyone else wished to speak and seeing no one, he closed the public hearing at 7:27 PM.

8. Proclamations /Ordinances/ Resolutions

A. The Mayor Announced that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and stated that he was proud to make this proclamation. The Mayor said, "We need to concentrate on the children." He took this opportunity to recognize the many Boy Scouts who were in attendance.

B. Ordinance 7-2017 to amend FY 16-17 budget in the General Fund-Debt Service

Town Manager Todd Herms explained this ordinance was needed to move money to the proper line items. This is to move money to the Police Department Project Fund to begin paying on the loan.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER FORE REMBERT AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 7-2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Ordinance 8-2017 to amend FY 16-17 budget in the General Fund-Street Department

Town Manager Todd Herms explained this ordinance is for the paving of North Main Avenue. Money from the Powell Bill is being moved to Contracted Services to pay for the project.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER MAX BUMGARNER AND SECONDED BY TRINA MICHAEL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 8-2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Ordinance 9-2017 to amend the FY 16-17 budget in the General Fund-Council

Town Manager Todd Herms explained this ordinance was needed to pay the economic development incentive to Carolina Non-Wovens. They paid their taxes 90 days ago and this is the portion they get back per the economic development agreement, which is \$13,669.00.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY RONNIE WILLIAMS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 9-2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. Resolution 7-2017 to hold a Mixed Beverage Election in the Town of Maiden

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER FORE REMBERT AND SECONDED BY TRINA MICHAEL TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 7-2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Old Business

A. Recreation Survey Results

Manager Herms explained the Recreation Survey was sent out via hard copy and on Facebook. The Splash Pad was by far the most requested item on the survey.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY MAX BUMGARNER TO ACCEPT THE MAIDEN RECREATION SURVEY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Park Master Plan

Town Manager Todd Herms explained this was a 20-30 year plan. It is part of the PARTF grant application. It includes some of the items requested by citizens in the Maiden Recreation Survey. This is a plan and does not bind Council to fund these items in the future. The Master Plan is worth ten points on the PARTF application.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams said he believes this is the best thing we can do for the Rec Department. He stated it was important to have a long-range plan.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY MARCUS MIDGETT TO ACCEPT THE MASTER PLAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Surplus Property for Lt. Donna Hartman

Manager Todd Herms is retiring after a long-distinguished career. It is tradition that the Town sale the officer their service weapon for \$1.00. We need a motion to sale this item to Donna Hartman for \$1.00, including the serial number of the weapon which is PC679677.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams asked if this was just for the shotgun, what about the sidearm?

Councilmember Trina Michael asked if Lt. Hartman wanted the sidearm.

Chief of Police, Tracy Ledford was in the audience and stated that Lt. Hartman chose her shotgun.

MOTION WAS MADE BY RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY FORE REMBERT THAT WE DECLARE PC679677 AS SURPLUS PROPERTY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY MAX BUMGARNER JR TO SALE SURPLUS PROPERTY PC679677 FOR \$1.00. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Mayor thanked everyone for coming out tonight. We have business every first and third Monday. Come out and bring a crowd. We do need people to come out and voice their opinion. Our next meeting will May 1st at 5:30 in the Community Room at the Maiden Town Hall, which is the budget meeting.

Councilmember Trina Michael thanked everyone. "I really appreciate the comments." Thank you for coming.

With no further comments...

MOTION WAS MADE BY MARCUS MIDGETT AND SECONDED BY MAX BUMGARNER JR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 7:46 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk

Robert L. Smyre, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk