

TOWN OF MAIDEN

July 16, 2018

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Maiden Town Council met on Monday, July 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. for their regularly scheduled meeting, held in the Council Chambers at the Maiden Town Hall.

Present for the meeting were Mayor Bob Smyre, Mayor Pro-Tem Max Bumgarner Jr., Councilmembers Danny Hipps, Trina Michael and Ronnie Williams. Councilmember Marcus Midgett was absent.

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

Others attending: See attached sheet.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Robert L. Smyre at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilmember Danny Hipps. The Pledge of Allegiance was given by Phillip Schrader from Boy Scout Troop 771.

4. Approval of Agenda

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

5. Citizens Request and Comments

Nelson Canipe addressed Council with concerns over the enforcement of planning and zoning ordinances in the town. He stated he believes they are not being enforced equally. Specifically, he cited an instance where someone was living in an RV, which is against the code of ordinances. When he asked Planning Director Blake Wright about parking an RV on his property and allowing someone to live in it, initially he was told he could if the RV moved every 30 days. Several days later Mr. Canipe claims Mr. Wright changed his mind and would not allow the RV to be parked on the lot.

He stated he met with the town's lawyer and Mr. Herms. Mr. Canipe he spoke to a man who lived in an RV for more than four months without receiving a citation. Mr. Canipe spoke about issues a business was having with Catawba County in regards to a foundation issue. Mr. Canipe believes the town is treating people differently in regards to the enforcement of ordinances.

Mr. Canipe thinks the town needs to work with the building inspectors from the county. Mr. Canipe states he cleaned up many lots that were eyesores. Mr. Canipe states that if the lawyer and the manager can't fix things in ten years, he would fire one and have a long talk with the other one.

Thomas Schrader, a Scout from Troop 771 presented his Eagle Scout Project Idea. Thomas has been active in scouting and band for many years and wants to build a pergola for the Maiden High School Marching Band.

Mayor Smyre congratulated Thomas on his years of dedication to the Boy Scouts and wished him success on this Eagle Project.

Tim Rhyne voiced concerns about the Splash Pad. He thinks it was a good thing for the kids but feels it was placed in a bad location. His grandparents are buried there and his parents will be buried there. Mr. Rhyne believes it is inappropriate and disrespectful to have people in swim suits so close to the cemetery. He proposed putting up a privacy fence and asked if it could be closed during funerals.

6. Approval of the Minutes (6/4/2018 Regular Meeting and Closed Session):

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE JUNE 4, 2018 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Consent Agenda

A. Finance Officers Report May and June

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO ACCEPT THE MAY AND JUNE FINANCE OFFICERS REPORT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. New Business

A. Safe Communities Initiative

Chief Tracy Ledford introduced Charles Makey, who serves as the Safe Communities Coordinator. Mr. Makey said he is excited about the program and how it addresses the problem of gang violence.

The program was created to address gang activity in the county in 2010. The program was modeled after programs in Boston and High Point. The Governor's Crime Commission funded the program initially. This program identifies gang crimes but also relies on partnerships within the community to provide services for offenders. The ultimate goal of this program is to reduce violence.

Based on certain trigger offenses, offenders are brought in for a focused deterrence or "call-in." These offenders are told that if they commit any of the trigger offenses, state, federal and local agencies will work together to prosecute offenders to the full extent of the law. There is a lot of support from the community which has helped with the program's success.

During the “call-in” others than have been convicted and are serving sentences speak about prison and the consequences of continuing to commit crime. Mr. Mackey said the Catwaba County program has had good results and there has been a reduction in violent crime since the inception of the program. Mr. Mackey invited those in attendance to recommend youth to attend the “call-in” to help keep them out of trouble. The resources available to those who come for the call-in include anger management, job training, educational resources, substance abuse counseling and many other services.

Mayor Smyre and Councilmember Trina Michael said they attended a call-in and it was eye-opening and touching to see those who were taking in the information and wanting to make a change in their behavior.

B. Reappointment to Planning Board of Adjustment

Mr. Herms said there three people who need to be reappointed to the Planning Board of Adjustment. Mr. Herms asked if there were no objections that council make a motion to reappoint David Miller, Cindy Lester and Devore Henry.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO REAPPOINT DAVID MILLER, CINDY LESTER AND DEVORE HENRY TO THE PLANNING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

C. Hotel Feasibility Study

Charity Barbee from Electricities of North Carolina introduced Dick Keegan who conducted a hotel feasibility study for Maiden. An upper mid-scale hotel was recommend which includes brands like Hampton Inn and Holiday Inn Express. The study was very comprehensive.

Mr. Keegan stated this type of study is to determine if a hotel is needed. Maiden generates a disproportionate amount of economic activity relative to it’s population. The challenge facing Maiden is a lack of restaurants. More restaurants in the area may make staying in a hotel in Maiden more attractive than commuting to Hickory. Mr. Keegan stated there is a need for a national franchise highway facility, such as Hampton or Fairfield Inn.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams asked which should come first a restaurant or hotel. Mr. Keegan said a good option might be a Springhill Suite with a café/bar in it.

Councilmember Danny Hipps asked how or if we can try to recruit a hotel. Mr. Keegan said Electricities would assist the town. Mr. Keegan suggested approaching the owners of the land would be a good start. Ms. Barbee encouraged the town to share with investors and developers within the area.

9. Ordinances

A. 15-2018 An Ordinance to Amend the the FY 18-19 Budget in the General Fund

Mr. Herms stated this budget ordinance in the amount of \$270,658 will allow the town to repair the two storm drains we have issues with. Built into this contract is about \$80,000 for paving, the town is negotiating to perform that work separately.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 15-2018. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Presentation of Bids for Stormwater Improvements

Mr. Herms presented the bids to Council. Neill Grading bid \$378,754. Hickory Sand's bid was \$270,658. Mr. Herms asked Council for permission for him to negotiate the contract with Hickory Sand.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHEAL TO ALLOW THE TOWN MANAGER TO NEGOTIATE THE CONTRACT WITH HICKORY SAND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. Closed Session

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR PROPERTY AQUITION AT 8:26 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

With no further comments...

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:00 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk

Robert L. Smyre, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk