

TOWN OF MAIDEN
August 11, 2020
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Maiden Town Council met on Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for their regularly scheduled meeting, held in the Council Chambers at the Maiden Town Hall.

Present for the meeting were, Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr., Councilmembers Trina Michael, Beth Rudisill, Bob Sigmon, Danny Hipps and Ronnie Williams.

Also, present were Town Manager Todd Herms, Town Attorney Scott Conrad and Town Clerk 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 Bob Sigmon.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Sigmon.

4. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO AMEND THE AGENDA AND ADD OF NEW AND D. SEPTEMBER MEETING DISCUSSION, E. CAPITAL PROJECT MEETING AS PRESENTED 8/11/2020. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.

5. Citizens Requests & Comments

Ms. Mary Henry inquiries about the requirements to have brush picked up on streets and if a work order is required for pick-up. Mr. Herms responds that no work order is required. The Streets department surveys the pick-up on Monday and sets the weekly scheduled based on pick up. He also states that due to social distancing requirements, only one employee per vehicle during pick up has caused a slowdown in pick-up and bulk increased about 37% with everyone being home more. They are looking at different options when it comes to street pick-up. Maybe having set days for pick-up or creating a text or email to schedule a pick-up. Public Works Director Bryan Duckworth confirms Mr. Herms response about the bulk and brush pick-up. Councilmember Hipps states that the 37% is 2 ½ hour and would like to know, if we have anyone that can ride around for those hours to see what was missed in the pick-up as an option? Mr. Herms states that all options are being considered. Councilmember Williams inquiries about the pick-up schedule process. Mr. Herms confirms multiple pick-up days and the citizens may have to help by scheduling a pick-up. Councilmember Hipps suggests communication between the different departments to increase the awareness of the location of the pick-up. Ms. Henry states that some Senior Citizens do not have access to technology to report a pick-up. She also inquiries about the major intersection and if Mr. Herms been communicating with the DOT. Mr. Herms states that DOT has a freeze on any project that isn't already under construction.

Ms. Henry inquires about the working relationship with Maiden and DOT. Ms. Henry acknowledges how well the former Public Works Director Billy Price maintained the area by the bridge. Ms. Henry states the town is in a mess. We only have one grocery store and would like to know when will construction starts on the new fire department. Councilmember Hipps request that the Council and Todd work together to start having the Council meetings live online even when it's held in the Chamber. He would like for Todd or a staff member to research and share online the Chamber of Commerce job retention grant, with a deadline date of September 1, 2020. Ms. Henry asks if the Town has anyone to write grants for the town. Councilmember Hipps states that the Town works with different individuals and Electricities to write grants. Mr. Herms confirms Councilmember Hipps statement. He also states that it has been very difficult to receive grants because of the Town financial situation. Councilmember Hipps said he contacted the Economic Development corporation and was told that it would not hurt to apply for the grant. Councilmember Rudisill acknowledges Fire Chief Caldwell for obtaining a \$217k grant for the Fire Department. Councilmember Rudisill stated that the Madam Clerk Barnes address the citizens cemetery concerns and it looks much better. Cemetery Contractor Cameron Ramseur explains the new cemetery maintenance process. Councilmember Rudisill acknowledges Mr. Ramseur's on the improvements. She also requests that the Police Chief "We're all in this together" video, the Fire Department grant and Duke Energy tree trimming with the helicopter be shared on the Town's social media.

6. Approval of Minutes

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 7/14/2020 MEETING; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5-0.

7. Ordinances/Resolutions/Recognition

A. Ordinances #18 – 2020 An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2020 – 2021 Budget to Record Federal State Forfeiture Funds In the Police Department.

Mr. Herms explains the ordinances was funds we received in for the taxes paid on the sale of drugs that we obtained from drug seizures and a portion was returned back to the police department. Officer Williams confirms Mr. Herms statement about the funds received by the police department. Mr. Herms states that the Councilmember will have to take action on these funds every year around July, August or September. Councilmember Danny Hipps inquiries about where the funds go. Mr. Herms said the Police Chief has total discretion over the funds.

Mayor Bumgarner ask if the funds have purchase limitations. Officer Williams stated that they try to use the funds for big ticket items. Mr. Herms states that the funds must be used toward drug enforcement. In the past the Police Department purchased bulletproof vests and Norican.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE # 18 – 2020 WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5 – 0

B. Ordinances #19 – 2020 An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2020 – 2021 Budget in the Electric Fund.

Mr. Herms explains that the funds are needed to partner with Electricities to do an Economic Development retail study. The program cost \$10,000.00 and Electricities will pay \$5000.00 to have an independent agent to do a study. Mr. Herms spoke to other Town and they had great results and others had mix results. He said this is the best option we have available to the Town right now.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL TO APPROVE ORDINANCE # 19 – 2020 WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5 – 0

C. Resolution # 4 – 2020 A Resolution of Appreciation to the City of Newton.

Mr. Herms explains that other agents assisted when we lost our lineman, but the City of Newton handled 80% of the work needed without charging a fee and he would like to acknowledge them for their service. Mayor Bumgarner acknowledge the City of Newton Mayor Eddie Haupt for their services.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 4 – 2020 WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5 – 0

D. Resolution # 5 – 2020 A Resolution Honoring Jody Rodgers Park & Recreation Director.

Mr. Herms explains that the Town would name the basketball court at the recreation center after Jody to honor him. The staff is painting the gym during this down time and the floors were scheduled to be serviced this year. The signature being used on the court was Jody's signature taken from a document he signed. He also stated that he would like to have a ceremony for Jody. Councilmember Williams would like to know the cycle of maintenance of the gym floor. Park & Recreation Interim Director Keaton Miller explains the gym floor maintenance service schedule. He states every two years, but high schools and upper level standards are yearly. Councilmember Williams states we will touch up his signature every two years during maintenance.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 5 – 2020 WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5 – 0

8. Old Business

A. New Construction Fire Department

Mr. Herms makes an introduction of the new construction fire department architect Marty. Marty gives a high level summary of the new fire department and answer questions. A preliminary space needs analysis and feasibility study was created for the new fire department. The draft study indicated a space need of approximately 22500 sq.ft. The floor plan was able to provide all of the program requirements in the 22500 sq. ft. They have review options to decrease the cost, while still meeting the required

program needs. The additional option of 19300 sq. ft. and 20700 sq. ft. Councilmember Hipps ask who perform the study and was the fire department included in the study. Marty responded with CBSA Architect completed the study and the Fire Chief was involved and supervised by the Town Manager. Councilmember Rudisill inquiries about floor Plan C, being the plan in discussion. Architect Marty confirms Plan C. Councilmember ask about the building committee involvement. Mr. Herms suggests the building committee involvements, once the Fire Chief and the Architect have a final plan. Councilmember Rudisill express concerns that the building committee haven't been involved. Architect Marty suggests waiting until the Chief have a final plan before involving the committee and confirms the cost is a total. Councilmember Hipps recommends setting deadline dates and plans for the old fire department. Fire Chief, Architect and Councilmembers decided on September 1, 2020 as the deadline date to have final floor plans for the fire department. Councilmember Hipps acknowledges the Architect for the work on the project.

B. Jive After 5 Discussion

Mr. Herms states the Governor extended the stay at home Executive Order and a decision needs to be made on the Jive after Five event. Councilmembers decided to cancel Jive after Five 2020 event. The 2020 deposits will be used for the 2021 Jive After Five event.

C. Fall Sports Update

Mr. Herms and Interim Parks and Recreation Director Keaton Miller explains the current Fall Sports status under the Executive Order. Councilmembers cancel Fall Sports. Councilmember Hipps challenges Mr. Miller to think out the box and have virtual activities for the children. Citizen Cameron Ramseur suggest sending letter to the local churches to increase participation in the recreation activities. Councilmember Hipps suggest sending the information to the school boards to post on their websites.

D. Fall Festival Discussion

Mr. Herms explains the Fall Festival under the Executive Order. Councilmember Williams stated the Fall festival is under the Recreation and he suggest canceling the event along with the Fall Sports. Mr. Herms said he has already received questions about Halloween. Councilmember Hipps ask if the Town makes the final decision on Halloween and we should decide if we are going to block the streets. Councilmember Williams received mixed reviews about Halloween from citizens on Main street. Councilmembers cancel Fall Festival. Mr. Herms states he will send out an all in one notice of cancellations.

9. New Business

A. Employee Vacation Buy Back Program

Mr. Herms explains the pilot study Employee Vacation buyback program request from the Mayor. It allows employees to sell back vacation if they could not use it due to Covid-19 and if numbers decrease it would be difficult for the Town to approve a large number of vacation at the end of the year. The employee is required to have a forty-hour balance at the end of the year, if they sell vacation

time. Councilmember Michael recommends the Employee Vacation Buyback program be exercised once for the fiscal year 2020 and review the numbers before we decide to offer the program yearly.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE ONE TIME EMPLOYEE VACATION BUY BACK PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5 – 0.

B. Duke Energy Annexation Petition

Councilmember Hipps ask to be recused from section 9. B Duke Energy Annexation Petition to avoid a conflict of interest.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO RECUSE COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 4 – 0

Mr. Herms said Duke Energy has 70 plus acres at the corner of Startown and Biggerstaff Road. The location will be a land yard to store equipment and dispatch trucks. It will be a support station for the new facility they are building. They are requesting annexation for zoning and city water. Mr. Herms stated that he sees them building the waterlines and giving it to the Town. Duke Energy will only need to provide documentation to public works that it was built to the Town standards and we would inspect it during construction. The first step is the Clerk will certify their petition. Mr. Herms ask Planning and Zoning Director Blake Wright if it is a four-step process. Mr. Wright said it is a four-step process and we are looking at having everything wrapped up in October or November. Councilmember Michael ask if it would be stated in the documents that the Town will not be running the waterlines. Mr. Herms confirms that it would be stated in the documents and we would not be responsible for any DOT requirements. Councilmember Williams ask if they will need sewer, police and fire. Mr. Herms stated that from their conversation, they will not be needing sewer and it would not change anything in our district.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO ACCEPT RESOLUTION # 6 – 2020 WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 4 – 0

COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPP REJOINED THE MEETING AT 7:37 pm

C. Rick Lanier US Motto Committee

Rick Lanier US Motto Committee representative and Co-Founder acknowledges the Councilmembers and extend an invitation to join other cities and counties in displaying the motto In God We Trust on the Government building and Law enforcement vehicles. In God We Trust is the national and official motto of the United States. It has been used on the US currency since 1864. One hundred percent of the cost

will come from private donations and can be install within 30 days. Councilmembers acknowledges Mr. Lanier.

D. September Meeting Discussion

Councilmembers reschedule the September 8, 2020 Council meeting to September 1, 2020 to accommodate for Councilmembers schedule.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL TO CANCEL THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING AND RESCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 WITH MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5 – 0

E. Capital Project Meeting

Councilmembers schedule the Capital Project Meeting to October 13, 2020, immediately after the regular scheduled Council meeting.

10. Closed Session

11. Adjourn (Motion)

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BETH RUDISILL TO ADJOURN at 9:37 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. 5-0

Respectfully Submitted:

Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk

Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk