

TOWN OF MAIDEN

August 6, 2018

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Maiden Town Council met on Monday, August 6, 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, Ronnie Williams and Marcus Midgett.

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 Mayor Smyre. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dustin Buff from Boy Scout Troop.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Citizens Request and Comments

Mr. Clifford Wilson voiced concerns about a swimming pool two houses away from his property that is drawing mosquitos. Planning Director Blake Wright said they are using a cover and he has requested they purchase a new cover. Mr. Wright also stated he has used mosquito traps to alleviate the problem.

Recreation Director Jody Rogers introduced new staff members in the Recreation Department. Cody Demarmels was hired to fill the position of Parks Maintenance Specialist and DJ Stanley was hired to fill the new position created by Council; Recreation Technician. Mayor Smyre welcomed the new employees and complimented them on the work they do. He said the parks look wonderful and he appreciates the Recreation Department's hard work.

6. Approval of the Minutes (7/16/2018 Regular Meeting and Closed Session):

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2018 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Recognition of Advance Law Enforcement Certification

Chief Tracy Ledford said he wanted to recognize Tyler Whisenant, who has been with us for a year. Tyler holds a bachelor's degree and previously he worked for the Catawba County Sheriff's office. Chief Ledford said Tyler has been a true asset to the Town. He worked the roads and then we sent him to training school, now he works in investigations and does a tremendous job. Law enforcement today is very difficult, but the citizens of Maiden and Council support the Police Department. Chief Ledford introduced Tyler's family and thanked the family for supporting Tyler in his career.

Mayor Smyre thanked Tyler for his service to the Town. Mayor Smyre said he was glad Tyler was here and hopes he will stay here a long time. Mayor Smyre thinks we have a wonderful Town and is thankful for all the officers who keep us safe.

8. Recognition of Retirement-Crossing Guard

Chief Ledford said he was sad to announce the retirement of Crossing Guard Traci Heffner. Chief Ledford said being a crossing guard is hard, Traci said it is hard, but she loves it. Chief Ledford said Traci had been a valued employee and special friend to him and the police department. Mayor Smyre said the Traci came from a family of servants. He served with Traci's mother and Traci. Mayor Smyre said she always voted her conviction. Mayor Smyre said it was an honor to serve with Traci and her mother. Traci said she begins chemo tomorrow and Mayor Smyre said he and the entire town would be praying for her recovery. Chief Ledford presented Traci with a plaque of appreciation.

Councilmember Williams said he had known Traci most of his life and when there was hard job, Traci was always able to do it.

9. New Business

A. Veteran's Recruitment Efforts in Catawba County

Lindsay Keisler from the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce addressed Council. She thanked the Council and said she was pleased to be able to present to the Maiden Town Council. Ms. Keisler said the goal of the Chamber and the EDC was to fill jobs in the region as well as grow the population. Currently Catawba County has a 3.3% unemployment rate. Ms. Keisler said the Chamber has worked with EDC to recruit transitioning military to our community.

Ms. Keisler stated that most business in the area have increased sales volume and have a shortage of qualified individuals to fill these jobs. Transitioning veterans have a tremendous skill set that employers in this region desire. In order to attract veterans, the EDC and Chamber sponsored Welcome Home Hickory Metro. This is a hiring event that is fully paid for by the Chamber and EDC. There is a job fair component but also representatives from the schools and other community services that provide information on relocation to the area. So far Welcome Home Hickory Metro has hosted 61 families and 163 interviews have been conducted. Six families have relocated to the Hickory area. Each family represents \$33,000 of economic impact per year.

B. Splash Pad Policy

Mr. Herms explained the policy before the Council was to address noise from the Splash Pad during funeral services. There have been a handful of funerals that have occurred since the opening of the Splash Pad, which we have handled very well. If the funeral is occurring in the first three rows of the cemetery, the Splash Pad will be shut down for no more than an hour, only during business hours and 24-hour notice is required. Funerals taking place in other areas of the cemetery the Town will turn the dump bucket off. This is a test and if this does not work we will readdress it.

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE THE SPLASH PAD POLICY AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Closed Session

MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY AT 7:45 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

With no further comments...

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:19 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk

Robert L. Smyre, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk