

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2019

Mayor Smyre Announces His Retirement



In 1975, Robert "Bob" Lewis Smyre was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Board of Aldermen (as they were called back then) for the Town of Maiden, and today he has announced his retirement. Mayor Smyre served on the board for 5 years before winning the Mayor's seat in 1979. He has served in that role since then, with two exceptions (1987-1989 and 2001-2005). In 2005, he won the Mayor seat by write-in. In total, Mayor Smyre has served Maiden as an elected official for more than 38 years. That will come to an end at 5pm on June 30, 2019.

In his retirement announcement letter, Mayor Smyre wrote, "Other than being a Christian, husband, and father/grandfather, being the Mayor of Maiden has been the greatest highlight of my life." However, just because he will not be sitting in the Mayor's chair does not mean he will not have Maiden in his heart, "This was an extremely difficult decision, but I have the utmost confidence in our Town Council,

Administration, and staff. I know they will continue working to move our town forward without losing sight of what makes Maiden a great place to live, work, and play. I foresee great things for our community's future, but the time has come for me to step aside and let the next generation lead us. I will be the next Mayor's biggest supporter, encouraging them as a community member and I call on everyone to do the same. I truly wish the very best for everyone that calls Maiden home."

"There's no doubt, Bob has a long and notable legacy as Mayor in the Town of Maiden. I have had the pleasure of serving with him on council for the past 14 years which we have shared many accomplishments and challenges. I wish him only the very best." – Mayor Pro Tem Max Bumgarner, Jr.

"For generations past and present, in our community and across our great state Mayor Bob Smyre has been synonymous with the Town of Maiden. He has been woven into the fabric of our town. For over four decades he has been the epitome of Public Service and has served Maiden with dignity and pride. Godspeed to the Mayor on his retirement." – Councilmember Danny Hipps

“I am saddened to learn that Bob Smyre is retiring as mayor of Maiden. Through his many terms he has represented Maiden professionally and with class, not only in Maiden but throughout the uniform. Maiden has made tremendous progress under his leadership and he will be missed. Thank you for your service Mayor Smyre.” – Councilmember Marcus Midgett

“Bob has served this community for many years and will be greatly missed. I would like to thank him for his dedication to our community and count it a very high honor to have worked with him in public service. I wish him the very best in his retirement.” – Councilmember Trina Michael

“It is with much sadness to see Mayor Smyre resign as the mayor of Maiden with only 6 months left in this, his final term as mayor of Maiden. The citizens of Maiden probably do not know how well Mayor Smyre is respected by other officials of municipalities in Catawba County and surrounding counties from the work and dedication he has put into the WPCOG serving as chairman and on the executive committee. He has served Maiden extremely well in his many years as mayor and he will be greatly missed. I wish Mayor Smyre the very best as he starts a new chapter in his life. Thank you, Mayor, for your influence and dedication to Maiden and its citizens.” – Councilmember Ronnie Williams

Representative Mitchell Setzer stated, “It has been an honor and privilege to serve the citizens of Maiden with Mayor Smyre.”

Over the years Mayor Smyre saw jobs leave town as many of the textile plants closed or relocated, such as Carolina Mills, America & Efid Inc., Maiden Knitting, Town and Country Textiles, Woonsocket Textiles, and Delta Apparel. However, Mayor Smyre was successful in navigating Maiden’s economy to replace those jobs and build up the town’s tax base with companies like GKN Driveline, Ethan Allen, McCreary Modern, vonDrehle, Temple Furniture, Carolina Nonwovens, Lawrence Lumber, and Apple’s multibillion East Coast Data Campus. To put into prospective; Smyre’s first town budget was around \$2 million, the purposed budget for FY 2019-2020 will be over \$20 million.

The landscape of Maiden has changed during the past four decades, Smyre oversaw several municipal projects such as expanding town boundaries, new road projects, the new Town Hall, Police Station, Paul Joseph Klutz Building, Base 2 Fire Station, Waste Water Treatment Plant, the creation and construction of the Maiden Recreation Department, along with the ball fields, playgrounds, parks and Splash Pad, Public Wi Fi, numerous utilities projects, upgrades in every department of the town, and in many other areas as well.

Smyre was the Mayor who recruited the current Town Manager to come to Maiden in 2008. “If there’s ever a Maiden version of Mt. Rushmore, he would have to be the first person to be



put on it.” Todd Herms stated, “I have learned so much from Mayor Smyre, the most important being that he showed me how to have compassion for the people I serve. He is not only a good Mayor; but he is a great man. He represented the town’s interests in every meeting he attended, both local and national. I will forever be in his debt and will always consider him a friend and mentor. My hope is that he and Margo will be able to enjoy retirement and travel the world.”

Maiden is a Public Power community, and Mayor Smyre has played a vital role in ensuring the citizens and businesses have safe and reliable power. “As hometown utilities, public power communities always have the best interest of their local residents at heart, and that could not be more evident than through Mayor Smyre’s 38 years of dedicated public service to the Town of Maiden,” said Roy Jones, CEO of Electricities of North Carolina, a non-profit organization that works with public power communities across North Carolina, including Maiden. “It has been a real privilege to work alongside him. His invaluable leadership and significant contributions to the Town of Maiden, as well as the public power community as a whole, will be greatly missed.”



(Mayor Smyre and Governor McCrory at Grand Opening of Carolina Nonwovens on 7/20/16)

Mayor Smyre also served on several regional and state boards, committees, and commissions; including the Western Piedmont Council of Governments (WPCOG). Mayor Smyre’s first service with WPCOG was on the Criminal Justice Advisory Committee (CJAC) in 1978. He has served on WPCOG Policy Board as the Town of Maiden, and since 2010 he has served on the WPCOG Executive Committee. Mayor Smyre also served as the WPCOG Board Chair from 2014-2015.

WPCOG Executive Director Anthony W. Starr stated, “Mayor Smyre is a fantastic leader for our region and he has established a wonderful legacy of public service both in Maiden and our region. He consistently advocates for cooperation between local governments to serve the public’s best interest and he is one of the most well-respected elected officials in the Western Piedmont. He served as the WPCOG board chair when I was appointed as the executive director and I will always be grateful for his leadership and friendship.”

Through the highs and lows, Smyre has always believed in Maiden’s people and their ability to thrive. Councilmembers, staff, and town managers have come and gone, but one constant for

Maiden was Bob Smyre serving his community. Early in his tenure as Mayor, Governor Jim Hunt recognized Maiden as one of the growth centers for State of North Carolina. During the Great Recession, near the twilight of his career as Mayor, Maiden was the economic driver for our region. Under Mayor Smyre leadership, Maiden has thrived in economic development.

“Mayor Smyre’s commitment to the Town of Maiden is lifelong and unassailable. It is truly remarkable for any town, much less a town the size of Maiden, to have recruited over \$3 Billion in capital investment and 2,400 jobs and is a legacy that will be hard to match. He’s a great leader and I am proud to have worked with him all these years,” said Scott Millar, President of Catawba County’s Economic Development Corporation. Below are listed some of the larger Economic Developments project that occurred during Mayor Smyre tenure:

Year	Project	Investment
1981	Null Manufacturing	\$8,500,000
1982	Arguto	\$750,000
1984	Ethan Allen	\$5,750,000
1984	Oxford Industries	\$700,000
1985	Maiden Knitting Mills	\$3,800,000
1986	Getrag Gears	\$7,000,000
1989	Delta Apparel	\$7,000,000
1991	Getrag Gears 2	\$2,750,000
1992	Martin Marietta	\$4,000,000
1994	H & M Frame Co.	\$900,000
1995	Null Industries 2	\$200,000
1996	McCreary Modern	\$800,000
1996	Hooker Furniture	\$10,000,000
1998	Getrag Gears 3	\$5,955,449
1999	Getrag Gears 4	\$80,000,000
2007	Von Drehle Corp.	\$3,000,000
2008	Lawrence Lumber	\$551,843
2008	Von Drehle Corp. 2	\$2,400,000
2009	Von Drehle Corp. 3	\$3,000,000

Year	Project	Investment
2009	Ethan Allen Inc. 2	\$2,790,000
2009	Apple, Inc.	\$1,000,000,000
2011	Lawrence Lumber	\$770,000
2012	Apple Inc. 2	\$100,000,000
2012	Apple Inc. 3	\$4,130,147
2012	Apple Inc. 4	\$1,885,129
2013	Apple Inc. 5	\$5,900,000
2013	Apple Inc. 6	\$3,589,144
2014	Apple Inc. 7	\$1,780,608
2014	GKN Driveline	\$122,438,000
2014	Lawrence Lumber Co.	\$74,134
2015	Apple Inc. 8	\$432,000,000
2015	Carolina Nonwovens	\$13,000,000
2016	GKN Driveline 2	\$110,000,000
2017	Apple Inc. 9	\$1,000,000,000
2017	Apple Inc. 10	\$300,000,000
2018	GKN Driveline 3	\$471,827
2018	Apple Inc. 11	\$1,834,034
	Total	\$3,247,720,315

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