

## TOWN OF MAIDEN

February 5, 2018

### MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Maiden Town Council met on Monday, February 5, 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 Robert L. Smyre, Mayor Pro-Tem Max Bumgarner Jr, Councilmembers Danny Hipps, Trina Michael, 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 Councilmember Danny Hipps.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Ronnie Williams.

#### 4. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Smyre requested Council add a Closed Session to the agenda for economic development.

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

#### 5. Citizens Requests and Comments

Police Chief Tracy Ledford recognized Officer Brandon Winstead who earned the North Carolina Justice Academy's Traffic Enforcement & Investigation Certificate. Officer Winstead completed 500 hours of specialized training to earn this distinction and he is one of only 288 other Law Enforcement Officers in the state to do. Police Chief Ledford said Lt. Wagner also completed this certificate. Chief Ledford thanked Officer Winstead for his hard work and dedication and wished him the best as he furthers his training. Chief Ledford also recognized Officer Winstead's family.

Mayor Symre thanked Brandon for his friendliness. Mayor Smyre said he appreciated each of Maiden's Police officers and their outstanding friendliness.

Town Manager Todd Herms reminded the Council about the County Summit, on Thursday beginning at 5:45.

6. Approval of the Minutes (1/15/2018 Meeting):

**MOTION MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 15, 2018 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. New Business

A. Maiden Fire Department First Responder Calls (Motion)

Todd Herms recognized Tracy Caldwell, Fire Chief as well as Chief Frye from the Maiden Rescue Squad and Mark Petit, Assistant Emergency Services Director for Catawba County.

Tracy Caldwell addressed Council. The Fire Department requests to cover Charlie and Delta Calls (Charlie-life threatening, advanced life support Delta-serious life threatening, advanced life support) Monday to Friday from 8 to 5. The MFD has been running Echo calls (life status questionable) 24/7 for the past six years. The Department has 17 certified EMTs. From Monday to Friday, 7 AM to 6 PM there are three personnel on staff who are scheduled and can respond within 5 minutes of a call.

First Responders arrive on a scene within 2-6 minutes, about 5-10 minutes before an EMS unit. Chief Caldwell emphasized that minutes make a difference in cases of cardiac arrest or breathing trouble.

In 2008, Former Chief Danny Hipps asked for a tax increase from the County. It was denied with the reasoning being that the Maiden Fire Department (MFD) needed to better align their department to assist EMS and the Rescue Squad. The MFD, met with Rescue Leadership to discuss response plans and roles and were granted a medical provider number by the county. You must have a medical number to respond to calls. The MFD trained staff on CPR and other lifesaving techniques. The County granted a 1 cent increase to the MFD in 2010-2011 which allowed the MFD to equip six trucks with AEDs and medical bags.

Chief Caldwell said he has been asked several times about the cost of the Fire Department running additional medical calls. Chief Caldwell said the cost to the town would be about \$1,200 per year. In the last two months there were 14 medical calls MFD could have responded to if they were allowed to run first responder calls. There are funds in the budget for two off-duty EMTs to respond in case staffing levels are down. Chief Caldwell said another question that has been asked was this would create duplication of services.

Chief Caldwell said he does not think this an issue; 9 of 13 fire departments in Catawba County run first responder calls from 8-5, Monday to Friday. Eight Fire Departments in Catawba County run first responder calls 24 hours a day. The MFD requests other agencies to respond which insures there are adequate resources on the scene and reduces the loss of life. Chief Caldwell stated it was not his intention to run the Maiden Rescue Squad out of town. Chief Caldwell also stated he wanted to provide additional resources on the scene and he does not wish to tear down bridges between agencies. Maiden Fire is ready to put this proposal into practice. Chief Caldwell asked the Council vote to allow Maiden Fire to run first responder calls.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams asked about the 3 personnel on staff during the week. Chief Caldwell explained of the staff he has from the hours of 7 AM to 6 PM, there is one full-time firefighter and 2 part-time staff who are trained as EMTs. As a whole, the Fire Department has 17 trained EMTs. Councilmember Williams asked about the types of medical calls the Fire Department is currently answering and Chief Caldwell stated that only Echo Calls were being answered, which is cardiac arrest.

Councilmember Hipps asked Chief Caldwell if he foresaw any problem with himself and the Chief of Maiden Rescue Squad working together? Chief Caldwell said no, he did not believe this would be any different than how they had worked together in the last six years. Chief Caldwell stated he met with Chief Frye, Mark Petit and Todd Herms. Chief Caldwell states he is more than willing to work Chief Frye.

Councilmember Williams asked about the \$50,000 grant application. Chief Caldwell stated that one concern about allowing the MFD to run these calls was that MFD and Maiden Rescue Squad (MRS) would be competing for the same grant dollars. Chief Caldwell stated he spoke to the state and the grant is based on the agencies annual budget and need; therefore, MFD and MRS will not be competing for the same dollars.

Mayor Smyer said you never can tell who will be picked for a grant.

Councilmember Hipps asked if the Chiefs could work together to not go after the same grant dollars and Chief Caldwell said the yes, there would be coordination between the two agencies.

Councilmember Hipps said that the grants have the ability to affect MRS's budget much more than the MFD.

Councilmember Michael asked if the organizations would bring grant applications before the Council prior to being submitted and Chief Caldwell said they would.

Councilmember Williams asked if this proposal was approved would both Maiden Fire and Maiden Rescue be responding to the same calls and Chief Caldwell said yes, if the calls were M-F from 8-5. Chief Caldwell stated that last Friday, Maiden Rescue was hit with two calls within 10-15 minutes. Once an organization responds to a call they must stay with that patient. Chief Caldwell believes this agreement would be beneficial to the citizens of Maiden because there will be more resources available to assist injured individuals.

Mayor Smyre asked who would be the lead the agency on the scene if both MFD and MRS arrive? Chief Caldwell said the first agency on the scene is the lead agency.

MFD would never issue a 10-22, or cancel the Rescue Squad on a medical call.

Councilmember Williams asked about the types of calls and Chief Caldwell explained that if the Council approves the proposal, MFD would be responding to all medical calls, even those that are not life threatening.

At this Chief Dustin Frye of the Maiden Rescue Squad addressed the Council. He said he wanted to correct something Chief Caldwell stated--there had been 14 medical calls in the last two months; that is only within town limits. For 2017, MRS responded to 981 Medical Calls. MRS's district spans from Christian Tours on Highway 16 to Blackburn Bridge Road on the Hickory-Lincolnton Highway and as far north as the Highway Patrol Station on 321. Chief Frye stated this service was provided to the citizens of Maiden and rural citizens for free, it is paid for with their county taxes.

Chief Frye states this proposal is probably best for the citizens and rural fire district. If this proposal is approved by the Council both MFD and MRS will have to come together and determine some Standard Operating Procedures before running calls to do what is right for the citizens.

Councilmember Hipps asked Chief Frye if he foresaw any issues working with MFD Chief Caldwell. Chief Frye said he has worked with Chief Caldwell in the past. There would need to be some serious conversations.

Mayor Smyre asked if this serious conversation had not already occurred. Chief Frye said that meeting was to lay out what his agency did. Mr. Herms said he requested the meeting to be educated about the issues and to hear all the concerns of the agencies. Mr. Herms said that whatever Council's decision is tonight, some Standard Operating Procedures would have to be developed prior to running these calls. Mr. Herms said it really depends on the two agencies working together if this proposal will be successful.

Councilmember Williams asked if the MRS could transport patients. Chief Frye said they can transport those who do not need advanced life support. Councilmember Williams asked if the two Chiefs can calm the members who are not in favor of this measure. Chief Frye said he cannot force anyone's hand; most of his staff are volunteers. Chief Frye said the MRS provides coverage seven days a week from 7 AM to 5 PM. There is also 7 PM to 9 PM coverage seven days a week; there is one person to answer the calls. Councilmember Williams said he heard one person could not handle a heart attack by themselves. Chief Frye said that one person could stabilize the patient until an ambulance arrived.

Councilmember Midgett asked about the grant funding the MRS received--specifically did they apply for and receive it every year? Chief Frye said he receives an operating budget from the county, which is 2/3 of every penny of the taxes collected in Catawba County. Mr. Herms said it is not 2/3 of every penny the county collects. Of one penny collected; 2/3 of that penny goes to the Rescue Squad. The total amount of the operating budget is \$79k, which does not include grant funds. Mr. Frye said the MRS did not apply for the \$50k grant last year.

Mark Petit, Assistant Emergency Management Director of Catawba County told Council he would try to answer any questions they had about this proposal. Councilmember Hipps asked how Mr. Petit thought this proposal would go over. Mr. Petit said he believes you can never have too many first responders on the scene. Mr. Petit stated that the MRS is fine organization but that volunteerism is on the decline nationwide, MRS may or may not have volunteers who can respond. Mr. Petit said the success or failure of this proposal is incumbent on the two Chiefs.

Mr. Herms asked Mr. Petit about who would approve the operating procedures for responding to calls between the two organizations. Mr. Petit said this would be worked out between the two agencies.

Councilmember Midgett asked how the County assigns the response. Mr. Petit said the 911 Operator will ask the caller a series of questions and that will determine how the call is coded and which agency will be dispatched.

Councilmember Williams asked Chief Caldwell if the MFD was running first responder calls, would there be calls as far away as Highway 16? Chief Caldwell said mainly the MFD would be responding in the Maiden Fire District. Mr. Herms stated that if there was an incident at Christian Tours on Highway 16, it would not be the MFD responding unless requested.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS AND SECONDED BY TRINA MICHAEL TO ALLOW THE MAIDEN FIRE DEPARTMENT TO RUN DELTA, CHARLIE CALLS IN ADDITION TO ECHO CALLS AS WELL AS JOIN THE NC RESCUE ASSOCIATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mayor Smyre said he knows both agencies will work together to serve the needs of Maiden's citizens. Mayor Smyre said he agreed with remarks made earlier by Councilmember Hipps that we are charged with providing citizens the highest level of service possible. Mayor Smyre said we have quality staff in both departments who will make this proposal happen. Mayor Smyre said he really appreciates all the first responders and how dedicated they are to what they do, in the heat and the cold. Councilmember Williams said he also wanted to thank the Firefighters and Maiden Rescue Squad because he knew that finding volunteers was difficult. He also said he believes the more help we can have on the scene the better.

## 8. Ordinances

### A. 7-2018 An Ordinance to amend the FY 17-18 Budget in the General Fund-Fire Department

Mr. Herms explained that at the end of the year, the auditor goes in makes adjustments. Last year, it caused our budget to get close to going over budget. This is pass through money, we are bringing in and then sending out. It is the on-behalf fund for Fire Department. Mr. Herms asked the Finance Officer if she had anything to add to his explanation and she did not.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER DANNY HIPPS TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 7-2018. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

At this time Fire Chief Tracy Caldwell asked for more explanation on this ordinance. Chief Caldwell said he believes this is money for Fireman's Relief Fund. Councilmember Hipps said he thought he could answer—he said it has to be accounted for due to NC Audit Regulations. Mr. Bob Poovey said he disagrees with amount the Town is estimating. Mr. Herms said this all government accounting standards. Mr. Herms said he would be happy to sit down with Mr. Poovey and the auditor to better explain this ordinance.

Councilmember Hipps asked if we have \$28,000 coming in and then the Fire Department only receives 12,000, what happens to the remaining amount? Finance Officer Dianne Lowe said this is to cover the

adjustments from the Firemen's Relief Fund. The budget will be adjusted to reflect the actual funds that are received.

B. 8-2018 An Ordinance to amend the FY 17-18 Budget in the General Fund-Recreation Department

Mr. Herms told Council that one of the signs going into the ball fields was hit and this budget amendment is to receive the insurance settlement into the budget.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM MAX BUMGARNER JR TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 8-2018. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY TRINA MICHAEL TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

With no further comments...

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY RONNIE WILLIAMS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:03 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk

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**Robert L. Smyre, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk**