

TOWN OF MAIDEN

August 7, 2017

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

The Maiden Town Council met on Monday, August 7, 2017 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 Fore Rembert, Councilmembers, Max Bumgarner, Jr., 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 Mayor Robert L. Smyre.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilmember Marcus Midgett.

4. Approval of Agenda

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER MAX BUMGARNER, JR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHEAL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Citizens Requests and Comments

Recreation Director Jody Rogers addressed Council to report on the Summer Camps conducted by his department. The Maiden Rec Department organized both sport and non-sport events. The first Lego camp had 18 participants. For the Basketball camp, 45 children signed up and 34 participated. Jody said the Basketball Camp has grown tremendously in the last three years. For the Frozen Movie camp, there were 45 who signed up and 32 and who participated. The Minions Movie Camp had 45 sign-up and 35 participate. The final camp was another Lego camp with 18 participants. Jody said Keaton Miller did a great job organizing the camps and ran most of them with Jody assisting on the Basketball Camp.

Fall Sports there are 244 participants and 20 teams.

Mayor Pro-Tem Fore Rembert asked if the Rec Department would take those who did not make the middle school football teams? Jody said they would.

Annie Ramseur said she is concerned about the library and the children. She believes a lot of children's scribbles, art and poetry gets thrown away. Children have many talents in them and Ms. Ramseur saw a lot of children's school work and art thrown away when she was a teacher. she kept many of her student's items. She believes children need to have their talents nourished. Ms. Ramseur encouraged everyone to ask the children what they are interested in and try to nourish that. Ms. Ramseur recounted the times as a teacher, that children came back to thank her. Ms. Ramseur asked for Council's help to nourish the children by putting their artwork or poetry on display at the library. Ms. Ramseur thanked the Council for listening to her.

Mayor Bob Smyre said he does keep the letters he receives from children. He said a young woman wrote him a letter years ago, when she was about 7 or 8 years old. He kept that letter. This young woman is now a teacher and the Mayor visited her. He had the letter framed and gave it back to her.

Mayor Smyre updated Ms. Ramseur and the Council on the entrance to our town. Ms. Ramseur wanted to know what could be done to spruce it up. The Mayor says he has not forgotten about this issue.

Town Manager Todd Herms "Keep Catawba Beautiful" has chosen the "Welcome to Maiden" sign along Business 321, as an upcoming project. We are buying a new sign due to the condition of the current one. Plants and landscaping will take place, as well as, general clean-up to make it look better.

Mary Henry addressed the Council. Ms. Henry thanked the Council, Police and Recreation Departments for all they did. Ms. Henry wanted to know if it is possible for Council to hold a meeting at the lower end of town at a church. Her neighbors feel they are being neglected. These neighbors are concerned about issues in the town but are not able to come to Town Hall.

Ms. Henry stated one issue they are concerned with is the paving of the streets. Ms. Henry said Mr. Herms is trying to help, but the streets are bad and tearing up people's cars. These citizens need to hear it from the Council about why projects are not being done. Ms. Henry wanted to know what can be done about all the trash that has been thrown out. She would like to have cameras put out to see who is doing it.

Ms. Henry said that there is no sweeper to sweep the streets. She would like for Council to come hear these citizens' concerns. Ms. Henry stated that many are concerned about how many minorities are working for the town. Several citizens also wanted to know what the criteria is to work for the town. She said there are a lot of people with felonies who are trying to correct themselves and other towns are hiring people with a criminal background. She stated many African-Americans feel like they are on the backseat of this town. Ms. Henry said her neighbors don't see the minorities on your workforce.

People are complaining about it being hot and there not being a splashpad and they want to know why their streets aren't paved.

Mayor Smyre said these are important issues. If there is a venue, Mayor Smyre said he thinks we can hold a regular meeting somewhere else. He asked Mr. Herms and Mr. Conrad about the meeting venue. Mayor Smyre said he thought the Town could hold a meeting anywhere within the corporate limits.

Mr. Herms said a meeting can be held anywhere in North Carolina as long as there is two days' notice given. Councilmember Max Bumgarner Jr said he would attend a meeting wherever the Council holds it, and the Mayor said he would too.

Councilmember Trina Michael asked if Ms. Henry wanted a regular meeting or special meeting held. Ms. Henry said she didn't want to take up time with a special meeting. Mr. Herms said he would meet with Ms. Henry to look at times and dates.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams asked if the Town was looking at the Insurance ratio/radius for a new Fire Department. Mr. Herms said that is on the to-do list. Town Planner Blake Wright said he had received a map and the radius was 1.5 miles.

6. Approval of the Minutes (7/17/17 Meeting):

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 17TH, 2017 MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7.Call for Public Hearing

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FORE REMBERT TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE WALNUT GROVE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT, AUGUST 21ST 2017. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER MAX BUMGARNER JR AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHEAL TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON AUGUST 21ST 2017 FOR ALCOHOL SALES PRIOR TO NOON ON SUNDAY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Herms said the history of vendors for Fall Fest was on last month's agenda. A few citizens have complained about the employees of some vendors. Scott Conrad, Town Attorney, was asked to look at what other towns have for vendor agreements. Mr. Herms said most center around limiting the Town's liability. Our agreement includes language to limit the Town's liability. The agreement Mr. Conrad developed also has language about the personnel of vendors:

“Vendors play an important role on the overall appearance and success of the event/festival. The Town prohibits the operation of any exhibits not meeting approval, and in their sole discretion may prohibit any conduct or activity whatsoever or personnel which it deems detrimental and not in the best interest of the festival. The vendor agrees and stipulates that all booth workers are clean, tastefully dressed, have approved

backgrounds, and are appropriate in all respects to interact with the citizens and children attending the festival.”

Mr. Herms said he is asking Council to approve this agreement and it can go into effect now or at a later date. Manager Herms said he did not know how this would affect vendors for this year’s Fall Fest.

Mr. Conrad explained the business registration part of the agreement. Mr. Conrad said it is a statute that requires all vendors to register online with the state. Mr. Herms said this is something the state requires them to do and our agreement reiterates the requirement from the state.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams asked what event he Town will hold next. Mr. Herms said Fall Fest, October 7th. Councilmember Williams asked if this agreement would hinder us from getting vendors. Mr. Herms said the part about registering with the state was already in effect. Councilmember Trina Michael asked if this was for vendors that we pay and Mr. Herms said that all vendors will have to register. Mayor Pro-Tem Fore Rembert asked if churches would have to register and Mr. Herms said he was trying to get clarification.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams asked if the background checks were required even for non-profits. Mr. Herms said this is for the people we pay, such as the ride vendors. Mr. Herms said we did not lay out what an approved background is and that was by design. Mr. Conrad said most towns farm this out to another organization, like the Downtown Newton Development Association. Mr. Herms said there have not been any issues but he has been approached by citizens who were concerned with the backgrounds of some the workers.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams said he thinks the agreement should not have background check in the verbiage. Mr. Herms said he and Mr. Conrad have worked on this agreement for a year. This agreement is the best of what they have considered. Mr. Herms said this does not affect the non-profits selling food. Mr. Conrad said the first part of the agreement could be edited to make sure it was clear that this policy did not affect the non-profit vendors at the Fall Fest.

Councilmember Max Bumgarner Jr said it was too close to the Fall Fest to have this agreement in effect. Mr. Herms said the requested changes would be made and it would be put back on the agenda for the next meeting.

9. New Business

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHEAL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FORE REMBERT TO RE-APPOINT BRUCE IKARD AND ROGER ISENHOUR TO THE PLANNING BOARD. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Ordinances

A. 20-2017 An Ordinance to amend the FY 2017-2018 Budget in the General and Electric Fund.

Mr. Herms said the Worker's Comp insurance is not billed until after the new budget begins. We had two large claims in the past which caused our premium to increase. There was a serious back and leg injury. This transfer offsets that increase by \$19,985.00. We are asking you for the budget amendment.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER MAX BUMGARNER JR TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 20-2017 TO AMEND THE FY 17-18 BUDGER IN THE GENERAL AND ELECTRIC FUND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER FORE REMBERT TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION WITH THE ATTORNEY. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

With no further comments...

MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER TRINA MICHAEL AND SECONDED BY MAX BUMGARNER JR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:06 PM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk

Robert L. Smyre, Mayor

ATTEST:

Elizabeth Yokley-Krige, Town Clerk