

**Maiden Town Council Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 9:00 AM  
Council Chamber, Maiden Town Hall**

The Maiden Town Council met on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. for their regular scheduled meeting, held in the Town of Maiden Council Chamber.

Present for the meeting were, Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill, Councilmembers Bob Sigmon, Ronnie Williams, Cameron Ramseur, and Holly-Crafton-Lay.

Also, present were Town Manager Todd Herms, Town Attorney Wesley Deaton, and Town Clerk-HR Officer Wanda Barnes

Others attending: See attached sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr.

The invocation was given by Mayor Max Bumgarner, Jr.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr.

4. Approval of the Agenda

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

6. Citizen Request & Comments

Public Works Director, Bryan Duckworth introduces new employee, John Carpenter. Duckworth states he will be taking on the role of street crew leader. He comes to the town with eight years of experience from Lincoln County.

Planning and Zoning Director, Blake Wright introduces new employee, Lisa Johnson. Wright states she will be taking on the role of Planner. She is a graduate of Clemson University with a master's degree in public administration and has a background in public policy research.

Assistant to the Manager, Anna Hughey announces that the town was awarded first place in the branding and logo category of the 2023 North Carolina City and County Communicators Excellence in Communications Awards.

Fire Chief Luke Shoffner introduces new employee, Luke Brown. Shoffner states he started as a junior firefighter in Lincoln County when he was 15-16 years old. He has been a volunteer at the Maiden Fire Department for 10 years. Brown has worked his way through the ranks to the point he is now and will continue to assist in training at the fire department and maintain all training records. Shoffner adds that Brown lives in Maiden and is married to Megan Ruffy. Shoffner says Brown brings a lot of knowledge to the fire department and hopes he continues to do a great job.

Chief Shoffner adds that he received questions about the new tanker truck that was scheduled to be finished in March. He says he received an email last week that it is set to be done Friday (May 12th) and is hopeful this deadline is going to be met. If completed Friday Shoffner says he plans to inspect it and pick it up next week. Town manager, Todd Herms states that there is a budget amendment that pertains to the tanker that will be discussed later

in the meeting.

Mayor Pro Tem, Beth Rudisill states that a citizen has spoken to her about the exterior of a building in town (unsure of address) falling off. She asks if we have an ordinance or is there anything the town can do? Town manager, Todd Herms states that there is something in this year's budget that will be discussed that he thinks will help with this issue. Rudisill also states that she has received more concerns about the graveyard. Herms state that this is being addressed and a bid will be going out on May 15th and hopes more interest will be shown. Herms predicts that it will be about two months and then the council will have the opportunity to select a new contractor. Herms and Rudisill agree that cutting and blowing should be done on the same day. Councilmember Holly Crafton-Lay states that the edging is also bad. Councilmember Ronnie Williams asks if the fire ants have been sprayed. Herms states that the previous chemicals used to treat fire ants are no longer able to be used and additional training may be required to use certain chemicals. Herms states that the cemetery is at the top of the watch list and conversations are had daily about it.

Councilmember Cameron Ramseur announces that on May 20th the town will host a Juneteenth celebration event. He says he and Assistant to the Manager, Anna Hughey have been working on this event. He states that everything is lined up for this year and wants to thank everyone who was involved last year and hopes for more participation this year. Ramseur says that councilmember Holly Crafton-Lay has also assisted with the planning of the event. He says he appreciates the staff that is working the event. Councilmember Bob Sigmon asks for clarification of the date. Ramseur states that it will be May 20th, from 11-3. Hughey states that there have been questions about why the event is being held in May and she explains that the town has worked with the county to coordinate this event and Maiden volunteered to host the kickoff event on May 20th. Hughey also states that the town was awarded a grant from the Catawba Arts Council that will cover the cost of the DJ and inflatable.

Councilmember Bob Sigmon directs a question to Parks and Recreation Director, Keaton Miller. He asks if Miller can designate more handicapped parking for baseball games. Herms states that they are looking at expanding the number of handicapped spots available.

## 7. Consent Agenda

### A. Finance Officer's Report April (Motion)

Councilmember Ronnie Williams requests that a year-to-date column be added to the finance report.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND  
SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO APPROVE THE APRIL  
FINANCE OFFICER REPORT AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

## 8. New Business

### A. Retiring PO Sidearm (Motion)

Town manager, Todd Herms states that under North Carolina General Statute 2187-2 and tradition in Maiden that when a police officer retires, they are issued their sidearm. In this case it is a Glock model 48 with two magazines and officer's current badge. Herms states there will be no ammunition issued. Herms says it will be given to retiring officer in a ceremony. Herms says that there have been some questions on if staff is able to sign off on this without council approval. Herms states it was brought before council to make sure the correct procedure is followed and gives council the opportunity to be a part of the retiring process. Herms says Mr. Captain Fletcher is due to retire June 30<sup>th</sup> and the town would like to issue him his side arm, 2 magazines, and current badge upon his official retirement.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY AND SECONDED BY**

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**MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO APPROVE THE RETIRING OF PO SIDEARM.  
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

**B. Request for Procurement (Motion)**

Town manager, Todd Herms explains that the reason for this motion is because the AMI project is so large staff wanted to make sure the procedure was done correctly and will do so with the help of Town Attorney, Wesley Deaton.

Councilmember Ronnie Williams states that he appreciates the detail but is concerned about requiring the company to interface with the current billing system. Herms states that most companies staff have talked to, do have the ability. Councilmember Holly Crafton-Lay says she doesn't believe this will be a problem.

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO PROCEED WITH THE PROCURENMENT OF THE AMI SYSTEM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

**C. Establish Public hearing date for June 13, 2023, to consider the Maiden Comprehensive plan (Motion)**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNILMEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR JUNE 13, 2023, TO CONSIDER THE MAIDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

**9. Ordinance/Resolution/Proclamation**

**A. Ordinance #24-2023 An Ordinance to Amend the FY 2022-2023 Budget in the Fire Department Construction Fund 46 (Motion)**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY TO AMMEND THE FY 2022-2023 BUDGET IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT CONSTUCTION FUND 46. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

**B. Ordinance #25-2023 An Ordinance To Amend the FY 2022-2023 Budget in the General Fund (Motion)**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER HOLLY CRAFTON-LAY AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO AMMEND THE FY 2022-2023 BUDGET IN THE GENERAL FUND. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

**C. Resolution #11-2023 A Resolution Authorizing a Formal Bidding Process. (Motion)**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER CAMERON RAMSEUR TO AUTHROIZE A FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

D. A Proclamation Proclaiming May 20, 2023, as Juneteenth celebration day (Motion)

Mayor Max Bumgarner Jr. proclaims May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, as Juneteenth celebration day in Maiden.

10. Old Business

A. FY 2023-2024 Budget Presentation

Town manager, Todd Herms presents the FY 2023-2024 preliminary budget presentation. He states that this process began with staff in November and was reviewed with the council in January.

Herms states the budget objective is to balance the towns revenues with the towns responsibility to provide quality municipal service at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers of maiden.

Wholesale rates and contractor fees are expected to decrease by 5% but it is important to note that the town is expected to lose 6% of revenue due to larger industrial customers becoming more energy efficient.

Herms says water and sewer rates will increase due to the cost of providing these services and the cost of materials and chemicals. Herms states that chemical prices have increased by about 190%.

Republic trash services will increase by 3.5% and this is the last year of the towns contract and Herms plans to renegotiate this contract next year.

Herms states that health insurance has been negotiated to a great rate. Employee insurance is increasing slightly but children insurance is going down. Herms says this is a huge recruiting tool when looking for new employees and keeping current employees.

Herms states his recommendation for this year's budget are for the property tax rates to stay the same. Electric rates stay the same except for 5 CP customers who are aware, and staff has met with these customers and has a 5-year plan in place. There will be a 4% increase in water rates. Herms says that he has spoken with large water customers in town, and they are aware of this increase. Sewer rates will go up by 5.5%. Sanitation fees are set to decrease by 37.6% making the new monthly fee \$8.12. Councilmember Ronnie Williams says it is worth noting that several years ago council decided to raise rates on a yearly basis to stay even with the sanitation rates. This year was supposed to be our break-even point and we are backing off that giving citizens some relief. Herms says the average customer will save about \$128 a month with this model.

The tax base for FY 2023-2024 is \$2,393,034,000. Residential makes up about 10.9%, commercial 4.8%, public utilities make up 1.7%, and industrial makes up 82.6% of the overall tax base.

Herms states there are two large incentives in this year's budget. The first is Apple. Apple is in their 14th year of this incentive. They will pay 6.1 million in property taxes and their incentive grant is 4.7 million. This will net the town 1.4 million. GKN is in the last year of their incentive agreement. They will pay \$977,356 in property taxes and their incentive is \$81,634. This will net the town \$895,722. Herms says it is important to note that the Apple incentive presented is the minimum number projected and could change due to multiple factors. Herms says the number is most likely to increase but the budget is based on the minimum. Councilmember Ronnie Williams asks if this is the case for GKN as well and herms explains that the GKN

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number should be set for this year. The overall gain for property taxes next year should be about \$435,607. Herms states this is a conservative number, but he prefers to work with the conservative numbers when creating the budget.

Herms states the average home in Maiden is 1,449 square feet and the average residential value is \$221,638 making the average residential tax bill \$842.22 a year.

The total operating budget for FY 2023-2024 is \$25,094,516. The general fund is \$12,969,153 and the electric fund is \$8,663,923. The water and sewer fund is \$3,461,440. Herms notes that this number has increased dramatically but it is important to remember that the number is going up with revenues but going right back out with expenditures.

The facade grant is planned to increase to a \$10,000 matching grant. This will be a one per year/property owner grant. Money must go towards outdoor upgrades. Finance will begin using a QR scanner for utility bills. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill asks if customers will be able to scan this code to pay their bills and Herms says that the town is not to this point yet. The Information Technology department will replace critical switches, server replacement for the police department, and be adding access control additions for all buildings. Planning and Zoning are adding one planner position. Police will be adding one additional officer and repairing their HVAC system. Police will also be replacing body/in-car system. Animal control fees are up to \$28,000 from \$19,000 last year. Mayor Pro Tem Beth Rudisill asks if these services are required and Herms states that staff has looked at other options and this is the best option. The Fire Department is planning to add 3 additional firefighters through the SAFR grant or the general fund. Councilmember Ronnie Williams asks how much a set of turnout gear costs and Fire Chief, Luke Shoffner states it is around \$5,000 for the complete set. The Garage department will get a four-post lift and a new pressure washer. All Public Works departments are participating in a fleet management program. It has yet to be determined if this will continue in the future. The Street department is upgrading its snowplow. The Powell Bill will be used to pave S 3rd Ave from Carpenter to E Pine and Pine St from 2nd to 5th. Herms states there is \$135,000 in the budget to pave these streets and hopes this will be enough. If not, a budget amendment will be brought up later in the year. The Recreation Department is getting a new mower and upgrading football equipment. Helmets have increased from about \$40 to \$200. Recreation will also be resurfacing infield #3 and tinting community room windows. Councilmember Ronnie Williams asks for clarification on resurfacing infield #3. Herms explains that all fields are on a cycle (1 field a year), and this is for safety reasons. A/C in the gym will also be added. This project has been talked about for many years. The project was quoted at \$170,000. Councilmember Bob Sigmon asks if the top windows of the gym could be tinted as well. Herms explains that the staff is exploring options for these windows but has not found the best solution yet.

At the time of this meeting herms states there are 1,248 electrical customers. Power purchase is \$4,833,211 and system operations is \$2,566,854 for a total of \$7,400,065. The rate stabilization fund is \$1,263,858 used in emergency situations. This brings the total electrical fund budget to \$8,663,923.

Herms states Maiden owns 1.2891% of the Municipal Power Agency 1. Maiden's NCMPA1 annual debt went down \$613,869.

Electrical highlights include tree trimming, open wire secondary replacement, copper primary replacement, squirrel guarding for circuit 1a, backup generator for the recreation department. AMI will be a separate budget ordinance.

Herms states that at the time of this meeting there are currently 2,160 water customers and 1,695 sewer

customers. The water/sewer fund is projected to be \$3,461,440. Water \$1,622,483, sewer \$903,658, WWTP \$738,904, and debt \$81,395. \$115,000 will go back into the capital reserve to address headworks over time. WWTP will need a new sludge trailer. Councilmember Ronnie Williams asks if sludge goes to Hickory. Herms explains that it is technically Newton but is operated as Hickory. Sewer will have a separate project budget for Carolina Mills Outfall.

Herms ends his presentation by asking for any questions and he says he will be happy to answer any questions he can. Herms also says a copy of this presentation will be available to the public if anyone wants a copy.

Herms asks for permission to go ahead and start speaking with employees about the benefits package over the next month.

- B. Call for a public hearing on June 13, 23, to consider the FY 2023-2024 Budget (Motion)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY MAYOR PRO TEM BETH RUDISILL AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BOB SIGMON TO CALL FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON JUNE 13, 2023, TO CONSIDER THE FY 2023-2024 BUDGET. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

11. Closed Session - Town Manager Evaluation (N.C.G.S.143-318-11)

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BOB SIGMON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS TO ENTER INTO A CLOSED SESSION AT 10:02 AM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

12. Adjourn

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCILMEMBER RONNIE WILLIAMS AND SECONDED BY BOB SIGMON TO ADJOURN AT 11:38 AM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5-0.**

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Respectfully Submitted:  
Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk

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**Max Bumgarner Jr., Mayor**

**ATTEST:**

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**Wanda Barnes, Town Clerk**