

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 17, 2014
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Dennis Raines, Council members Dale Black, Taft Matney, Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter, Scott Crosby and Larry Goodson. City Attorney Daniel Hughes and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.

1. Call to order. – Mayor Raines
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Hunter
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Hunter
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Mauldin Chamber; Proclamation for MHS Boys' Cross Country team; Sewer system presentation
Pat Pomeroy reported the chamber is doing well. They are working on an Inland Port tour on March 21st and the golf tournament on May 12th.

Mayor Raines presented a proclamation to Coach Delmer Howell for the Boys' Cross Country Team State Champions. Councilman Taft Matney presented the boys with certificates.

Ron Lawson gave a sewer presentation. He noted that a one-time increase of \$3.94 a month would keep the sewer system running. After the first year, Mauldin will still have the lowest sewer rate in the County.

Martin Livingstone was present to give the CDBG and HOME funding numbers. A resolution will be brought to council next month.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.- January 21, 2014- Councilman Black made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).
4. Public Comment.- None

5. Report from City Administrator- Trey reported HVAC upgrades are next on the list for the Energy Management Plan. We are seeing some savings with our lighting. A very good public meeting was held with VLS Recovery. A consensus was achieved and this rezoning will be coming back to council in March.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Building Codes (Chairman Crosby)

i. Reports and Communications from Business and Development Services Director.- Permit activity is still increasing. January's commercial permits surpassed October- December's activity.

b. Recreation (Chairman Matney)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director- Van reported 2000 Seniors participated last month. The Valentine's lunch will be Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Piloxing is new at the Sports Center and has been very popular. The baseball public meeting will be this Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Councilman Black mentioned that someone had told him that there was no parking at the Sports Center over the weekend because of basketball playoffs. He asked if any games could be scheduled at the Senior Center to help with the overcrowding. Van said he would look into other possibilities.

c. Public Safety (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief- Chief Turner introduced Investigator Dennis Tench. Mr. Tench helped the Greenwood Sheriff's Department and SLED in a murder investigation and the Chief of SLED sent a letter commending Investigator Tench on his interviewing skills.

Chief Turner then introduced Carson Steinmetz as the Civilian Police Employee of the Year. Carson is a Telecommunications Operator in our dispatch area.

Councilman Matney commended the police department on its use of social media to communicate with our citizens on events and weather issues.

Councilman Black asked about the Planters Row traffic calming issue. Chief said that they will be meeting. He has talked with the men that were present at the last council meeting. Traffic counts will be conducted and presented to them at a meeting in to be held in about three weeks.

ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court /

Administrative Judge- Angela was not present. They reported that Debt Setoff Collections is continuing. We will be looking for a new part-time administrative judge. Our current Judge, Lawrence Wiles, is dealing with a health issue, and we need some additional support.

iii. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief.- Chief Sapp reported a response time of 3.1 minutes due to the weather. The fire department had one call on Wednesday and five on Thursday during the storm, so people heeded the advice to stay off the roads.

Lt. Gary Brinkley was awarded Firefighter of the Year this year and was present. He is doing very well and started back on shift a couple of weeks ago.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from the Economic Developer- John reported the road commission meeting will be held February 27th at 6:30 pm at the cultural center.

GPATS has made some planning money available for planning studies.

We will submit to receive money for the East Butler corridor.

- ii. Office of Cultural Affairs report - George McLeer reported that January was a very busy month. The center is booked through the end of May. Doors are finished. The center is waiting on windows. An Art Competition sponsored by Rep. Trey Gowdy will be held in April. Councilman Black asked about the Veteran's Memorial with additional benches. Trey answered the master plan includes benches and a water feature as part of the Veteran's Memorial. Chairman Black asked if the City could complete the project if there was no funding available from Veteran's groups. Trey said we could reach out to some groups to gauge their interest.

Councilman Cook said former Police Chief, Harold Sherbet, is active in a Veteran's group and could be a resource to us.

- e. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)
 - i. Reports and Communications from the PW Director- Mike Lambert reported on the department's response to the storm. The department spread salt and sand and monitored the road and bridge temperatures as well as preparation before the storm hit. Mayor Raines said he got some good comments on the work the department did. Councilman Crosby said he was glad the department did a lot of planning ahead of time. Many accidents were probably prevented because the work by public works. Chairman Goodson also thanked Mike for the job he and his staff did.
- f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Finance Director- Holly Abercrombie reported that property tax revenues are coming in. We got about \$1.5 million in checks last week. Chairman Black asked why the liability insurance premiums have gone up. Holly said the MASC used to give a participation credit up front, now they are going to be issuing a refund check at the end of the fiscal year. The amount should be about the same.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on bond issuance for Recreation capital project- ball field lighting (Committee of the Whole)- Chairman Black said this will enable the City to issue a bond combining an amount for new ball field lighting with refinancing an existing sports center bond and get a lower rate. We will replace the ball field lighting at Springfield and City parks. We are adding the new amount for the ball field lighting and refinancing some money for the sports center. The City will save about \$45,000 by doing this on the refinancing.

Chairman Black made a motion to approve this ordinance on second reading with Councilman Goodson seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on hazard mitigation plan resolution. (Building Codes)- Chairman Crosby made a motion to accept this for inclusion in the County's plan. Councilman Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).
- b. Consideration and action on bid award for signage (PEDC)- This is part of the rebranding program. Councilman Black is concerned that only one bid was received. He wants City businesses to be contacted to see if anyone would like to bid on the project. City Attorney Daniel Hughes said that gave him concern because someone might be left out and that could open us up to litigation. Councilman Black said he would like to see us go out to bid again on this project. Councilman Goodson said we are not in any hurry to complete this project and he agrees with Councilman Black that he would like to see this rebid. Councilman Cook said we advertised and did what we should have done.

Councilman Cook made a motion to postpone this item to get legal advice and then rebid. Councilman Matney seconded the motion. Trey Eubanks suggested Council would like to table this item to allow Daniel Hughes some time to look at our procurement policy and give us an opinion. Councilman Cook withdrew his motion and then made one to table this item until we could get a legal opinion. Mayor Raines asked if we have a legal obligation to the company that bid. City Attorney Hughes said as long as the bid has not been awarded, we have no obligation to the bidding company. Councilman Matney seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- c. Consideration and action on ball field lighting bid award (Public Works)- We received two bids for the installation. One from Musco Sports Lighting for

\$508,415, which includes a new controller for the lights at Sunset Park as well. Torrence Sports Lighting had a bid of \$523,396 and that did not include a controller. Chairman Goodson made a motion to award the bid for equipment to Musco in the amount of \$508,415 to include the new controller for the lights at Sunset as well. Councilman Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Two bids were received for electrical work and pole installation for the lighting. The Lighting Company bid the amount of \$164,462 . West Electric bid \$142,535, for a savings of \$25,000. Councilman Cook asked if this bid included score boards. Trey Eubanks answered no, but there is a contingency amount for Duke Energy, which could partially pay for scoreboard upgrades. This money will come from the hospitality and accommodations tax fund. Chairman Goodson made a motion to accept the bid from West Electric with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Consideration and action on city hall upfit. (Finance)- This is for design services from LS3P for the space above the council chambers in the amount of \$16,000. Chairman Black asked if the flooring had been signed off by the builder of city hall as able to hold the extra weight of offices. Trey said we have confirmation from Trehel that office space will be fine. Chairman Black said he would like for some of the work to be done by city employees. Trey said it is possible that some of the work will be done by public works. The motion now is just for electrical, mechanical, and design work. Councilman Cook said the prisoners made some furniture that is over in the police department. Trey said that is Prison Industries and we would look there for some of the furnishings.

Councilman Goodson asked if this was bid out. Trey answered the design work is a professional service and is not required to be bid. We can bid it out if council would like. Chairman Black made a motion to bid this project out. Councilman Goodson seconded. The vote was 6-1 with Councilman Hunter opposing.

- e. Consideration and action on resolution for MASC legislative priorities (Committee of the Whole)- This shows our support for this year's legislative priorities. Councilman Cook made a motion to approve this resolution with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

9. Public Comment- None

10. Council requests.- None

11. Executive session on personnel matter.- Councilman Cook made a motion to go into executive session with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Cook reported no action was taken in executive session.

12. Adjournment. – Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk