

6:30 p.m.- Coordination element of comprehensive plan public hearing- The hearing was conducted by Trey Eubanks, City Administrator.

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
APRIL 16, 2012
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Dennis Raines, Council members Patricia Gettys, Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter, Dale Black, Scott Crosby and Larry Goodson. City Administrator Trey Eubanks and City Attorney John Duggan were also present.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Raines
 - a. Invocation- Pastor Craig Abee, Messiah Lutheran
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Crosby
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Mauldin Chamber representative- Carol Campbell reported on the work that is being done at the chamber. The golf tournament and train show are coming up soon.
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- March 19, 2012
Councilman Hunter made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).
4. Public Comment.
Laura Cochran: I am from Don Mark Cochran, CPA. I come with a concern for the business license due date. I was surprised when I walked in this morning that they wouldn't accept my check and application because today is April 16th. It is due on or before April 15th. Mauldin does not offer a way to pay online, and it was closed yesterday with it being Sunday. We were given a \$25.00 processing fee and 10% penalty. We also represent several clients and we felt it was our responsibility since their payments were not made on time either. I would like you to reconsider the processing fee and penalty for those of us who walked through the door today.

I saw Paula opening the mail she received, even though it was postmarked Friday or Saturday. My check would go in that same deposit with those. It is the same day of business, and I would like you to reconsider this. Thank you.

Jim Stringfield: I am Jim Stringfield and I live at 411 Adams Mill Road. Sorry I didn't sign up. I have been in Mauldin for 32 years. I would like to make my views known on the city center. When I moved here, we had about 8000 people with one stop light and no left turn signal. Now, we have about 24,000 people. We didn't have a downtown then, and we will never have a downtown. Kmart is the closest thing to downtown we have. We have lost Big Lots, and this is the city area.

To spend money on an area- the idea of a city center would be retail shops where people would be drawn to. This is a very small market area here. As someone who has had a small retail business here in the past, it is a small area of about 25,000 people, and I got that from the people who own the shopping center over there. A small retail has a hard road. It is not how much you sell, it is what you take in. Who is going to come in where you have rent and overhead and you are not going to make any money? Look at the shopping center where Ingles is. What do we have, two businesses? Look up and down Main Street. It sounds good, but it is not a good business plan.

What were you thinking when you bought the Taco Bell? What were you thinking to take something off the tax rolls that may never come about? To build a road, if you were going to, you will pay \$280,000 for the right of way now.

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey reported that the final report on the cultural center fundraising feasibility study will be completed by the May 21st council meeting. There will be a meeting for council and staff at 4:00 p.m. before the council meeting. The next concert is April 27th at 7:30 p.m.

Efforts are still on schedule to have the 40 acre site certified by the State Department of Commerce. The consultant will complete a report by early June that will be sent to DOC. This will be the only other certified site in Greenville County along with the Matrix.

The City Center community meeting went well. Traffic is the biggest concern, but citizens are excited about the development of a downtown.

Landscaping on 276 is almost complete and has made a big difference. Street lights have been installed in the middle of the project, and 12 more will be added. There are a couple of business concerns regarding traffic visibility, and those concerns will be addressed.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Public Safety (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief

Chairman Cook read a certificate from the Secretary of Defense recognizing the police department for their support of employee participation in the Reserves and the National Guard.

Chief Turner reported that the number of calls has gone up from last year, the number of adult arrests is about the same as last year, and juvenile arrests are double last year's number. This is partially due to the dedicated Juvenile Investigator the department now has. Most of the arrests are high school kids.

Chief Turner then advised council that we are now Advanced CALEA certified. This means that we comply with more guidelines than needed for CALEA certification. This is a great achievement for the police department that reflects a lot of hard work.

ii. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief.

Chief Turner filled in for Chief Sapp, whose mother is ill. He showed the breakdown of fire calls – in city and fire service area.

iii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court /
Administrative Judge

Angela Martin reported that jury trials went well. The department is still disposing with more cases from the term. She also reported that the judicial department participates in the MASC debt setoff program in which a person's state refund can be withheld and sent to us to pay any unpaid traffic fines or tickets. She will have a report to council soon on how much we have been able to collect through participation in that program.

b. Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from the Economic Developer

Dunkin Doughnuts will be open in two weeks. There is a couple of other companies interested in Mauldin, but there is no news to report as of yet. One of council's primary goals is economic development.

c. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)

i. Reports and Communications from PW Director

Greg Fincher reported that the department is picking up a lot of leaves and brush. The parks look good. We have gotten several calls from organizations wanting to use our facilities, since they are so well kept. The cultural center grounds are being cut with a push mower until the sod really takes hold.

Some of the playground equipment at Sunset has been taken down and will be moved.

Recycling is going well. If council gets any calls about recycling going in a garbage truck, it is for recycling. The route gets done quicker with a garbage truck. The large blue bins are selling very well. We are getting orders for 10-15 per day.

Insituform is doing pipe lining and smoke testing now.

d. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director

Holly reported that revenues and expenditures look good. Business Licenses are coming in steadily. A few large expenditures are getting ready to hit, like the sewer relining.

The finance department has started issuing refund checks, and will have that process done by the end of the month.

e. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director

Van Brannon gave the department report. The Senior program continues to stay busy with over 2500 participants. The Biggest Loser is finished, with the top 3 finishers losing over 5% body fat. Cheerleading starts soon. Thank you to all the departments who helped with the Easter Egg Drop. There were over 8000 people at Sunset Park for that event. The Veteran's Memorial at the cultural center is now lighted. A press conference was held at Sunset Park today for a check presentation from Bilo and Coca-Cola for \$60,000 to the Miracle League.

Councilman Black made a motion to suspend the rules to add one new item on the agenda. Councilman Goodson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

f. Building Codes (Chairman Crosby)

i. Reports and Communications from staff.

Trey reported that interviews were held last week for the department head position. The applicants have been weeded down to four finalists. A second round of interviews will be held. Building permits have almost doubled from where we were last year. Inspections are a little less than last year.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on sewer ordinance pertaining to connecting to the sewer system (PW)

Chairman Goodson made a motion to approve this ordinance on second reading. Councilman Crosby seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on annexation of 370 Forrester Drive (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve this annexation on second reading. Councilman Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- c. Consideration and action on annexation of 741 East Butler Road (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter made a motion to annex Dollar General on second reading and not require them to hook up to our sewer system. They will keep the septic tank they have. If they have problems with the septic tank in the future and they cannot tie on to city sewer for whatever reason, DHEC will take over. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion and the vote was 6-1 with Councilman Cook voting against.

- d. Consideration and action on ordinance to adopt the "Coordination Element" of the Comprehensive Plan (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve this coordination element on second reading. This is basically a cooperation between the City and County. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- e. Consideration and action on Building Department name change (Building Codes)

The department will be renamed Business and Development Services Department. Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt this with Councilwoman Gettys seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on sewer maintenance fee (PW)

Chairman Goodson made a motion to vote this ordinance down. Councilman Crosby seconded and the vote was unanimous (7-0). This ordinance is now dead.

b. Consideration and action on DOT interchange projects (Finance)

This is an item that was tabled in February pertaining to a matching grant for improvement of the Bridges and Butler interchanges on 385. We are checking to see if some of the money can be moved from one of the interchanges to the bridge at 276 and 417. Last Wednesday, we heard from DOT that there is a process to make this change. We have submitted the needed paperwork and Columbia will make the decision on whether we are allowed to change the scope of the project. Trey will let council know when we here back from DOT. This is for information only. No action was needed from council.

Councilman Hunter asked if there is a deadline. Trey answered DOT has not indicated a deadline.

Councilman Cook asked about the scope of work we are talking about on 417. Trey said the kudzu would be removed and another ground cover plant would be installed to stabilize the soil around the bridge. The estimate for this is \$50,000 right now. If something ends up being structurally wrong with the bridge, DOT will have to contend with that. That issue would not be the City's problem. Councilman Cook asked for a report from Trey on this project.

Councilman Goodson asked if the bridge could be painted. Trey said we could ask DOT about that. Councilman Goodson said the support structure was unique and that painting it could complement it.

c. Consideration and action on cultural center alcohol request (Rec)

Chairwoman Gettys made a motion to accept the request from the cultural center to serve beer and wine at the fundraiser on May 19th. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0). Councilman Cook asked if the policy would be followed and the cultural center board would pay for police presence, if needed. Trey Eubanks answered yes.

Councilman Black asked if they were exempt from the insurance requirement since this is the city's property and falls under our liability insurance. Trey said that was correct.

d. Business license date due ordinance (Committee of the Whole)

Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt this ordinance to extend the business license deadline by one business day if April 15th falls on a holiday or a weekend. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0). Councilman Black asked if inclement weather should be added as a reason to delay the deadline as well. John Duggan said this could be added to the ordinance for second reading, if needed. Councilman Cook asked about rate class 8. What if that date falls on a weekend? Trey is going to check to find out what class 8 is, and if this ordinance would apply to that class as well. John Duggan clarified that this will change the business license date for this year as well as moving forward.

9. Public Comment.

Leo Joyce: I live at 114 Old Bridges Road. On this business license thing, if \ something else is due on Saturday or Sunday, you may run into a lot of this. I think you should investigate it.

Bud Greer: I am Bud Greer and I live at 318 South Main Street. I request that you make the public aware when you are going to discuss the interchanges again. This is a significant expenditure for the City and the public should know about it.

Mayor Raines: We can give you notice now. It will be discussed at our committee meeting on the first Tuesday in May and again at the council meeting on the third Monday in May.

10. Council requests.

11. Adjournment. – Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk