

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
AUGUST 19, 2013
7:00 PM**

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

1. Call to order. – Mayor Raines
 - a. Invocation- Pastor Smoke Kanipe, Mauldin United Methodist
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Cook
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Mauldin Chamber- Trey reminded everyone of the BAH at Chicora Alley tomorrow.
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- July 15, 2013. Councilman Hunter made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Crosby seconding. Councilman Black asked if under New Business for the cultural center renovations, the number should be \$49,000 instead of \$40,000. Staff will look into this and the minutes will be changed if need be. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes (7-0).
4. Public Comment.- None
5. Report from City Administrator- Trey mentioned the I385/Butler Interchange improvements will be started in October. Permits have been received for the water meter for the irrigation system.

Construction on the main intersection has begun. Duke Energy has addressed the utility conflict. This week, construction signs will be put up but covered. Next week, the covers will be removed and construction will begin.

Corn Road is now open after the DOT repairs.

Kay Hunt is heading the United Way campaign again and we hope to have a lot of employee contribution to the program.

The health fair will be October 15th at the sports center. This goes towards our wellness program, which helps us with our insurance renewal rates.

The worker's comp and liability insurance auditor was at city hall last week going over the city's compliance with minimum safety guidelines. We were notified that we will be able to take a premium reduction providing that our experience modifier is under a one because of our compliance. Trey commended Cindy Miller and our department heads for their efforts in this area.

Turn the Town Teal comes up next month. September is Ovarian Cancer awareness month.

The September committee meetings will be held on Thursday, September 5th because of the Labor Day holiday.

The BBQ event will be September 20th and 21st at the cultural center. This will be the 3rd annual cook-off.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Building Codes (Chairman Crosby)

i. Reports and Communications from Business and Development Services

Director. – Kim Hamel reported on permit activity. The department's numbers are strong. Chairman Crosby asked if the contractor work that being done on inspections is being tracked. Kim answered that it is, and we need a couple of more months to be able to determine whether we want to continue to contract the inspections, or if we want to hire an inspector.

Chairman Crosby asked about Code Enforcement and how the Police and Business Development Services departments were working together. Trey said they are working on improving communication between the two departments to be responsive to our citizens and businesses.

Councilman Hunter asked about Kim's meeting in Columbia regarding the flooding that happened in July. Kim said she learned there are some funds that we can apply for that is beyond the flood mitigation plan. A representative from FEMA is going to follow up with an insurance specialist to see if we can apply for a grant to do a buyout program. Trey added that staff is making every effort to explore any opportunities available. There are no guarantees.

Councilman Cook asked that Chief Turner be informed of any issues that are going on with Code Enforcement. Trey said there are some things we can do internally to make us more effective.

Councilman Goodson asked if the complaints come to the police department. Trey said some directly come to the police department. A lot of the issues come directly to Business and Development Services and then go to Stuart. Councilman Goodson said that seems like it is giving citizens the runaround.

- b. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director- Van reported the Seniors had 2059 participants in programs. The Mauldin High School Jamboree is August 24th.
- c. Public Safety (Chairman Cook)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief- plaque presentation- A plaque was presented to Linda Carpenter for her 17 years of service to the City.

The department has had several applicants for animal control officer and testing is in progress. Issues are still being handled by the Codes Enforcement Officer.

A high school student from Woodruff raised money to provide K9 trauma kits

to a few agencies in our area. We received several kits for our three dogs. The police department is going to invite her to a future council meeting to be recognized.

Councilman Goodson asked about the Codes Enforcement Officer's certification. Chief Turner answered that he is a class three officer, which means he is certified from the criminal justice academy. Stuart rides around looking for violations and responds to calls.

- ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court / Administrative Judge- Her report is on file.
- iii. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief.- Chief Sapp reported the response time for the department is 2.8 minutes. 229 calls were run for the month.

Chairman Cook asked about the text system the County is working on for emergencies. Chief Sapp said that the County is having trouble with the system and hopes to have it online in the next few months.

- d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)
 - i. Reports and Communications from the Economic Developer- John Gardner reported that we are continuing to work on annexations.

One more façade improvement application has come in.

Interest in 1400 Old Stage Road continues.

Chick-fil-A is starting to make progress. There are some vacancies in the Publix center that the new development should help. Councilman Cook asked about the possibility of a left turn lane out of the new restaurant. John said he would contact SCDOT.

The Fisher elementary school is being built and Pine Forest/Oak Forest is

zoned to go to the school. He said the installation of sidewalks would be great to get the students to and from school.

St. Francis has taken space in Brookfield. This will be their national claims processing center.

Councilman Goodson asked if signage would be paid for by the façade grant. John said it would be, but it will not pay for landscaping.

Councilman Goodson said he thinks it would be worth it to go to the businesses and let them know about the grant, like the Mayor of Travelers Rest did.

Councilman Black asked about the progress of annexation on Woodruff Road. John said there is some activity that may require the action of council.

Chairman Hunter said there was an article in the Greenville News that listed the cities in Greenville County and the number of sidewalks and Mauldin was last on the list. He said that needed to be considered when we start talking about future goals again.

ii. Office of Cultural Affairs report – George McLeer reported that there were 150 events in July. The cultural center insulation is complete. The rooms are holding their temperatures well. The bylaws have been approved by the cultural center board. George distributed notices to businesses about the BBQ festival and the increased traffic.

Councilman Goodson asked what the reasoning was behind moving the cultural center from the Recreation committee to the PEDC committee.

Chairman Hunter answered that the Office of Cultural Affairs is going to be used as an economic development tool. The change was done with the support of the Mayor and was part of the June budget discussion. The Mayor previously talked with each council member separately.

The draft City video was shown.

- e. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)
 - i. Reports and Communications from the PW Director- Trey Eubanks reported for Mike Lambert. He was not present at the meeting. 26.10 tons of debris have been picked up from the flooding incident. Mosquito spraying continues, with a concentration on the low-lying areas. Storm water maintenance is being improved to have a more efficient and effective process. New trash cans have been ordered. Limb and debris collection has also been increased related to the storm with some overtime the previous weekend.

Councilman Black asked that the ordinance regarding the length of limbs be distributed to residents so they will know what the proper measurements are to allow the limbs to be picked up by the City.

Chairman Goodson asked about the \$500,000 matching road paving grant. Trey Eubanks said the decision by the legislative delegation has been put off until September.

Chairman Goodson asked about the creek behind Pavan. He said he walked through the area last Sunday and there are some large trees that have fallen and may be blocking the sewer right of way.

Chairman Goodson asked that large brush and trash pickup be placed on the next PW committee agenda.

- f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Finance Director- Holly Abercrombie reported that the unaudited budget numbers would be available Friday.

Councilman Goodson asked if the City could set up a checking account for flood disaster relief. John Duggan said he believes that is something the City can do. Councilman Goodson said some individuals do not want to contribute to Brookwood Church, since they don't have a separate account.

Trey said he has done research on this, and there is a concern about distribution of funds. Trey cautioned that the ACOG and MASC are not aware of any jurisdiction that has tried to do this, primarily because of the problem of distribution. Councilman Cook said that may be something that could be done through the Red Cross, and they could set up an account, since they are non-profit. John Duggan said that when he wanted to contribute to victims of Hurricane Sandy, he called the New Jersey Governor's office and the office had set up a fund.

Councilman Goodson asked that this item be placed on the Finance committee agenda.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on building and regulatory code adoption (Building Codes)- Chairman Crosby made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on cultural center bylaws (PEDC)- Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept the new bylaws. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion. The bylaws were changed and the cultural center has been taken from the non-profit, since the building is owned by the city and the Office of Cultural Affairs is now a city department. The non-profit part that is left will be a fundraising entity only. Councilman Goodson asked if they can create debt. They cannot secure debt with the City's assets. John Duggan said the situation is similar to the Greenville County Museum. The county owns the building and the Art Association raises funds to buy artwork. Money is raised, artwork is purchased, and the art is gifted to the County for display in the building. This is the way the cultural center will work. The things that are bought with funds will be gifted to the City, if the City accepts that gift. When a gift is offered, it must be accepted consciously by the City.

Councilman Black asked if something was put in the building and it damages the building, is the City responsible? John Duggan said first the City would have to allow the display, then we would have to have an agreement as to who is responsible for the damage. It is similar to a lease. Mayor Raines told council that he and the City Administrator are ad hoc members of the cultural center board and will know the activities the board is involved in. The vote was unanimous to accept the bylaws (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on proposed new policies (Finance)- Chairman Black asked that the three policies be addressed one at a time. He made a motion to pass a policy that an employee who leaves employment, regardless of the circumstances, would be paid out any remaining vacation leave they had. Councilman Goodson seconded the motion. Councilman Cook asked why would we reward someone who had done something wrong, such as embezzling money? Councilman Cook said this is an example of council micromanaging. This should be left up to the discretion of the department head, as they know their former employees better than Council does. Councilwoman Gettys said she has a problem supporting something that goes against what the MASC and labor attorney has recommended and will not vote for this new policy.

Councilman Hunter said taking sections out of the personnel policy and changing them by piecemeal has gotten us in trouble in the past. He would like to see the entire document voted on as a whole when Council is ready to do that. The vote was 2-5 with Councilman Cook, Councilman Hunter, Councilman Crosby, Mayor Raines, and Councilwoman Gettys dissenting. The motion was defeated.

Chairman Black withdrew the rest of the items and asked that Council look at the proposed draft policy for vote at a later date.

9. Public Comment- None

10. Council requests.

Councilman Goodson said Brookwood Church, Mauldin United Methodist, and Mauldin First Baptist have been helping the flood victims. About \$2000 worth of gift cards have been given out, a used trailer will be given to replace a damaged one, and furniture and appliances have been donated. The donations are starting to dry up, though. These people need help. Susan Young is the contact at Brookwood 688-8318 regarding the flood coordination. Councilman Cook thanked Councilman Goodson for spearheading this effort.

11. Adjournment. – Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk