

**MINUTES  
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL  
DECEMBER 16, 2013  
7:00 PM**

**Members present were Mayor Dennis Raines, Council members Patricia Gettys, Bob Cook, Dale Black, Larry Goodson and Scott Crosby. Councilman Gabe Hunter was out due to an illness. City Attorney John Duggan and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.**

1. Call to order. – Mayor Raines
  - a. Invocation- Councilwoman Gettys
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilwoman Gettys
  - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Mauldin Chamber; Plaque presentation; Arbor Day Proclamation

James Stewart was present from the Chamber. He is the board President.

Pat Pomeroy said the tree lighting, the parade, and Breakfast with Santa went very well.

Mayor Raines read the Arbor Day proclamation.

Mayor Raines presented Patricia Gettys a plaque for her service as Councilwoman.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.- November 18, 2013  
Councilman Crosby made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilwoman Gettys seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).
4. Public Comment.- None
5. Report from City Administrator  
Trey reported that there is an interest in the Golden Strip cities hosting Relay for Life. The event is scheduled for August 8, 2014.

Ball field lighting will be on the committee agenda for January 7<sup>th</sup>. We may have some information from the county by then.

The 385 enhancement project is going well.

The employee Christmas luncheon will be Friday at the cultural center.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)

- i. Reports and Communications from the PW Director- Mike reported that leaf collection is continuing. About 90% are on the ground now. The department worked six hours on Saturday to keep up with them. 174 Christmas lights were hung from power poles. Councilman Black asked if a schedule could be published for leaf pickup. Chairman Goodson asked that the ordinance for maintenance of ditches be put on the agenda in January.

b. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

- i. Reports and Communications from Finance Director- Holly reported the budget still looks good. Property tax checks will come in January and February.

c. Building Codes (Chairman Crosby)

- i. Reports and Communications from Business and Development Services Director.- Kim reported on permit and license activity. Commercial permits are down.

d. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

- i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director- Van reported the Senior program had 2291 participants. The Christmas luncheon will be Thursday at noon. The sports center fitness classes have had a spike in attendance. Councilman Goodson asked Van to please get specific numbers for youth sports and sports center attendees. Van said that he would get that information to council.

e. Public Safety (Chairman Cook)

- i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief- Bryan Turner said there has been a reduction in the number of calls last month. They should go up in December. The department received an award last week and is now state accredited. We are the only the 11<sup>th</sup> department in the state to be internationally accredited and state accredited. Councilman Goodson asked about an incident that happened on 276. Chief Turner said it is being looked into and that the police department was going to step up patrols in that area.

- ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court /  
Administrative Judge- Angela Martin reported that last week jury trials were held. We will start getting set-off debt checks as people begin to pay their taxes.
- iii. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief.- The response time for November was 2.8 minutes and the department responded to 231 calls. Calls are down 207 from this time last year.
- f. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)
  - i. Reports and Communications from the Economic Developer- Developers have been calling on potential projects in the City.
  - ii. Office of Cultural Affairs report- George reported that the center has been busy. The 2014 season has been announced. Operation Get Smart is going on now. This is a powerful message from inmates and a great program for students to hear.

#### 7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on limb collection ordinance (PW)- Chairman Goodson made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).
- b. Consideration and action on trash ordinance revision (PW)- Chairman Goodson made a motion to adopt this ordinance on second reading. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0). Councilman Black made the clarification that if a can is damaged by the City, we will do our best to repair it at no cost to the resident.

#### 8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on sign ordinance phase 2 (Building Codes)- This eliminates the amortization rule, allows schools, places of worship, and other approved uses to have digital signs on major thoroughfares, and also has a modification of height for real estate signs. Chairman Crosby made a motion to pass this on first reading. Councilwoman Gettys seconded. The vote was (5-1) with Councilman Black dissenting. Trey thanked the Chamber for their help in getting the proposed ordinance to the business community. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> revision of the draft, primarily because of feedback from businesses.
- b. Consideration and action on fire debt(Public Safety)- This proposes purchasing a ladder and pumper truck and use remaining amount in the bond fund to pay down debt. This comes from the ISO requirements to keep

our 2 rating. The County supports what the City would like to do. We are reallocating current money. Debt was issued for a 10 year plan, but conditions from when this was done have changed. This will not increase the bond payment. Chairman Cook made a motion to approve this with Councilwoman Gettys seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

- c. Consideration and action on entryway and other signage (PEDC)- Mayor Raines asked if these expenditures would come from the hospitality and accommodation fund. Trey said the PW and medallion signs have been removed. The other signs can be funded through the hospitality and accommodations fund. Councilman Goodson said he thought we should go through the bid process to save money.

Councilman Black asked where the city hall sign was, since he has asked for it before. Olivia said it was left out because improvements to the cultural center sign will include an LED sign. Councilman Black asked about advertising for the tenants of the cultural center. Some of those were cut out because of changing the sign style. Councilman Crosby asked George McLeer if he had heard anything from the tenants about changing the signs. George said no. The current signs make people think that the cultural center is an office people and that the organizations have offices there and that is not the case. Only the chamber has an office there.

Councilman Goodson asked about bids. Trey said this tonight is to approve the design and after action on the design, an RFP will be sent out for bids.

Councilwoman Gettys made a motion to spend up to \$100,000 on these signs and send them to bid. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. The vote was 4-2 with Councilman Black and Councilman Goodson opposing.

- d. Consideration and action on rezoning of 305 South Main Street (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Cook said it looks like this is spot zoned. Trey said part of the parcels are I-1 and part is R20. Councilman Cook asked if a 200 foot buffer would be there. Trey answered yes, that is a DHEC requirement. Councilman Cook said his concern is what may be put there in the future, not for the current tenant.

The representative from Vopak said DHEC has explicitly written instructions in their permit. They are inspected every month by DHEC to make sure the public is safe. There is a group of three people who call Vopak when there is an odor or noise. There have been regulations that have added because of the Community Awareness Program.

Kim said that part of this property was platted as part of Glendale Heights and that is why it is residential. The residential part was removed in the 1950s.

Councilwoman Gettys made a motion to accept this on first reading with Councilman Cook seconding. Councilman Goodson asked if Vopak would have another public meeting. The representative said they have talked to the awareness group and the residents have no concerns about the rezoning. John Duggan said a sign was placed on the property notifying the public of a hearing 30 days beforehand.

Trey said the council chambers were offered to Vopak if they decided to have a public hearing. Vopak chose not to. The vote was 4-2 with Councilman Goodson and Councilman Black opposing.

#### 9. Public Comment

Walter McPhail: I want to thank you for addressing the amortization in a positive way. As a long standing business owner, I appreciate your comments that the businesses were notified about the sign ordinance. I will put you on the spot-public notice being what?

Trey Eubanks: We advertised for public input we had a public hearing, the chamber sent out emails. This has been discussed about six times through committee and council meetings.

Walt McPhail: Did individual businesses get notice?

Trey Eubanks: Sending out 600-700 notices to businesses? No.

Walt McPhail: I don't have email through the Chamber. Don't depend on someone else to do your notification. I would appreciate some notice. I didn't know anything until Robbie Kellett told me about it three days before the meeting.

#### 10. Executive session to discuss property acquisition. (Committee of the Whole)

Councilwoman Gettys made a motion to go into executive session with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

Councilwoman Gettys reported no decisions were made and no action was taken in executive session.

#### 11. Council requests.

#### 12. Adjournment. – Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk