

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 24, 2011
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Godbey, Councilmen Gabe Hunter, Bob Cook, James Kennedy, Michael Reynolds and Dale Black. Councilwoman Gettys was out of town and not present. City Administrator Trey Eubanks and John Duggan, City Attorney were also present.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Godbey
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Reynolds
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Cook
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey
2. Proclamations and Presentations- George McLeer, Executive Director Mauldin Cultural Center; Pat Pomeroy, Mauldin Chamber; MHS Cheerleader recognition; MHS band recognition

The Mauldin High School band director was presented with a proclamation for the band's achievements at the Sugar Bowl.

MHS cheerleaders were presented with certificates for the 2010 State Championship.

George McLeer reported that the center is booked for the month and very busy. Trey reported in Pat Pomeroy's absence that the chamber retreat went well and that the chamber is looking for ways to grow their membership.
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- December 20, 2010

Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

Annexation and zoning of property at 1221 Miller Road. (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter made a motion to deny this petition. He believes the density is too intense, the traffic impact is too great, and the comprehensive plan calls for R12 single family residential. Councilman Cook seconded the motion. Mayor Godbey would like to see this property annexed into the city because then Mauldin will have control over it. This project can still be put into the County, and the City will have no control over it. Councilman Cook said that low income housing does not need to be at the entrance to the City. Mr. Cook believes this project was already turned down by the county. Mr. Kennedy is opposed to the project because of the traffic impact on Miller Road. Councilman Black was concerned about the proposed turn lane. He thinks that may have been turned down by DOT and the City would not be able to do anything about that. Councilman Reynolds would like to see something more in line with our comprehensive plan.

The vote was 5-1 with Mayor Godbey voting for the project.

4. Public Comment.

Marian Taft Weinberger: I use a hyphenated name, otherwise no one knows who I am. I live at 209 Crepe Myrtle. My husband is deceased and was purchasing agent for the Greenville School System. You people are being too PC by not mentioning what was in the paper. The paper said it was low income housing. What is affordable for you is different for me. We all have different things we can afford. The median income is \$32,000. Mauldin is below the median. Once you take income tax out, do we want low income people who have never lived in the area coming in? We have our own poor people. Seniors haven't gotten a COLA for two years now. Food costs more, gas costs more. You have people who are unemployed. Why are we doing this for outsiders? This is not even a South Carolina builder. Buy local. Why are you going out? Why can't we have a SC builder.

Councilman Cook: We voted it down.

Ms. Weinberger: I understand, but you didn't mention it was low income housing. The newspaper called it.

Councilman Hunter: It is income qualified, not low income.

Ms. Weinberger: What does that mean? You are talking government gobbledygook. You don't have to use Miller Road to get out of this area. Bridges Road, lots of ways.

Martin Pollock: I live at 24 McIntosh Way. I also had the impression it was low income housing. That means government subsidized, which is taxpayer subsidized.

Chairman Hunter: It is built off of tax credits.

Mr. Pollock: One man says yes, and one says no. I had the impression that tax credits is coming out of my pocket. I am basically paying those people to live

there. You might see it differently, but... We all know that the value of our property has gone down because of the depression – you look surprised. Our taxes have gone up, and we all know these places that are low income are full of drugs and everything else. I live next door to Jim there and I don't want it next to me. I wanted to speak and tell you thank you. You heard the clapping and we appreciate the vote you took tonight.

John Rogers: I live at 104 Sandpiper Lane. Before that, I lived in Forrester Woods and before that I lived in Oak Forest, so I haven't gone very far. Thank you for the vote, I would like to see you annex as far as you can and get all the way to Woodruff Road. Get those businesses in the tax base. I would also love to see sidewalks go up Miller Road.

Mayor Godbey: So would we.

Mr. Rogers: We are all for that. It is tough pulling out of our neighborhood. There have been a couple of accidents there. I am also the President of the Homeowner's Association, so I came here representing my neighborhood. Fortunately, I didn't have to say much. Thank you. Thanks, Gabe. He lives in our neighborhood.

Councilman Hunter: The businesses right before you get to the bank are now in the city. They were annexed this year.

Mr. Rogers: Our city, or the other? Good. These decisions are hard. I remember the BI-LO Center, almost half of the board who voted for it got gone. Not board, council. Gabe probably remembers when Butler Road got stripped and the contractors took down the 30 inch trees. What did they get? A little fine. So, hang tough, we appreciate it.

Councilman Reynolds made a motion to suspend the rules to add something to the agenda. This is a request from Brashier Middle College to use one of our baseball fields at Sunset Park. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey reported that several things are going forward regarding our cultural center landscaping and auditorium plans. These items will be placed on February's Recreation committee agenda.

The public works department took the lead in a successful recycling program. We have been recognized by Upstate Forever. The City's recycling campaign was listed in their top ten achievements in planning and conservation. This project has also been submitted for the MASC achievement award and we were notified that the MASC would like to meet us in Columbia to present to their selection committee.

Holly Abercrombie, Trey Eubanks, and Van Brannon met with Martin Livingstone regarding another Homes of Hope project on Miller Road near Murray Drive. We are also going to partner with GCRA on some handicapped-accessible projects.

The GCRA public hearing will be held at 6:45 p.m. February 21st, immediately preceding the council meeting.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Finance and Policy (Chairman Reynolds)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director

Holly reported that the revenues look good so far. Property taxes have been coming in steadily. The recycling revenue stream is doing very well also. The budget year preparation has started.

b. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director.

Peter Nomikos said the building department just received some plans for an office building at Regent Park. A planning commission meeting is scheduled for tomorrow night.

Mayor Godbey asked if the new YMCA that is moved in to the old Liv N Side Out was a taxable entity. Ms. Abercrombie said it is not, because they are a 501c3. They are tax exempt.

c. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director

Van reported 2600 participants in the senior Christmas events. They will take a trip to Newberry for a play on Wednesday. Youth basketball is going very well. People are coming over to the sports center for the 90 day fitness challenge. Once their trial is up, hopefully they will join the center.

Brashier Middle College has asked for permission to use one of our fields at Sunset Park . The facility where they normally play baseball is not available this year and they have been looking for another location. The school will pay any expenses associated with their use of our field. Our recreation program will not need the field until their season is over, so it won't affect any of our activities.

d. Fire (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

The department response time is 2.8 minutes for the month. The sub-station is coming along. Cement blocks are being put in now.

e. Police (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

The report is on file.

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

The report is on file.

- f. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

- i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director

Trey Eubanks reported that the snow storm response was very good. PW had a crew in to respond to assistance requests from our fire and police departments. It was a busy few days, but things went well.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Economic Development Incentive (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this ordinance on second reading. A couple of revisions were needed to the document that was in the packets to add "complete" and there was one typo. After the revisions were made, the motion was announced. Councilman Cook seconded the motion to accept the revised ordinance.

Councilman Reynolds asked what kind of projects this incentive could be used for. Trey Eubanks answered that it would be sewer projects, roads, or water. It has to be public infrastructure.

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

- b. Amendment to Standing Committee Rules Ordinance (Finance)

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. This removes the rules from the code of ordinances and allows any changes to be made by resolution. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

8. New Business

- a. FY 12 budget calendar (Finance)

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to approve this budget calendar with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

- b. Annexation and zoning of property at 1221 Miller Road. (PEDC)

Councilman Cook made a motion to move this item to the top of the agenda with Chairman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

c. Request from Brashier Middle College.

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to approve this request. The school will pay the expenses associated with their request to use one baseball field at Sunset Park. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

Councilman Black asked about concessions. Would they be using our stands?

Van said they would not run concessions.

9. Public Comment.

Misty Rae was present from the affordable housing program. They are a sub-recipient from GCRA and are looking at some new projects for the City.

10. Council requests.

Councilman Cook requested that we look at the feasibility of putting fuel tanks in for our vehicles or piggybacking with the County on their gas purchases.

Mayor Godbey mentioned that the state budget is not looking good and will most likely cut more money to the municipalities. We will have to look at making concessions for that during our budget process.

11. Adjournment.- Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk