

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 21, 2011
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Don Godbey, Council members Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter, Patricia Gettys, James Kennedy, Dale Black, and Michael Reynolds. City Attorney John Duggan and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Godbey
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Cook
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Hunter
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Phoenix Center proclamation; George McLeer, Executive Director Mauldin Cultural Center; Pat Pomeroy, Mauldin Chamber; Mayor Godbey read the Phoenix Center proclamation.

Trey reported on the cultural center board meeting. George was absent due to a family illness. A retreat is planned on April 8th where goals will be set and officers established. There are over 1000 community members a month served through classes, concerts, art shows, and meetings. The summer concert series begins May 27th.

Pat Pomeroy reported on the passing of John Lafoy. A ribbon cutting and BAH was done at the Turtle Shell. A ribbon cutting will be held Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. at Brookfield at M and A Supply. A tri-chamber meeting will be held with the Gold Star Mothers at Horizon Church on April 7th at 11:30 a.m.

Mayor Godbey issued a reminder of the town hall meeting April 7, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.- February 21, 2011; March 1, 2011
Councilman Black made a motion to approve both sets of minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. Councilwoman Gettys pointed out a typo that will be corrected. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

4. Public Comment.

- a. Sara Easler: I am Sara Easler and I live at 104 Rainbow Villa apartment 4 off of Miller Road. The reason I came is not only for me, but for the other handicapped people in Mauldin who do not have a car. I have to walk every where I go. I have a pin in my lap. I was once in an accident that crushed my skull, paralyzed my left side, and crushed my left thigh and hip. They were going to amputate my right leg, but instead put a pin in it. The doctor said it will hurt me the rest of my life. Every time it hurts, I give it to the Lord.

When I walk to the store because I don't have a ride, I get so tired. I wish the whole time that there was a bench to sit on. I have met so many other crippled people who like to go to the store and they need a place to sit. I am not only speaking for myself, but for the other handicapped people. I would really appreciate it- I would help pay for it. I am on SSI, but I would try to help pay for it. I would appreciate some place to sit down.

Mayor Godbey: The first step is doing what you did tonight and bringing in to our attention. I will have this put on the Recreation Committee agenda. They meet the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to come, you can. We can try to help you get to the meeting if you have problems getting to it.

Councilman Hunter: Where would you like the bench placed?

Sara Easler: Every other block. I go to the Dollar Store or Ingles from way over there. Every other block or every three blocks. It would be wonderful if I could look forward to having a place to sit down. It makes me keep on going. I am thankful every day that I am still here. I am thankful that I have one eye. I am totally blind in the other eye. But, I keep pushing.

Mayor Godbey: We appreciate your courage in being here and talking before us. This is worthwhile for us to look into. We have a significant senior population and a significant population of folks with physical challenges. Nothing gets started until somebody says something. You have done it. Thank you for coming out.

Sara Easler: Thank you and I appreciate every one of y'all.

- b. Chuck Schreiber: I live at 1512 Fairview Road in Simpsonville. I realize I am not in the right city, but I am here to speak to you.

Mayor Godbey: We think it is the right city.

Chuck Schreiber: I am here to speak about your proposed Veteran's Memorial and I appreciate your honor and council giving me the opportunity to speak. It has recently come to our attention at the Golden Strip VFW that you are planning a veteran's memorial at your cultural center down the street. I would like to applaud you for considering a memorial for the veterans here in your fine city. Unfortunately, after looking at your renderings, I am not very pleased with your location of the memorial. You have placed it behind the building where no one will see it from the main thoroughfare. It is a measure of a lack of foresight for the feelings of your veterans in Mauldin.

I am a US Navy Veteran. I served for five years about the USS Eisenhaur. I served two tours in the Mediterranean during the time where there were problems in Beirut. I proudly served my country. I answered my country's call. I am very fortunate to be standing here before you today. Many of my brothers in arms have given the ultimate sacrifice for our country, and they deserve a memorial that says the City of Mauldin is proud of their veterans, proud of their service, and proud of the sacrifice they have given. You should place it in a position of pride instead of hidden around back behind a building. To me that says that the City is ashamed of your veterans and you don't want to have the memorial in a position of prominence. You would rather hide it where people will not see it.

I hope you will reconsider the placement of this and move it to a position of prominence on your main street and proudly display your faith and appreciate for the veterans in the community.

Trey Eubanks: I appreciate your attendance here tonight. I will be glad to do this now or when it is on the agenda. Thank you for your input and thank you for coming here tonight. I believe when you see the rendering and what has been approved, you will like this. If you look at the rendering, this area from the initial design has been moved to the very front of Butler Road based on input from veteran's groups. Also based off of public input, we have added a portion of the cultural center grounds to have a reflective area. We heard from some of our veterans that they would like to have a place to go and reflect on someone who served in the military. The other input we received from our Disabled American Veteran's group is that they wanted each branch of the military represented in the memorial and each major conflict represented. There will be a walkway from Butler Road where there is a prominent area with the flags, and plaques that highlight every major conflict our country has been involved with.

Our plan has had public input and that input was that we want a prominent area at the road and a more reflective area. We incorporated both ideas into the plan.

Mr. Schreiber: Where is the prominence along Bethel Road?

Trey Eubanks: Do you know where the sports center entrance is off of Butler? Right there is where the flags will be.

Mayor Godbey: This isn't a time for give and take. This is a time for comments and we appreciate yours.

Councilman Cook: I met with one of the veterans and showed him the plan and he agreed with it. I want to make it clear that the reflection part is not in the first phase. That will be down the road. The war memorial is down in front. Sir, I know you are from Simpsonville, but ours is going to be better than Simpsonville's. The suggestion I got from Mr. Sherbert was that we put the flags of each branch on the memorial at the front. The reflection garden is in the back. I think that is where a lot of the confusion came from. I am not a veteran, but I want to assure you that none of these council folks are ashamed of our veterans. You said you are lucky to be here, and we are too, on the count of people like you. We are going to be proud of what goes in there.

- c. Mr. Jessie: I live at 915 Fargo Street here in Mauldin. The only thing I have is a criticism of this design. Someone driving by is going to see this and keep on driving by, aren't they? Is there anything that says, hey, turn in here? Entrance?

Mayor Godbey: We want as many people to turn in as we can get.

Mr. Jessie: Exactly. That is my point. All the different memorials or plaques to the different conflicts that the military has been involved in will not be seen. They will drive by, see the flags, and say, oh, gee, Mauldin likes their vets. What does that tell you? If you were driving by, would you keep on going? Why not call it what it is- park entrance, memorial entrance?

Mayor Godbey: This plan was unanimous. We have had a lot of public comments. We not only heard from veterans, we elicited comments from veterans on the design. Not everybody gets everything they want. This isn't a democracy. You have a lot of different opinions and comments. We encouraged comments during this process.

Councilman Hunter: I am a veteran. I spent four years in the Army-1968-1972 during the Vietnam Era. About 1/3 of the cultural center design is to honor our veterans. This is both at the street, along the walkway, and at the reflection area in the back. I find it to be very appropriate. Mauldin is honoring the veterans who served our country.

- d. Thomas Lafoy: My name is Thomas Lafoy. My address is 303 Rosewood Circle in Mauldin. As Pat said, my father did pass away on Sunday. I have lived in this area my whole life. I went to Mauldin Elementary. This is my home. As you said, sir, it is time to step up. I am glad to be here tonight because my father cared a lot for this city. It was one of his greatest passions. He loved giving everything he had to this community. That was who he was.

Since the accident Sunday, there have been many people that have come and spoken to me about the place where it took place. I have also talked with Mr. McCord about traffic. I just ask you to evaluate the ability to turn left out of there. I understand there is some private property issues and there is a lot of things that goes on as far as ordinances and whatnot. There are a lot of people I know that have had accidents there. We are going to memorialize my father in this community, but I would just ask that you look at that. I don't have anything against the man, because all of us have done it; this one just happened to have tragically affected me. If something can be done to make it safer- maybe certain hours that turning left is not available. It was five or six o'clock. I just ask that someone looks at that.

Mayor Godbey: Mr. Lafoy, we are looking at 276 and that is a DOT highway. The driveway you speak of is a private property. The jurisdiction is private. We are doing things as aggressively as we can and we will continue to do that. We do honor your presence and your dad's participation with the city in the years he has been here. I cared deeply about your dad and I only knew him a small percentage of his life.

Thomas Lafoy: I still have kids- I say kids, but they are not kids anymore- that call him Coach Lafoy. Mauldin is our home and we appreciate everything Mauldin has done for us. It has been a big part of our lives. I hope to continue that as All Weather Service.

Mayor Godbey: Fill that beard in and we will look for you at Breakfast with Santa.

Thomas Lafoy: We will see about that. I appreciate everything you have done to rally around us. Without good people, we would be drowning. Those are substantially large shoes to fill. Thank you.

Mayor Godbey: You honor your father by coming forward and talking on his behalf and I appreciate that.

Thomas Lafoy: I am just doing what he taught me to do. I don't know how I am doing... Thank you for your time.

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey reported on the budget calendar. The next budget workshop will be March 29th at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Trey also reported that based on last year's numbers, it looks as though our worker's comp and liability insurance premiums will go down a little next year. We have had good claims experience in both programs.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director

The senior program had over 2200 participants last month. The sports center classes are all full. The Easter egg hunt will be April 14th. The Peacock road race raised over \$40,000 for SIDS.

b. Fire (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

The metal and steel will come in on Friday. The pad will be poured for the living quarters this week.

c. Police (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

The Police Chief showed survey results to council. It showed the citizens are happy with the police department and the job they are doing.

ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court /

Administrative Judge

Judge Martin's report is on file.

d. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from PW Director

Mr. Fincher reported the department is busy collecting leaves and working on park maintenance. Sewer system maintenance continues per DHEC.

e. Finance and Policy (Chairman Reynolds)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director

Holly Abercrombie reported that we should meet budget on property tax revenues.

- f. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director.

Peter Nomikos reported that the department is running 9% under budget. Construction activity is anticipated at West Butler and Pinecrest this week.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on rezoning the corner of West Butler Road and Pinecrest Drive (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this ordinance on second reading. This will rezone to OD. Councilman Kennedy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on alcohol request at Senior Center (Rec)

Chairwoman Gettys made a motion to allow the service of wine and beer at a birthday party at the senior center. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on Cultural center landscaping (Rec)

Chairwoman Gettys reported that this would be the implementation stage. Bids need to be submitted for the work that was previously approved by council. Chairwoman Gettys made a motion to approve going out to bid. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion.

Councilman Black asked about the Veteran's memorial plan. Trey Eubanks said that phase one includes the entranceway memorial with the flags and the walkway. Phase one does not include the serenity area. Specifications will be available for review by the April Recreation Committee meeting.

Tom Keith explained this the next step of the implementation. This was all part of the master plan, but now it is being fleshed out.

Councilman Black said he wants to see the Veteran's Memorial done first before the amphitheatre is worked on. We are one of the few cities that does not have a memorial right now for its veterans. Tom Keith said that real numbers will be gotten and council will have the final say in what they want to do first.

The vote was unanimous (7-0).

c. Main Street and other enhancement projects (PEDC)

John Gardner came up with some ideas on how to rebid the 276 enhancement project. Staff had a meeting with the DOT commissioner that went well. DOT's estimators are going back to look at the bid estimates they gave. This bid will be sent out with an option for the city to decide whether we could afford all of the aspects of the bid.

Part A is landscaping improvements between Owens Lane and Sunset Drive.

Part B is a new landscape median south of Forrester Drive to Grace Covenant Church and 300 feet of sidewalk and new curb at Murray Drive.

March 28th is the submission deadline. There is a three month time line with DOT for them to open bids for the project.

Chairman Hunter made a motion to have this project rebid as outlined. Councilman Kennedy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

d. State legislature resolution (PEDC)

This resolution supports home rule. Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

This is the third year in a row that money given to municipalities has been cut.

9. Public Comment.

Thomas LaFoy: My stepmother Charlotte, my sister Rachael and I have talked, and All Weather Services plans on being business as usual. We look forward to continue what he has always done for the recreation department. This would be pet projects as well as the municipal projects. That is my dad's life's work. My stepmother and sister wanted me to express that to you. We will continue to do everything my father did for this community and still be as active in the community.

Mayor Godbey: I want to express our sincere gratitude to your family and our condolences for this loss. You have held yourself well tonight and we extend our sympathies. The chamber and the city have a strong relationship with your family and we want to work with you as you go through the changes that this loss has brought to you. We appreciate you being here tonight.

Thomas Lafoy: There have been plenty of people behind the scenes from the City of Mauldin. They have been nothing but confidants and strength for me. There are many people I can mention that have come forward and helped me to see what I have to do. I need to man up and that is what I am doing.

10. Council requests.

11. Adjournment. – Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller

Municipal Clerk