

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

Members present were Mayor Don Godbey, Council members Bob Cook, Patricia Gettys, Dale Black, and Michael Reynolds. City Administrator Trey Eubanks and Daniel Hughes, sitting in for John Duggan, were also present. Councilman Hunter was absent due to illness and Councilman Kennedy was out of town.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Godbey
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Reynolds
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Black
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Pat Pomeroy, Mauldin Chamber; George McLeer, Mauldin Cultural Center; Audit report; Trees Greenville proclamation
Pat Pomeroy was hosting a Business After Hours and was not present.
George McLeer reported on the 2012 cultural center schedule.
Mayor Godbey read the Trees proclamation. Joelle Teachey was present as a representative of Trees Greenville.
Hunter Howard was present to give the audit report. He reported that the city is in very sound financial shape and gave an unqualified opinion. He congratulated the City in doing well in difficult financial times. Chairman Reynolds pointed out that the revenues hadn't increased in large numbers, but that expenditures were being controlled by council and department heads.
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- October 17, 2011
Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilwoman Gettys seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).
4. Public Comment.- None
5. Report from City Administrator
Trey Eubanks reported that the cultural center auditorium is done. Landscaping is nearing completion. The project is still \$2-3,000 under budget at present. Tom

Keith of Arbor Engineering was present and reported that the last load of sod will be put in if the weather holds off.

Councilman Black asked about the acorn lights being out. They answered that a line was possibly snagged and that staff is working to figure out what the problem might be.

The Christmas Parade is Sunday at 3:00 p.m.

The City Center Master Plan team met this past Friday to evaluate 10 firms' proposals. That number has been culled down to four.

The 276 demo work began November 8th. Demolition work is completed in the Murray Drive area. New landscaping beds and perennials are being installed. The corridor is going to be much more attractive.

The City continues to work with SCSDOT to get a dedicated right turn lane will be installed at the main intersection of 276 and West Butler Road and a dual left turn lane on West Butler at North Main.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Police (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

The department is very busy this time of year with Christmas events as well as extra work due to more break-ins that occur around Christmas time.

Police officer interviews are being held now and the department is getting comments from applicants that Mauldin is the place to come and apply.

ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court / Administrative Judge- The judicial report is on file.

b. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from PW Director

Greg Fincher reported the department is busy picking up leaves.

The Senior Center roof work is completed. The skylights have been covered because they have been a long-standing issue.

Christmas lights are being checked out now to make sure they are functional.

Councilman Cook said he appreciated the department putting the flags out for Veteran's Day.

c. Finance and Policy (Chairman Reynolds)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director

Holly Abercrombie reported that property taxes would begin coming in to the City in December, with the bulk of the taxes in January and February.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director. – the report is on file

Trey Eubanks did report that permit revenues have increased this past month.

e. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director

Van Brannon reported the Senior participation is still on the rise. The department is busy with holiday activities. Decorations are already put up at the sports center. The Polar Express will be shown at the Sports Center on December 16th. The Angel Tree is also up again this year at the Center.

The Peacock Strides for Babies race will be held in March.

Councilman Cook asked if GCRA has been approached for more funding since the Senior Center has taken more people in from the closing of the Sears Shelter downtown. Trey said we would check with Martin Livingstone on that.

Councilman Black mentioned the Mauldin High School cheerleaders won a championship and that many of them had gotten their start in our recreation programs. The cheerleading team and the tennis team will be invited to a future council meeting to be recognized.

f. Fire (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

Chief Sapp showed slides of the new station. The cabinet contractor is behind schedule and is holding up other work at the station. The cabinets were supposed to be in by October 18th. As it stands right now, the date for completion has been pushed back to the end of December.

Councilman Reynolds asked when the penalties would kick in for going past the agreed-upon completion date. Trey said that he would consult the contract. Some delays have been accepted because of weather and other unforeseen circumstances.

Councilman Reynolds said that if the cabinet maker continues to hold up progress, we need to get a new contractor. The delay is intolerable.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on Zoning ordinance amendment- gas station canopies (PEDC)

Councilwoman Gettys made a motion to table this item. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on audit company extension (Finance)

This extension will be for two years for Scott and Company to continue to be our auditor. Chairman Reynolds said 5-7 years with an audit company is a good amount of time. Chairman Reynolds made a motion to accept Scott and Company's extension with a second by Councilman Black. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

- b. Consideration and action on 2012 insurance renewal (Finance)

Scott Ogburn of the Ferguson Group reported that our insurance has been renewed at an increase of 8%. Because of the fast decision to accept the quote, we received a good percentage. Benefits remain the same. Our current loss ratio is running around 94%. This would have caused about a 25% increase. Dental and vision coverage will remain partial self-funded. Councilman Black said he read an article that stated the average cost of premiums have gone up about 140%. He thanked staff for the job they are doing in keeping costs down.

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to accept the 2012 insurance renewal. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

9. Public Comment.

10. Council requests.

11. Adjournment. – Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk