

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 15, 2012
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Dennis Raines, Council members Gabe Hunter, Dale Black, Larry Goodson and Scott Crosby. Council members Bob Cook and Patricia Gettys were not present. City Administrator Trey Eubanks and City Attorney Daniel Hughes were present.

1. Call to order. – Mayor Raines
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Crosby
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Crosby
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines

2. Proclamations and Presentations- Mauldin Chamber; Mauldin Cultural Center; Pancreatic Cancer proclamation; TMALDI- Curtis Ingram

No representative from the chamber was present. Trey reported on the Christmas Parade, Breakfast with Santa and the annual banquet.

George McLeer was present to talk about the season announcement party and told council the meeting rooms are booked through the holidays.

Mayor Raines read the pancreatic cancer proclamation.

Curtis Ingram thanked council and the city for its support of his youth mentoring program and announced that it is making a positive impact.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.- September 17, 2012; Special Called September 24, 2012
Councilman Black made a motion to approve the September 17th minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0). Councilman Black made a motion to approve the September 24th minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

4. Public Comment.

Randy Kuzniar: It is different on this side. I have been coming to some of the meetings and have a few comments and questions. As a citizen, I see these papers, but there is no detail. How does a citizen know the items that will be discussed in order to ask questions and how can the city be more transparent? Just an open question.

The sound system, it is very difficult to hear in the back. Sometimes I can't hear at all. I don't know if it is the mics, but can the city do something about this.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to explore different cities and cultures the past five years. I have been to different council meetings in mostly villages to see how they run their meetings and take care of their town. I come home and all I see is opportunities and possibilities. I drive in and see Expect Great Things, and the sign with all the plants, but after that, it falls really quick. Some people who travel through here expect different things, but I am a resident and I do expect great things. Our services are great, but the traffic is bad. This intersection is still bad. There is discussion of improving it, and I know it is through DOT, but we need to move forward on that. It is unbelievable how unsynchronized the lights are. If you go in the front and take a look, the businesses couldn't care less about the appearance of their places. The plants look good and thank you for that, but there is more to it than that. If you look at the zoning ordinance, the businesses can do what they want. On Main Street, there is that business that had the old cars, weeds. I think they are gone now, but what are we doing about this? Are we talking to the business owners and asking them to improve? This is a good time to look at this.

I live in Knollwood. This is a racetrack and has been that way. I understand there was a speed bump installed and then taken out after complaints. Knollwood is heavily walked with kids, children, people, what can the city do about it? It is a big problem,. Thank you for your attention.

- b. Pat Taylor- I live at 311 Poplar Lane. Lately we have had one big problem and that is dogs. I have one small dog. The people next door have two dogs, but two more have moved in. They are big. When they get together, it is like Harem Scarem. I can't work out in the yard. I tried to paint something the other day and was scared to death. There are two dogs here, two dogs there. We try to put our dogs out at a time where the other ones aren't there, but we are not successful and can't get it exactly right. I called and talked to the dog person and she said if it happens again, to call the cops. I don't think it is the cops' job. I think it is Mauldin's job to make a law. I hope to goodness you don't pass a law to allow chickens. I grew up with chickens and turkeys and I know what a mess that is. I would like a law to limit the number of dogs people can have.

Another thing, at the traffic light near CF Sauer, there is a dent near there. It didn't bother us until we saw a lady on tv go in a hole with her car. I am going in the other lane and making my turn and then changing again so my car won't go in the hole. I am just asking that you check that and see if it can be fixed.

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey announced that Holly Abercrombie is a Certified Finance Officer now through GFOA.

The Energy Office has approved phase one of the City's energy management plan. We are excited about getting started with this project.

The City is getting ready to go through the insurance renewal process. Councilman Hunter will again be the council liaison on the insurance committee. Our claims experience right now is good. In the past, it hasn't been that good, and we have renewed under the national average. The benefits fair will be held tomorrow and we encourage everyone to participate. This type of proactive thing helps us keep our premiums down.

Trey showed a PowerPoint regarding the downtown master plan, the new fire station, the Hwy 276 project and our cultural center. Some images were shown with the vision for these projects.

Olivia Vassey made a presentation about marketing and branding the city and having an identity. This will help boost economic development and implement the downtown master plan. This item will come back to committee in November. Councilman Goodson said branding would be something we could do pretty quickly and would help this project along.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Public Safety (Chairman Cook)

- i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief- Chief Turner reported on monthly calls for service. The numbers are up for September. The police department is starting to notice a trend that happens this time of year with property crimes. Councilman Goodson asked about gang activity. Chief Turner said the work of the gang investigator has worked and we don't have much activity other than some tagging issues. We are able to address that with the graffiti ordinance that council passed a couple of years ago.
- ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court / Administrative Judge- The amount of trials and cases have increased due to the increase in tickets from the police department.
- iii. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief.- Chief Sapp reported on the fire prevention carnival. About 16 day care centers came through. There were some walk-ins as well.

Gordon is eating soft food now. He was able to eat some birthday cake over the weekend. The ride for Gordon will be held on Saturday and is about 70 miles.

250 total calls for the month. 2.7 minute response time.

b. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

- i. Reports and Communications from the Economic Developer- Trey reported that there are a few national chains looking at locations on Main Street and we are excited about those prospects. The 1400 Old Stage Road site has now been certified by the State Department of Commerce.

The City is pushing the façade grant with GCRA for our Main Street businesses. This a \$5000 grant for each business who qualifies and is not a match.

c. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)

- i. Reports and Communications- Charlie Kirksey was present. He reported the department is gearing up for leaf season and working on some housekeeping items, such as the parks and playgrounds. Trey said he is going through PW Director applications and will get together with the PW committee to start the interview process.

The tree that was removed at Miller and Murray was taken down due to some drainage problems it was causing. It was removed by the property owner, not the city.

The department is still working on implementing PubWorks.

d. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

- i. Reports and Communications from Finance Director- Holly Abercrombie reported the auditors are still here and will have their report for council in November.

e. Building Codes (Chairman Crosby)

- i. Reports and Communications from Business and Development Services Director.- Kim Hamel reported on permit and licensing activity. Councilman Goodson asked if there was any way that we could recognize when a business remodels and tries to improve. Trey said we would look at how to do that.

Trey mentioned that the junk yard zoning amendment would go to the Planning Commission on October 25th and come back to council in November as well as the interstate sign ordinance.

f. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

- i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director- Van Brannon reported on the good month at the senior center. There was a lot of participation by seniors. Sports Center activity is steady around 1500 people taking exercise classes.

7. Unfinished Business

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on cultural center alcohol requests (Recreation)- Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve this request. Councilman Crosby seconded the motion. Councilman Black asked if this is covered by the city's liability insurance. Trey answered yes. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

- b. Consideration and action on ordinance regarding Insurance Brokers and Tax Collection Program (Committee of the Whole)- The State Department Of Insurance will be collecting business license revenues from insurance companies as new federal legislation requires states to collect these fees. Councilman Hunter made a motion to accept this agreement and the ordinance on first reading. Councilman Goodson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

9. Public Comment

Randy Kuzniar: I like this. Just some quick feedback. I have heard some informative things tonight. Some of the presentations I couldn't read, so I think it is just a question of font size. My eyesight is not what it used to be.

Jennifer Dewitt from Greenville Water was present and gave glassware and pitchers to council so they would drink Greenville Water rather than bottled water.

Skeet Prinze: 117 Hyde Circle. I could tell you what I think about 276 and the city center but that would take too much time. We could quit having so many consultants. That would save us money. This last one was a consultant that cost \$61,000 and we wouldn't work on this for ten years. That makes no sense to me.

We have a dog that wanders in the neighborhood and they take it home. It has no license, no tags. If we quit doing all of these things, we could have a weekend dog catcher. I think if this dog has been caught three times, it should go to jail. If I did something three times, I would go to jail and I think I am better than a dog.

Mayor Raines told Ms. Prinze the City spent \$10,000 from the downtown master plan money.

10. Council requests.

Councilman Black asked about the sound system and the improvements. He also asked if we could put the council agenda on the website. They answered the council agenda is available on the website and on the cable channel. Also, we have completed some improvements to the sound system (replaced microphones) and will look into speakers.

Councilman Black asked if we could get silencers on the doors. They are very loud and distracting if someone needs to come in. The City is looking into this now.

Councilman Goodson asked about the public agenda as well. He was answered the agenda the public receives is the same agenda council receives, with the same items.

11. Adjournment.- Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk