

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 18, 2010
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Godbey, Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter, James Kennedy and Michael Reynolds. Councilwoman Gettys was out of town. Councilman Black was out due to a medical procedure. John Duggan, City Attorney, and Trey Eubanks, City Administrator, were also present.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Godbey
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Cook
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Reynolds
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey
2. Proclamations and Presentations- George McLeer, Executive Director Mauldin Cultural Center; Pat Pomeroy, Mauldin Chamber; Dennis Raines, Miracle League; JD Martin, Arbor Engineering; Dean Oang, Neil Prince Architects; Reverend Yow, Reedy River Baptist Church; Character Counts proclamation
Mayor Godbey read the proclamation.

George McLeer reported that Furman's classes were wrapping up and a room is being rented as an artist studio for an artist in residence. The cultural center is going to do a Christmas event.

Pat Pomeroy reported on Christmas events that are upcoming. The parade will be November 28th.

Dennis Raines made a presentation about installing sensory playground equipment for special needs kids at Sunset Park. This will be an inclusive playground for everyone. The current equipment that will be replaced could be moved to the city's other parks.

Tom from Arbor Engineering presented a preliminary schematic design and showed where the playground and restroom would be, as well as parking for the center. The council asked about a cut-through road between the sports center and the cultural center. Arbor said trails and paths will connect all of these places and there will be a 1/3 mile internal trail for walking.

The amphitheatre was also talked about for musical venues. It will be sloped with natural grass and some boulders for those who would like to sit on something. This should be a very flexible space.

Frank Bain and Dean Oang of Neil Prince Architects were present to report on the auditorium renovation. Not too many changes have been made since last meeting with council. One of the biggest changes is the turnaround moved from the south side to the north side of the auditorium. There will also be a receptionist desk that looks down the corridor for some added security. A family restroom has been added on the northwest side of the building. This will help the audience from having to go to the main restrooms. Councilman Hunter asked about permanent seating in the auditorium. Dean answered that there will be removable riser seating. No permanent seating will be in the auditorium. This will help the flexibility of the space.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.- September 20, 2010

Councilman Hunter made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

4. Public Comment.- None

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey reported that this past Thursday, the fire, police, finance, and recreation departments helped support the Operation Backpack hot dog giveaway. Cookbooks are complete and are now on sale. Note cards have been donated to the city and will be sold along with the cookbooks.

A fall event on November 13th will take place and will be football themed. 5th quarter events are continuing. The health fair is tomorrow at 7:30 a.m.

The 276/417 project will probably have to be rebid. DOT received one bid that was 10% over the budget estimate.

John Gardner presented some information on City Center. We are not having much luck bringing chain restaurants into the corridor because of access problems. Traffic analysis identifies that we have reached capacity on Main Street. A network of parallel streets can be constructed long term to help alleviate some of the traffic.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Fire (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

Chief Sapp reported that the average response time is 2.8 minutes. As of today, dirt is being moved for the new fire station. A groundbreaking ceremony will take place in the next few weeks.

b. Police (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

Chief Turner reported that the department is looking at one neighborhood's traffic concerns. Mayor Godbey asked if the crime statistics are trended for a few years. He said it looks like high and aggravated nature assaults are on the rise. Chief Turner said those crimes rise during a hot summer and then it will taper down after summer.

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

c. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director

Van Brannon reported that the seniors have had 2500 participants the last couple of months. A full bus went up to the Apple Festival. The seniors give back to the community- lap robes are being crocheted for people in nursing homes as well as teddy bears are stuffed for the children's hospital.

For the tailgate event, we are hosting Bi-Lo's grill-off and Bi-Lo is excited to partner with us.

The tree planting seminar went very well and was well attended. Jimmy Walters of the Forestry Commission did a great job teaching everyone about care and maintenance of urban trees.

ii. Cultural Center report.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director.

Peter Nomikos reported that new home starts are improving and existing home sales are up two months in a row. 10,000 square feet at Regent Park will be developed. More activity is happening on the proposed ICE facility at Brookfield. Quick Trip's contract is up on the property at 417. No permits have been issued.

e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director

The department is doing some housekeeping at Jenkins Street. The area is getting organized before leaf season really begins.

Councilman Hunter asked Mr. Eubanks to tell Mr. Fincher that his selection of equipment to do the work around the city is fantastic. The equipment is outstanding and does a great job and is very efficient.

f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Reynolds)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director

Holly Abercrombie reported that reassessment values have been received and a full report will be given to council in about a week.

7. Unfinished Business

a. Consideration and action on refinancing sports center debt (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Reynolds reported that this item requires two separate items- a general bond ordinance and a supplemental ordinance. This refinancing would save the city about \$25,000 per year. The interest rate is 2.67%.

Councilman Reynolds made a motion to accept the general bond ordinance on second reading with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

Councilman Reynolds made a motion to accept the first supplemental ordinance on second reading. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

b. Consideration and action on refinancing GO debt for city hall. (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Reynolds reported that this will refinance our GO debt. January is when an interest rate will be known. The debt is callable in March. The estimated savings is \$28,000 per year.

Councilman Reynolds made a motion to accept the GO ordinance on second reading with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

8. New Business

a. Consideration and action on Miracle League Playground. (Recreation)

Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the search for funding sources for the playground. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

- b. Consideration and action on amendment to section 6:17 of the Zoning Ordinance – Building Façade (PEDC)

These next three items are an effort to elevate design standards in the city. One of the things talked about was restriction of façade material in OD, POD, C-1C-2, S-1, and I-1. Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this ordinance on first reading. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (5-0).

- c. Consideration and action on amendment to section 6:11 of the Zoning Ordinance – Sign Height/Type (PEDC)

This will amend the current section and proposes that the allowable height of signs be reduced. Suwanee, Georgia, was one city used as a reference. The first section of the proposed amendment to section 6:11.1-1 (table 1) of the Mauldin Zoning Ordinance would reduce the allowable height of signs in the OD, POD, C-1 and C-2 districts to 16 feet, and reduce the allowable height in the S-1 and I-1 districts to 25 feet. The second section would require that all freestanding signs in the OD, POD, C-1, and C-2 districts be monument signs instead of pylon signs. Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this proposed amendment on first reading with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

- d. Consideration and action on amendment to section 5:8.4-1 of the Zoning Ordinance – Gas Canopies (PEDC)

Due to some safety concerns, Chairman Hunter made a motion to table this item and bring it back to November's committee meeting. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

- e. Consideration and action on recycling program. (PW)

This program would include amending the price of the 20 gallon bins from \$7.50 to \$15.00 apiece and establishing a price for the 65 gallon roll-outs at \$25.00/each. We are currently paying \$7.00 apiece for the bins and \$37.00 for the roll-outs. We also recommend that our citizens are allowed to trade in the bins for the roll-outs at for no charge from now through the end of the year. We have some educational material to hand out. Mayor Godbey added that the city can use some of the Mayor's discretionary fund if we need to buy more recycling bins. Chairman Kennedy made a motion to adopt this program with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

- f. Consideration and action on annexation and rezoning of Kellett/ Crawley property on North Main Street. (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Hunter made a motion to approve this annexation and rezoning on first reading with Councilman Reynolds seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

9. Public Comment.

10. Council requests.

11. Adjournment.- Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller

Municipal Clerk