

GCRA public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 15, 2010
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Don Godbey, Council members Patricia Gettys, Gabe Hunter, Bob Cook, Dale Black and Michael Reynolds. Councilman James Kennedy was not present. City Attorney John Duggan and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were present.

The utility companies that gave money towards tax utility credits and Jerry Howard of GADC were recognized for their efforts in helping to widen Holland Road.

Martin Livingstone conducted the GCRA public hearing.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Godbey
 - a. Invocation- Councilwoman Gettys
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Hunter
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey
2. Proclamations and Presentations- Representative from CCFB; Pat Pomeroy, Mauldin Chamber; Youth court presentation; Presentation on new training facility
Kaitlyn Paman and Dennis Kirwin were present representing Youth Court. They gave some statistics on how much the city is saving by having minor cases go through youth court rather than DJJ. It costs up to \$30,000 per case to go through the Department of Juvenile Justice. Joshua Poissonne went through youth court in 2009 and shared with the council that he is trying to straighten up his life and was glad for the opportunity to go through youth court instead of the justice system. Youth court has a fraction of the recidivism that DJJ has. Youth Court may be the city's submittal for the 2010 Municipal Achievement Awards.

Todd Milam of Greenville Tech gave the presentation on the proposed new fire training facility at Brashier Campus. Slides were shown of the proposed facility plus the site map. This will provide training for several area fire departments so they will not have to travel to Columbia.

Greg Campbell reported that the board is busy. There are three empty slots on the board that need to be filled.

- a. Consideration and action on GCRA resolution. (Committee of the Whole)-
This resolution was tabled due to some grammatical and mathematical errors.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.- January 25, 2010

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

4. Public Comment.- None

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey reported on the Municipal Achievement Awards. Councilman Cook said he thinks Youth Court should be our submittal and the two students that presented it tonight could present it in Columbia.

Trey Eubanks reported on the Mauldinfest committee meeting that was held last week. Some important decisions were made at that meeting. This will be the Centennial Celebration. Another meeting is scheduled for the end of the month.

A reminder announcement was made of the town hall meeting that will be held at city hall on March 11th at 6:00 p.m. Several legislators will be in attendance to answer citizen questions. Another calendar note is that the Spring Fling will be April 24th.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Fire (Chairman Black)

- i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

Chief Sapp reported that the department's response time is 3 minutes. He advised council of Captain Brown's admittance to the hospital. The fire station at Bethel and Holland is progressing.

- b. Police (Chairman Cook)

- i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

Chief Turner reported that he had received the Bridge Builder award on Valentine's Day from the Palmetto State Officers Association Upstate Chapter for all of the events the police department participates in to keep youths involved in positive events.

Chief Turner reported also about Brian Wright and the great job he is doing in Investigations. He is going to be recognized by the postal service as one of their top investigators.

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

Administrative Judge- Angela's report is on file.

c. Recreation (Chairwoman Gettys)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director.

Van Brannon reported that 2200 participated in activities at the senior center last month. Baseball and softball signups are continuing and this Saturday is the Golden Strip battle of the hardwoods.

March 6th and 7th, we are hosting the southern classic volleyball tournament. 45 people are in the biggest loser competition and the average person has lost 4% body fat. There is also a grant through the federal government for keeping cigarette litter down. This will be a committee item next month.

Councilwoman Gettys asked about the new software at the Sports Center. Van said it should be going live next week.

ii. Report on cultural center.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director.

Peter Nomikos said he is working on the Census. There was a county meeting two weeks ago and the posters have been designed and received. These will be distributed around the middle of March. Census forms will be mailed out March 15th and are due April 1st.

McCar Homes had two houses at the Valley at Tanner Estates that were not completed. They have finally finished them. Two townhouses are completed at Plantation Greene.

Chairman Hunter asked about business license revenue. Peter Nomikos said the checks are coming in steadily and the deadline is April 15th. All the renewals did include a note about the penalty rate going up. No complaints have been registered.

e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director

Greg Fincher reported on his department's efforts in the storms that have been happening lately. He has been at the department nine days straight to help with any storm damage. Councilman Black said Greg is very conscientious and thanked him for his dedication and hard work.

f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Reynolds)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director

Holly Abercrombie said property taxes are coming in and they are looking better.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on text Amendment to section 5:2.5 of ZORD – Fences (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept the fencing change to the zoning ordinance with Councilwoman Gettys seconding.

Councilman Reynolds asked Mr. Nomikos how this would be policed.

Mr. Nomikos said that there is a requirement that anyone who is putting in a fence has to file a zoning application. It is in the final version. If they fail to file for an application, a citation will be given.

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on new fire station plans. (Fire)

Chief Sapp showed some drawings to the public and council. This is part of the county fire service area agreement. Two public meetings have been conducted and the neighbors' concerns have been addressed. The city has agreed to a berm and some landscaping materials to stop noise or site pollution. The square footage of the station will be 11,140. Councilman Hunter asked what material it would be made of. The station will be brick with decorative block. Councilman Hunter praised Chief Sapp for including space for future expansion.

The elevation and site plans need to be sent out for bids so a motion from council is needed. Chairman Black made a motion to accept the drawings of the proposed sub-station. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- b. Consideration and action on joint fire training resolution. (Fire)

Chairman Black made a motion to accept the resolution. This is just a preliminary step showing Council's support of the project. This does not obligate the City to anything. Fountain Inn and Simpsonville have already passed their resolutions. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0). Councilman Reynolds asked Chief Sapp to come up with the actual amount of money that was spent on training last year and email that to council. Councilwoman Gettys asked about the absence of Gantt Fire Department. Chief Sapp said that he had talked to the Chief of Gantt and he said that the distance was too great for his department.

Councilman Cook said that this was one of Dr. Barton's pet projects and he thinks this is a great opportunity. Councilman Reynolds asked about the fire brigades from industry and asked about funding opportunities from private corporations who could have their brigades train at the facility. Chief Sapp said they have discussed this possibility of maybe getting donations or grants through the corporations and also possibly charging them to train at the facility. Mayor Godbey said this is well thought out and being done methodically. We are not at the point of putting up money, just supporting the idea. Councilman Cook said Donaldson had money also.

c. Consideration and action on CRD revisions. (PEDC).

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this on first reading. This changes the height requirements as well as adding screening requirements. These changes will help make the CRD district a nice place to visit and live. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion.

Councilman Dale Black asked about the elimination of storage of non-fixed items. Peter Nomikos said that this is an addition. Non-fixed equipment has to be tied down in some way. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

d. Consideration and action on amendment to section 30-3 of the Mauldin Municipal Code regarding alcohol on city property. (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter: Currently, sale or distribution of alcohol is not allowed on city property. This amendment would allow consumption and sale of alcohol with the consent of council. Council has to give permission for each event. It has been proposed to only allow this alcohol consumption and distribution at the Ray Hopkins Senior Center and at the Cultural Center. These two facilities are confined areas, whereas the parks are not.

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this ordinance on first reading only allowing alcohol in the cultural center and at the Ray Hopkins Senior Center. Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion.

Councilman Black asked if all of this is in compliance with ABC Standards. Trey Eubanks said that an ABC permit would be required for any event in which alcohol is sold.

Councilman Reynolds asked if this included fundraising events and private events. Chairman Hunter said yes, it included both.

Chairman Hunter said he would like this ordinance to include the grounds of the buildings. Councilman Cook said he didn't have a problem with that, but he doesn't want to allow the sale of alcohol outside.

Trey Eubanks said the alcohol policy would be updated to reflect the council's changes tonight. This policy will go to Finance at the next committee meetings. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

e. Consideration and action on 276 Main Street Project. (PEDC)

John Gardner said the first set of plans is drafted and will be submitted to DOT. The estimate for the first part of the project is about \$587,000 and the budget is \$678,000. \$50,000 will be needed to match Duke Power funds to put some power lines underground. John said it is going to be hard to get rid of power poles along 276. A few poles will be able to be removed, but not as many as we would like. Further review will be needed. John passed out a sheet and asked Council to rank what is most important to them on the project. No action was taken on this item.

f. Executive session on personnel matter. (Committee of the Whole)

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to go into executive session with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

Council returned and Chairman Reynolds reported that no action had been taken in session. Chairman Reynolds made a motion to give Trey his evaluation.

9. Public Comment.

Skeet Prinze: I live at 117 Hyde Circle, and I want to compliment Van. I went to a health program for women and two of them talked about the sports center and I was really proud that I was a resident of Mauldin. I wanted to ask about fences. Do people have to take them down if they are already up?

Mayor Godbey: They will be grandfathered in.

Skeet Prinze: Good, my neighbor has a fence in her front yard and it would cost to remove it. Now, about alcohol sales. Has anyone checked on how far the cultural center is from the Methodist Church? I think there is a requirement.

John Duggan: The requirement is 300 feet.

Skeet Prinze: I personally don't think I want alcohol sales for Mauldin, and that is what it is. Thank you.

Bud Greer: I live at 318 S. Main Street. I have been involved in Mauldin for probably longer than a lot of people. I have been involved in the fire service for well over 40 years in various positions. Chief Sapp did not solicit me to come in and speak on this, but I read it in the paper and wanted to give my opinion. I think council needs to take every opportunity they can to support this. Training is more important tomorrow than today. I hate to see Mauldin spend money to duplicate what Greenville Tech is already going to do. I don't like to see all small towns duplicating what a larger facility can do.

10. Council requests.

11. Adjournment. – Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk