

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 16, 2009
7:00 PM**

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

1. Call to order.- Mayor Godbey
 - a. Invocation- Mayor Godbey
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Kennedy
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey

2. Proclamations and Presentations- Representative from CCFB; Pat Pomeroy, Mauldin Chamber; Fire presentation of plaque

Troop 776 and Troop 715 of the Boy Scouts were present. John Thornton was present from the cultural center board. He reported on the executive director position, Greg Campbell is the candidate they have chosen and are negotiating the salary now.

Russell Sapp had a plaque made for Sid Stewart. He helped in James Leake's funeral by playing Taps.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.

Councilman Black made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilwoman Gettys seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

4. Public Comment.

Pat Moore: I live at 106 Wilson Street. I was reading the Tribune last week and it had an interesting thing at the bottom about reinventing in older neighborhoods. Can someone explain that to me?

Mayor Godbey: That was something I said. Our short and long term goals and as we are investing in the cultural center and the main street design project, it is my concern that we don't overlook our established neighborhoods. Community investment in those will be preventative in terms of preventing blight areas which will create an economic drain on the community.

Pat Moore: I hope my committee, I call you my committee, will continue to take up my issue.

Mayor Godbey: We serve at the pleasure of the community.

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey Eubanks: Thank you. Just a few things to report on tonight. I appreciate Mr. Thornton's update on the cultural center board. We have a long term space program and there will be more input both with the auditorium renovations and with the master plan update that is still underway. I wanted to mention a couple of dates. March 5th will be a train show meeting. The show is set for May 23-25th and 29th and 30th, two weekends including the Memorial Day holiday. The Garden Club's Spring Fling will be April 25th.

A quick update on the Holland Road project- this project is a result of Samsung locating their headquarters in our city limits at Centerpointe. We have identified three funding sources to widen from Centerpointe Drive down to Bridges Road. That is 1200-1300 feet. The three sources are the state department of commerce, county C-Fund committee and utility tax credits. All three are equally sharing in the cost up to \$450,000. We appreciate our pw committee chairman, Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Cook working with the public works director, John Gardner, and myself to help select Freeland and Kauffman. They rose to the top out of 8 firms. Surveying has begun. Our goal is to have the project complete before school starts this August. The next steps are council reviewing and approving the design, bidding out the work, and selecting a contractor.

Finally a quick overview of our financial condition- I am going to state again that we are solid. Our expenditures are under budget- general fund is about 3% under budget. Our revenues, we took a hit from the state aid to subdivisions, permit revenues are down and hospitality and accommodations tax is down some. Not as bad as others. We are just starting to get business license fees and property taxes. Property tax revenues are tracking slightly better than last year at this point. We will continue to monitor this. I will be prepared to answer any questions you have tonight.

Councilman Black: I noticed that the liability insurance is up.

Trey Eubanks: It jumped up and hit the ledger this month. We get billed twice a year for that. In the liability line item, we did not budget enough, but we over budgeted for worker's comp. Budget wise, based off our new rates, we will come out to the good a little bit. Liability is going to be over and worker's comp is going to be under. The big jump you see is due to the fact we get billed twice a year.

Councilman Black: Did we incur a rate increase?

Trey Eubanks: We were fortunate as we talked about a couple of months ago. Cindy always does a good job of working with our staff to meet the minimum safety guidelines from our insurance provider. We are actually going to see a cost savings as a result from meeting the guidelines. I think we saved a little over \$20,000 this year by doing that.

Councilman Black: Everything else is within the budget. Thank you.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Fire (Chairwoman Gettys)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief- Report is on file.
 - b. Police (Chairman Cook)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.- Report is on file.
 - ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court /
Administrative Judge
 - c. Recreation (Chairman Reynolds)
 - Reports and Communications from Recreation Director. - Report on file.
 - d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director. – The report is on file.
 - e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director- Report is on file.
 - f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)
 - i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director.- none
7. Unfinished Business
- a. Consideration and action on Leake annexation. (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter: We have before us on second reading the request of 881 Knollwood Drive be annexed into the city and continue being R12. I make a motion to approve this on second reading.

Councilman Kennedy seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).
 - b. Consideration and action on Standing Committee rules (Finance)

Chairman Black: I would like to recommend we adopt this on second and final reading. Everyone should have the correct copy.

Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

8. New Business

a. Consideration and action on Main Street plan recommendations. (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter: We have before us the recommendation from the firms. A presentation was made last month and the city administrator and Mr. Gardner have given us action options and recommendations. \$725,000 coming from two sources- one is traffic enhancement funds from the federal highway administrator and GPATS gift and matching funds from the city in the amount of \$145,000. I would like to make a motion to accept this proposal and get on with it.

Councilwoman Gettys seconded and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Mayor Godbey: I will attend a DOT meeting on the stimulus package on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. There may be some other funding to help us with this project.

Councilman Cook: I know how the state government operates- do we have the money in hand?

Trey Eubanks: We do have approximately \$580,000 in Transportation Enhancement Funds that the city has accumulated over about 5 years. Some was for the Gilder Creek bikeway trail that did not come to fruition. We have actually accumulated some enhancement funds. We have in our budget an amount of \$145,000 that would be our share of that to draw down those grant funds. I do want to emphasize that we will take this as a pay as you go. We will not incur debt, but we do have the money in our current budget for the match and we will look at the federal stimulus money also.

Councilman Cook: Let me reiterate my question. I know we have our money, are we sure we can draw the government's money down?

Trey Eubanks: The enhancement funds? Yes, sir. We will be able to draw down the \$580,000.

Mayor Godbey: If you would, say yes, sir one more time. I want Mr. Cook to be assured of that.

Trey Eubanks: We can and will draw down that money.

Councilman Cook: Ms. Miller, be sure you record that, please?

Cindy Miller: Yes, sir. I got it.

b. Consideration and action on council meeting procedure. (Finance)

Chairman Black: Thank you. This came about during the last Finance committee. The committee directed Mr. Eubanks to come up with some suggestions. I will turn this over to Mr. Eubanks.

Trey Eubanks: I was directed to come up with a recommendation on the conducting of city business. I met with our department heads to get their thoughts and my recommendation is do as we did tonight and refer to the department reports when a specific committee has no business to attend to. After consulting with our department heads, my recommendation is to move right on. This still provides an opportunity for any council member to ask questions and our department heads to weigh in. We always have public comment at the beginning and end of the meetings. This will help us be more efficient.

Mayor Godbey: I don't know if we need a motion.

Councilwoman Gettys: This does not include committee meetings, right?

Trey Eubanks: This is just council meetings.

Councilwoman Gettys: My suggestion is that we have the report prior to council meetings so that we have enough time to go through it.

Trey Eubanks: We will continue to work on that. We had one report that was a little delayed. We will work to get those out Thursday. This is a council decision and we will do what we can.

Mayor Godbey: We can reflect in the minutes that we handled it informally like we did.

Chairman Black: I would like some input from the attorney.

John Duggan: You formalized a procedure in the ordinance and if that procedure includes a step that you receive oral reports from your department heads, you would need to amend that portion of the ordinance. I can't recall if that is in there or not. You have a format you adopted. It would refer back to whether or not that is expressly a step in the procedure.

Mayor Godbey: I don't know there is a rush.

Chairman Black: I would like to make a motion to table this until we find out. It is not that urgent.

Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion to table and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- c. Consideration and action on naming Mauldin Rotary Community Room
(Committee of the Whole)

Chairman Reynolds: The Cultural Center Foundation Board approved the naming of the community meeting room in the cultural center. The room is recommended to be named the Mauldin Rotary Community Room. City Council must vote to either approve or reject this name. We need to consider naming the space the Mauldin Rotary Community Room. I would like to make a motion to approve the name.

Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Consideration and action on executive session for a personnel matter.
(Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Black made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss the evaluation of the city administrator. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

It was reported that no action was taken in the executive session.

- 9. Public Comment.- none
- 10. Council requests.
- 11. Adjournment. – Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk