

The public hearing on the budget was held at 6:45 p.m. before the council meeting.

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
MAY 19, 2008
7:00 PM**

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

1. Call to order.- Mayor Godbey
 - a. Invocation- Councilwoman Gettys
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Cook
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey
 - d. Proclamations and Presentations- Mauldin Chamber; Linda Smith- Center for Community Services; Mental Health Proclamation; Swearing in of police officers

Linda Smith from the Center for Community Services was present. She asked for \$4200 from the City to help supplement what the center receives from GCRA for services to Mauldin citizens. The center provides medical and dental clinics, language courses, car seat safety checks, and disaster relief among other things. A report will be forthcoming with numbers of Mauldin citizens who benefit from their services. John Duggan reported that he visited the center about a year ago and that it does great work for the citizens of Mauldin.

Mayor Godbey read the Mental Health proclamation.

Trey updated council about the train show. A committee met on May 5th and 14th to plan for the event. The show will be June 7th, June 8th and June 14th in the cultural center. This will attract people to our City. It will be free to the public, but there will be an opportunity to give donations. Money is needed to help offset the costs of hotel rooms, food, and advertisement. Hospitality and accommodations money is available and \$1,500 could be given for this show.

Officers Anthony Koutsos and Marcius Atkinson were sworn in.

The new apprehension and narcotic German Shepherd was introduced by Officer Matt Henry.

2. Reading and approval of minutes.- Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the April 21st minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0). Councilwoman Gettys made a motion to accept the May 5th special called minutes. Councilman Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

3. Public Comment.

- a. Skeet Prinze: I personally would like to thank all of you for the help you gave for Relay for Life, especially the department heads. It turned out wonderfully. We raised about \$43,000 and for the first time in Mauldin, I think this was a great event. I wanted to personally come and thank you for all of your help.

Mayor Godbey: \$43,000 was garnered this year and was comparable to last year, which is a comment on the giving of this community for a very worthy cause. Thank you for your organizational efforts on this.

- b. Jim Minkler: Thank you for having us here today. We are here as a group of citizens and also as lawn care professionals. We helped defeat a similar attempt in 2002 that the council tried to pass on to the residents and making us all bag grass and so on and so forth. You are playing the same game again this year. We are here again because someone wants to bag grass during grass season. I am still scratching my head about when grass and leaf season begins or ends. Not to mention how I would get the leaves out of the grass bags in the proper season. It doesn't make sense. As you can see, the whole idea is starting to sound foolish. We pay the city already to pick up the grass curbside and un-bagged. Fact 2, the county dump will not accept bags with grass or leaves, fact 3, it is wasteful due to the plastic in landfills and petroleum to make the bags, fact 4, lifting these bags would increase injuries to the workers and increase health costs to the taxpayers of Mauldin. This is an expensive ordeal.

This back door tax is wrong and unjust. It should have never been brought before council again. I am going to give you three examples of what it would cost a lawn care person. I will take three customers I have here in Mauldin. Two dumps accounts for four bags. With labor and the cost of the bags, it would be \$12.00 per week or \$48 per month onto my customer. Another customer has seven bags- 3.5 dumps. I would charge \$21 extra a week. Another customer has five dumps- that would be 10 bags. That is \$30.00 a week or \$120.00 extra a month on about a \$150 a month customer. Ridiculous. Not to mention, I happen to be one of those people that has five dumps a week on my yard because I have almost an acre. I don't want to pay \$20-30 a week extra either. I would hope council would strike this idea down. The City of Greenville struck it down in 1993 or 1994. I hope it will be struck down and not brought up again.

Councilman Reynolds: As a point of order, could you ask Mr. Minkler to state his address?

Jim Minkler: 6 Ramey Court in Verdin Estates.

4. Report from City Administrator

Trey Eubanks: The cultural center continues to make progress. We had a successful meeting on April 23rd where we reached consensus on the Executive Director position, board membership, and had a discussion on the bylaws and an agreement between the City and Foundation Board. Next week, I will work with the city attorney to draft some of these documents again to present to the foundation board. We have demolition equipment on site as of this morning to demolish the 1967 wing. The contractor is on site and will begin work. There will be a meeting Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. and Bart Cumalander and the PW Director will be there. We are going to find out what the demolition is going to do to the landscaping in that vicinity. We want everyone at the table that needs to be there. This demonstrates progress on the master plan. At the special called meeting on May 5th, this council acted to pursue proposals to get an architect on board to do some work on the auditorium. We hope to have bids next month. The front part of the building is used by the Chamber and they appreciate that. The community room is used all of the time by various civic groups including our Rotary Club.

I do want to mention the area at the cultural center around the log cabin. We have met with representatives of the garden club and tree board and a consensus was reached on how to go about doing the necessary grading work, air-tilling the soil and installing irrigation and get some landscaping installed around the cabin. Durant Ashmore was in attendance as well as State Forester Jimmy Walters. They saw very much eye to eye on what needed to be done moving forward. We have reached a consensus.

Russell Sapp: Back in May or June of last year, myself and Ms. White have been notified by a company that would do an audit of our utilities. As Mr. Eubanks reported last month, our utility rates on power have gone down. We are looking at a total savings on telephone of- we are not supposed to be paying excise tax and Nuvox has reimbursed us \$716. We are still looking at phone lines through AT&T that are not in use at this time. Through the years as we have moved and put in different phone lines or what have you, we have numbers that have gone away and no one took the time to get rid of those numbers. We are getting charged for those. Next, we are looking at a savings of \$7039.08 over the next year. We have found that there is a state contract plan available and we have all but signed the papers to change all the cell phones onto a sharing type plan that will save us money. You are looking at about \$586 a month. One other is some router rentals and other parts. We are saving \$1051 on this. We have a maintenance contract that we are looking at now that we could purchase a new box that would handle all the phone lines we have now and upgrade them to new equipment. The cost would be less than the maintenance contract we have now.

Councilman Hunter: How much did it cost us to get the company to come in and do this?

Lisa White: 50% of our savings for several years.

Russell Sapp: They do the legwork. We don't know who to contact, they do. Therefore, the cost is a lot better in the long run to get his done.

Councilman Reynolds: What other utilities have they looked at?

Russell Sapp: Power last month, telephones, natural gas. We have already saved on gas in the fire department because we put in a larger sized meter that was starving. The unit itself, or the meter, wasn't designed for the systems we had. We went with a larger meter. This was a problem we had that has been taken care of. That is all I know of at the present time.

Councilman Cook: Two things I would like information on. First, the house on Oak, right off of Miller Road that we have been dealing with. I understand it is a foreclosure, but something needs to be done with that house. I don't know if we have to put a lien on it or whatever, but let's get it done. Second is the burnt house. Now, reading the email I got today, has that grass been cut?

Mayor Godbey: I have talked to the gentleman that emailed with Mr. Nomikos and there is movement forward. It is a foreclosure and the bank had to write a statement to the daughter of the victim of the incident and it was in probate also. There were bureaucratic overlays.

Councilman Cook: I understand that, but can't we go over there and cut the grass and charge it to them? It is ridiculous that we can't do anything. The grass has rats and everything else. My suggestion is cut the grass and give them the bill. If we can't do that, let our attorney handle it.

Mr. Eubanks: We can get the grass cut. I believe our code allows to have it cut and then place that cost plus administrative costs as a lien. We can pursue that and we will. This has gone from the mortgage company who is the lien holder and they will release it and put it back into the ownership of the daughter. Her attorney has indicated that they have a contractor on board to do the demo. They are not going to do it until the lien holder releases the lien and they have ownership. We will get that grass cut very soon because of the problems that is causing. I will get you a report on that and the house on Miller Road.

Councilman Cook: I appreciate it. I know it has to go through hoops, but we ought to be able to do something so that our citizens don't have to look at that stuff for a year. Something needs to be done and hopefully we can do something about it soon.

5. Reports from Standing Committees
 - a. Fire (Chairwoman Gettys)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

Chairwoman Gettys: I have a letter I received that I would like put into the minutes.

Honorable Mayor, Council members, and Administrator:

In March of this year, Hadley Park, a townhouse community, experienced a fire which ultimately destroyed two units and caused extensive damage to three others. Fortunately, no one was injured, but three pets were lost. Chief Sapp continues to work with us in trying to find a feasible way to better protect our property and is also providing educational material for the residents.

This is the second fire in our small neighborhood in two years. Although the causes were unrelated, the first due to a defective heat sensor in a clothes dryer and the most recent, a grass fire, each time emergency personnel conducted themselves professionally and efficiently. What struck everyone who witnessed these tragedies was the extraordinary compassion shown by every member of the team. Yes, they did their job, but never lost sight of the fact they were dealing with the accumulation of memories treasured by the individuals living in each home. When it was safe, they searched for medications, eye glasses, and car keys. Family pets were as important as their caregivers. In the earlier fire, personnel searched for two cats, discovering one had died, and rescued the second. Einstein was the first pet to benefit from the donation of a small mask for an oxygen tank. Monitoring vitals and administering oxygen with the same care that would have been given to a child, personnel were responsible for saving his life. The fire was under control, no human life was in jeopardy- they did their job. Some would say that was enough, but pets very quickly become family members and the team understands that. Bella, a family pet in the recent fire alerted the homeowner just as she was leaving for work, resulting in an immediate call to 911.

Thank you for providing the residents of Mauldin with trained professionals who treat every situation as if it was happening to their own loved ones.

Sincerely,
Lyda Carroll, Hadley Park HOA board

Chief Sapp: Thank you to Ms. Carroll for her kind words. You were provided a copy of our report. I will have a presentation and I am going to get one up on the Police Chief. 2.9 minutes is our response times for this month for medical and all calls.

A video was played that showed Kelly Van Leeuwen acting as a rookie in the fire department.

b. Police (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

Chief Turner: You received your monthly report from me. I do want to let you know that next month in June will be Officer Reid's last month. You will be getting something in your city mail as far as a reception for him. We just finished up with a meeting at Miller Oaks where the residents got together and got him a big cake. Ray cooked and we didn't have anybody get sick. They wanted to acknowledge the compassion he has shown them over the years. He has helped them with a crime watch and has gone and checked on them when they are sick or injured. Two days after that, someone had a heart attack and when I mentioned it to Ray he got in the car and took off to see who it was. That means a lot. He does not live in the city, but does care for the City he works for.

Councilman Hunter: How far along are we in replacing the SRO at the Middle School?

Chief Turner: That will not be considered until the end of the summer. I talked to Ms. Gardner and told her that I felt it was important that Ms. Gardner and I sit down and talk. She has just as much of a buy-in to the new SRO as I do. They will work for both of us. She likes that idea. We are going to wait until June or July. We had some plans for the position down there and were looking at doing some great training this summer for gang resistance education. We had an officer slotted to go for the training and it was signed off on, but we are going to have to look at that. I would say mid-July. The position is available.

Mayor Godbey: Mr. Reid will get accolades. I want to say personally that I have worked with him for a number of years with Mauldinfest and he has been a true community support person for the Chamber. He is obligated to stay with Mauldinfest through the year.

I was at the Greer opening of their new municipal complex and police station and I don't want any of our guys going over there. It is a nice facility. Henry McMaster was there and talked about some of the cyber sting operations that are going on and the real dangers that lurk in cyberspace. He is also setting up a task force against pit bulls and dog fighting. I did speak with him about our efforts and the need for collaboration on the gang issue that we have taken the lead on in this County and I would like to thank you for that.

Councilman Reynolds: The manager of Gleneagle Apartments talked about the linking communities program that you have and how much she liked it. I wanted to pass that along how it is catching on.

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

Angela Martin: You have the report in your packets, but I do want to update you on some additional dates I got this afternoon. August 5, 2008 from 5:00 pm- 7:00 pm will be our next term of night court. August 18th -22nd will be jury trials.

c. Recreation (Chairman Reynolds)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director.

Van Brannon: I want to update you on things that have been happening. Our Seniors are having good participation. There was a good group that went to the Prime of Life Expo which is an event for Senior Citizens. I would also like to mention on a sadder note, Kay Hunt's mother-in-law passed away last week, but Kay is doing a very good job in her first couple of months. Our youth baseball and softball is going well. Post-season play will start in the next several weeks.

The Sports Center is working on a community event to take place on August 8-9. Vendors will come in and we will have activities for all ages. We think we have a major sponsor and a major advertising group so I think it would be a good draw for the city and the staff has been doing a good job on this.

I had a good meeting this morning with the Strong Communities group and we are looking to partner with them to host some of their activities at the cultural and senior centers.

Finally, we had a good positive meeting between the Tree Board and Garden Club on proceeding with the log cabin project. I would also mention that the Tree Board is getting together a pamphlet to give to the Building Department to make sure all of the developers and contractors are aware of our regulations. Hopefully, after our next meeting and after Pete looks over it, we will have those in the department for developers to pick up and we won't have as many issues with trees as we have in the past.

We are continuing to work with Pine Forest Park. We ran into a little snag with the paving and I have a quote and I am meeting a gentleman out there tomorrow to give me a quote on paving. I am also getting specs together for the playground. It is taking a little longer than I anticipated.

Councilman Hunter: I had a citizen approach me and say the reason they moved to Mauldin was because of our youth recreation programs. I commend you and your department for the great work you do with our youth.

Chairman Reynolds: I would love to take credit for that, but that definitely goes to the staff.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director.

Peter Nomikos: We have two items on the agenda. One is a text amendment pertaining to business licenses. The other is a change to Article 10 pertaining to the time frame for consideration by the Planning Commission. As far as the properties that Mr. Cook referenced, the property at the corner of Oak Park and Miller, the sale went through. The new owner has started on repairs to the house. They have started taking down gutters and fixed the roof decking and replaced shingles and replaced fascia boards. The other house on Miller is tied into foreclosure with the pool and tall grass. At 134 Brookbend, the attorney for the mortgage company was in court all day today so we should get him tomorrow. We feel like we should be able to get resolution on that shortly. The daughter of the victim is prepared to have the demolition completed in relatively short order. Things should move forward as soon as we get the notice from the mortgage company.

e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director

Greg Fincher: How are you doing? Everyone ok? The packets we presented for you, if you look at the first picture- that has changed a lot in a year. I laughed about it when I first got here. All the stuff that has been going on now- the bucket truck, we have a dual use for it now, it is on Taylor Road in this picture. You will start to see as you flip through this some of what we are encountering in the city. This is coming from people having their yards redone. There I some debris that we cannot pick up with the boom truck. That is how large it is. If you will flip over to this picture, this is a landscaper that is dumping grass on the neighbor's property. I called Chief Turner and had him run the tag. We do have an ordinance in place that we only pick up 10 cubic yards a year, I guess he is going to help them get to theirs.

The next picture is a fellow in the back yard of the house and you will see what came out of the yard. This is what we are encountering. We went through the city Saturday and let people know what you can and cannot put out there. Everybody in the city seems to know that two weeks, every time they call they say it has been out two weeks. I got a call from a fellow last year that said his grass was out two weeks and we got over there and he was still cutting it. We are going to change it from "Expect Great Things" to "Two Weeks." You also have a copy of the ordinance.

I want to share with you- this is what we recycle. For ten months, we have picked up 616.49 tons of recycled material in the City. That is a third of the total in Greenville County. We went and visited some other municipalities, and they count houses. We count bins that are put in the recycling truck. We are going above most other people in the Greater Greenville area. The commingle total is 55.22 for July, 66.88 in August, 54.47 in September, that is the tonnage and that is what we carry from the city to recycle. When I started looking at the hard numbers, I think it is very impressive. I was talking to Mr. Reynolds and he said how can we do more. If they put it out there, we will pick it up. We got some workbooks in from APWA- I asked for 4000, but we only got a small portion of that. We are going to the schools to educate the children and maybe they can get their parents on board with using recycling bins instead of their trash cans. If we can do that, these numbers will go up. It is hard to teach an old dog new tricks. The recycling bins don't have wheels on them and the trash can does and that has a lot to do with it I am sure.

Councilman Reynolds: I know you have a lot of man hours in this, but these are good looking numbers. They really are.

Greg Fincher: I expected a little lower. We are doing everything we can do right now. We can do more, but right now we are doing all we can do.

Mayor Godbey: I support what Mr. Reynolds is saying and think in terms of next year at the MASC be a model to them on how to aggressively address this issue instead of expecting what you are given and go from there. I have applauded you to a number of different people for your efforts.

Councilman Black; That 600 and something tons is not in the landfill, so you have saved the taxpayers that \$4.00 per ton tipping fee starting in July. That saves us tax dollars and the transport cost to the landfill.

Greg Fincher: The biggest thing is fuel costs. Right now, it is terrible. Diesel is high. We are cutting back on shuttle trucks and everything else.

f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director.

Lisa White: In your packets you have the budget reports for April 2008. They look good in all departments in most revenues. I also have a couple of other things to go over. With two months to go, we are currently \$1.7 million over on revenues than expenditures. If we continue on that track, we would have a fund balance remaining of \$7.8 million. That includes the annexation reserve of the \$1.5 million, we also have a designated fund balance policy where we reserve four months of expenses so we have that money that sits there. We ended up last year with \$1.7 million in excess undesignated reserves. If we continue on the path, we should

end this year again with surplus fund balance to roll into our balance. Our general fund balance is very healthy. Our sewer fund, we ended last year with \$1.55 million. Revenues are over expenditures again. Some departments do have some major capital items left to spend, but if they spend within their budget, we will end with all funds having a positive fund balance. The hospitality fund currently has \$1,293,000 and is also projected to end the year with surplus fund balance. Those are good things.

I attended the Palmetto Public Finance Forum in Columbia and we had some representatives from Moody's and some very positive things about our economy came from the Moody's reports. South Carolina is doing far better than a lot of other states as far as economics. He felt positive about the municipalities in SC, and did not see any down ratings for any municipality. He did encourage municipalities to continue being conservative in their budgets, which I think we have been and I think that looks good for next year's budget.

Chairman Black made a motion to suspend the rules to add an item to the agenda with Councilwoman Gettys seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0). Chairman Black made a motion to allow the administrator to spend up to \$1500 on the train show to be taken out of the hospitality fund. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Hunter: Is the \$500 for advertising included in the \$1500?

Trey Eubanks: Yes, sir. It is.

6. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on Text Amendment to Article 10 of the Zoning Ordinance concerning time for PC consideration (Committee of the Whole).

Chairman Hunter: We have an item to alter or amend the zoning ordinance which currently states that the planning commission has to take action on an item within 30 days or it is a recommendation. This will change that to 60 days. I make a motion to recommend this amendment.

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

7. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on business license ordinance revisions. (PEDC)

Chairman Hunter: It has come to our attention that the ordinance has a typographical error. It should have been \$60 million instead of \$75 million and this will rectify that discrepancy. I make that as a motion.

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

b. Consideration and action on grass clippings ordinance. (Public Works)

Chairman Kennedy: The city used to have an ordinance that required residents to bag their grass clippings. The present ordinance allows residents to put unbagged grass clippings by the curb for pickup. It is recommended that we go back to a prior ordinance (attached) requiring grass clippings to be bagged for the following reasons:

1. Leaf collection equipment is not made for vacuuming grass clippings
2. Grass clippings may contain fertilizer and other chemicals that could be unsafe for the environment
3. Grass clippings create additional maintenance costs by stopping up storm drains

The recommendation is the passage of the new ordinance requiring that grass clippings be bagged. I make that as a motion.

Councilman Cook seconded the motion.

Councilman Black; I would like Mr. Fincher to explain the methods in which this ordinance will be used if it is passed.

Greg Fincher: Currently, we have one-armed bandits. It says leaf vac. It is my experience that grass has a tendency, if you look at the bottom of your lawn mower, that is what is happening to our machines. The truck costs \$130-140,000 and we are going to tear it up. The manufacturer recommends that you do not suck up grass with this machine. The landfill will take the grass clippings if they are not commingled with anything else. This allows us to take a trash truck and pick this up and carry it out to Twin Chimneys. To avoid continuous maintenance on the leaf machines we have, grass clippings usually wind up with a bunch of sand in them. What is happening is it is sand blasting the impellers in our machines. I climbed up in one last week and asked our mechanics who have both been here about 20 years, and they both said if it doesn't stop, we will have to buy one every year. That is not cost effective and is the whole purpose of coming back to y'all with this.

Councilman Reynolds: How often would you pick up the bags?

Greg Fincher: We go around the city every day just like our boom trucks that pick up brush. We would have a truck designated and that would be what they would do.

Mayor Godbey: I know this is the third change in the six years I have been on and it will take a lot of education and tolerance on our part to work this in.

Greg Fincher: Exactly. We are not going to go in and hammer people with this. If you think about, Trey and I talked about Kelly putting it in the newspaper, the local cable access channel, just letting folks know that it will be changed. I went through four neighborhoods Friday and several more on Saturday and there is grass piled up on catch basins. When I first came to Mauldin- that was a problem with storm drains clogging up. Predominantly what we were finding were grass clippings. In an effort to keep that from happening and not tearing up our leaf machines, because we are Tree City, USA and you have seen Mount Leafmore. When the leaves start dropping, there is an enormous amount of leaves. There is a house on Ramey Court, and we have hauled three twenty cubic yard trailers away from this house in one day.

Jim Minkler: That is my house.

Greg Fincher: In an effort to keep our equipment up- I have had a lot of response from people that are in support of this. They would call and say I am glad you are doing this because my neighbor throws grass in the yard and when it rains it runs out into my driveway and when the wind blows, it blows into my yard. It is your pleasure on how you decide to do this, but we can educate our citizens and let them know.

Chairman Kennedy: Is it possible that you could recycle some of those bags?

Greg Fincher: The people at Twin Chimneys say don't worry about the bags, they will take them.

Chairman Kennedy: I guess you can't dispose of them.

Greg Fincher: They can.

Chairman Kennedy: They've got something that can do that, I guess. I was talking to some of the neighbors in Plantation Greene and they said they did not like the idea of clippings on the highway because of the aesthetic value. It makes the neighborhood look bad.

Greg Fincher: The ordinance we have in place right now says you are not supposed to put them around the catch basin or out in the street. When people cut the grass, they do put it in the street. Cars run through them and now it is not just a pile of grass, it goes up the street. Then when we use our street sweeper which is a whole other incident, it can't pick up grass.

Councilman Cook: Landscapers. Are they required to have a business license? Do you check them?

Peter Nomikos: When we catch them out there, if it is someone we are not familiar with, we do check.

Councilman Cook: Let's make sure. And like a lot of other things, they are doing it on the weekends when we are not here.

Peter Nomikos: A lot does and when we recruit a new building inspector, we will have them go out on weekends and look.

Councilman Reynolds: What does the ordinance say about the landscapers who work in the City? Are they required to take?

Mayor Godbey: You have in your packet the existing ordinance and how it is going to be changed. The highlighted area. Trees pruned or taken down by a contractor shall be disposed of by the contractor.

Councilman Reynolds: I see. Thank you.

Greg Fincher: That stays in place. My guys are out there every day and continuously moving. When we see a big pile of debris, it is documented. We take digital photographs of it. When the drivers call in and say there is an abnormal amount of C&D or whatever, we will let Pete know if there is a contractor out there working. Just like the other day, we saw a landscaper out the other day and the guy actually ran from us. I had to call Bryan to get him to run the tag. I don't want to get into code enforcement, but if you have people that are dumping an exorbitant amount of stuff from their yard and it is coming from a landscaper, then they are cheating their neighbors. They pay taxes too. More than there 10 cubic yards, it is only fair that the individual pay for the disposal. No one else in the city gets to dump 40-50 cubic yards of stuff. I don't mind helping folks, but there are times when people do abuse the system and they should compensate us back.

Mayor Godbey: I would reference Mr. Black's comments in that the county tipping fee is going to be imposed on the municipalities and it is going to go up \$4.00 every year for the next four years per ton.

Councilman Reynolds: Within the private industry of trash pickup, a lot of those offer a separate bin. Is that something we should look at?

Greg Fincher: There is no way we could do that. We would have to put a dumpster up for some of that stuff. We couldn't stock enough bins that big.

Councilman Reynolds: Some of the ones I have seen are just like trash cans so you can pick them up just like a normal can. Can you look into that?

Greg Fincher: Well, no, we use the boom trucks.

The ordinance passed unanimously (7-0).

Jim Minkler: Idiots.

- c. Consideration and action on FY 09 budget ordinance. (Committee of the Whole)

Chairman Black: I would like to move that we adopt on first reading the proposed budget everyone has been presented. I would like to commend all the employees and staff for all they have done in keeping this down for the taxpayers.

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

Mayor Godbey: I would like to thank Ms. Gettys for catching up to this really fast and council for their patience and diligence. Thanks were already put out to the staff who worked very hard to make this happen.

The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Consideration and action on begging ordinance. (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Cook: You have been seeing some of the other municipalities having trouble with people standing on the street begging for contributions. The ordinance we have states that the clubs can still do that. For first reading, I would make a motion to approve the begging ordinance.

Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion.

John Duggan: I have reviewed it and proposed that we have an exception for me, but Mr. Cook and Mr. Black shot that down immediately.

Chief Turner: I have not personally used this before, but I am very familiar with it as I have used it. This was obtained from a department I worked at previously. They have had it in effect since 2005. There is broadness there and there are certain things that are excluded and provisions also made for certain things. This is going to be a great crime prevention tool for us. There are people who are seriously in need, but then there are people who prey upon people at the wrong time. When you are approached at 1:00 pm at a daycare center by a lady saying that she was afraid to go to her car in the parking lot of Big Lots on Saturday night, there is an issue. As soon as we had our police meeting the other night, we had a gentleman come in and tell us how this completely upset his wife and the potential is there for someone to get hurt. This is a great crime prevention tool.

Mayor Godbey: One question near and dear to my heart is the Knights of Columbus and their efforts on Butler and Laurens Road. Obstructing traffic, will this still allow them to participate in that?

Chief Turner: There is a provision to allow council to allow persons to collect money. I will bring it to you and it is council's pleasure on whether they want to allow that body to do that or not. They do come in safety attire and it is a non-productive hour, if you ever get that in the center of town. That was council's pleasure.

Mayor Godbey: This ordinance does say provided they do so in a reasonable and orderly manner and without obstruction of traffic flow. That gets to be a bigger problem each year. We might need to give them a heads up on this ordinance.

Councilman Black: John, I don't see a mention of penalties or fines or anything like that. Does there need to be some language on that?

John Duggan: We need to reference the general- and I can take care of that before second reading and we can add that. Subsection C also recognizes charitable contributions. This is purely begging for someone's own personal benefit, not for a charitable cause.

Councilman Reynolds: It wasn't three days after the committee meeting I was at Subway and there was a man in the parking lot doing that very thing, and I thought, gosh, if I could only say there is an ordinance against that.

The vote was unanimous to pass on first reading (7-0).

- e. Consideration and action on approving a firm for the Hwy 276 Main Street project.

Trey Eubanks: We are looking to achieve a good project for our main street corridor and had several good proposals. This proposal includes beautification for our main street, recommendations for street improvement, improvements for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, future land use recommendations, market research, and economic development data. Land Design was the firm that rose to the top due to the extensive public participation in the process that they will facilitate. We want to get the public to buy in and design this project. We want the business owners, property owners, council and staff to play a large role in doing this. If you look at pages 3-6, you will see what Land Design proposed and the selection committee thought was an outstanding way to facilitate this participation.

We have one chance to do this right the first time. I recommend that we do go with the selection committee's proposal and that we fund it at the \$90,000 level. We were talking about a budget of, we estimated \$60,000 last fall primarily because GPATS has a policy of funding municipal matches up to \$30,000. That is where the \$60,000 came from. If you look at this and see what we get for the additional \$30,000, we will get Wilbur Smith with traffic and they are very successful in working with DOT to achieve the design that our citizens and business owners will develop. Land Use elements are incorporated. These land use elements are

something that will be something we can set up on East and West Butler. We will get some market data. I feel like this will be important to show our business owners. This data will also show the positive impact of adding public money to this public corridor. Design standards allow us the opportunity to set the type of development we want to occur.

We can go with Land Design at \$90,000 and eliminate some of the design standards and market data, and probably get some of the beautification work done for about \$60,000. Or we could begin negotiating with the number 2 firm, which is a very good firm. During the interview process, they estimated, and this is an estimate, six figures to do what we are asking. My recommendation is to go with Land Design at \$90,000 because we have one opportunity to give this project the best opportunity for success. Let's do this right the first time. This will serve us well in the future. We will follow this every step of the way to make sure we get out of this firm what we want. We have ICAR, growth, we have the image of our city that we can enhance, and I feel like this is not only important to the commerce of the business owners, this is important to our image, I want us to do this right the first time.

Councilman Kennedy: I know this will be predicated on the fact that the community is involved and when you have the workshops, please make sure you include the merchants and residents. I have some input from the community at large and some of them have questions about it. We need to listen to them. They want the enhancement program, but they have questions. I couldn't answer a lot of them.

Councilman Cook: The 276 corridor is all that is mentioned. Is 417 in that too?

Trey Eubanks: Yes. We have called it Main Street, but it goes from 417, up 276, to Forrester Drive.

Councilman Cook: I think if we are going to do it, it needs to be done first class. I want the citizens and business owners input. I don't want the older business owners to be left out. They are important to this city.

Trey Eubanks: Yes, sir. And I am going to go back to GPATS to ask for more funding of half of the additional cost.

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept Land Design at \$90,000 with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Black: I would like to point out that there was a business owner on the selection committee.

Councilman Hunter: We spent a lot of time talking about public involvement. Land Design was selected because they were the best on that point. Plus, we will be getting Wilbur Smith, which has a lot of experience with SCDOT.

- f. Consideration and action on an executive session.

Councilman Hunter made a motion to go into executive session on several matters with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Council came back from executive session and Councilman Hunter reported that no action was taken.

Chief Turner reported that the 1st annual police camp is coming up soon and that he had gotten some good applications. We will take about 20 kids per session.

He also reported that on the Friday before council, a 17 year old female at Mauldin High School was charged with taking Krylon spray paint and writing words on concrete and putting her initials on a gutter spout. This was a charge under our new graffiti ordinance.

8. Public Comment.- None
9. Council requests.- None
10. Adjournment.- Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller