

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 15, 2008
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Don Godbey, Council members Patricia Gettys, Bob Cook, 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- Councilman Black
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Reynolds
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Godbey
 - d. Proclamations and Presentations- Young Eagle- plaque presentation by police department

Chairman Cook presented a plaque to the Young Eagle Chapter based out of Donaldson Center for allowing the Police Youth Academy to be taken up in their airplanes. This is a program to introduce youth to aviation.

Dave Benam, Frank Bayne, and Dean Oang from Neal Prince introduced themselves and were available to answer questions about the cultural center auditorium.

2. Reading and approval of minutes.

Councilman Kennedy made a motion to accept the August 18th minutes with Councilwoman Gettys seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0). Councilman Black made a motion to accept the special called minutes from September 2nd. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

3. Public Comment.

Leo Joyce: A while back we started taping council meetings and I was under the impression we were going to put them on the television. What is the status on that?

Mayor Godbey: We never passed that. We have access to the DVDs per request and we are looking at a new tech support system to make it accessible via the Internet. We are looking at how and when to do that.

Leo Joyce: It is already orally on the Internet. Some people don't have access to a computer.

Trey Eubanks: If I may add, currently, the hardware that drives the LGAC is not capable of video streaming. We can run the pages up, but not video. Those DVDs are available to the public. There is a citizen group that has requested some information on that and I intend to automatically make it available to that group. Public libraries have the Internet and we may be able to even put a workstation in the city facility so that a member of the public can access that if they don't have it at home.

Leo Joyce: Some people don't have computers to access it and if it was on television you would have more viewers. It is a waste of taxpayer money if you can't see it except on recordings. You are not talking to a majority.

Councilman Cook: To make those videos available, it takes up a good while to download those. We need to look at buying some new equipment so it doesn't take a day to download the video. Council doesn't even get copies anymore, we just have one copy. We need to look into technology so we can do a faster job getting those reproduced.

Mayor Godbey: It needs to go through a committee to do it the right way.

4. Report from City Administrator

Trey Eubanks: The comprehensive plan process is going well. The population, housing, and land use sub-committee met last week. The end goal is to get a good plan together. This is an update of our 20 year comprehensive plan that we do every five years. We are getting some good input from our citizens and we will have more public meetings. There are three sub-committees and a steering committee. Additionally, there is a focus group. We want the citizen input.

Second thing I want to mention, we are making good headway with our Information technology. We have purchased equipment to improve our network to improve security and improve our ability to backup data. This will also improve our ability to make more rapid DVDs of our council meetings.

We are underway with updating our website. Each department head has already begun to weigh in on that process. Karin Von Kaenel is working with our department heads to head that process up and she will have a presentation for you next month or in November. More and more frequently we see that the Internet is more of a tool of communication between citizens and government. We have a good opportunity to have more information on the website and make it easier to access and find information the public may look for. That is going well and I will keep you posted on that.

Mayor Godbey: You might want to update council on the CGI video streaming that the City has gotten.

Trey Eubanks: There is a movie about Mauldin that will be on our website. The final version was approved at the end of last week and we are waiting on this company to give us the final version which we can put on as a link on our website and get information about the city. There is a welcome from the Mayor and information on city services. You found that for free for us. The final thing I want

to touch on is the 417/276 main street project. We had 75-90 people show up at our first public meeting on August 21st. John and I put together a power point presentation with a brief overview. Land Design, Inc. is facilitating this process to allow people to weigh in on what they want the main corridor of our city to look like. This was a big success. We met the following week with our steering committee and discussed next steps. There is an interest and desire to have the property owners and business owners along this corridor be included in this process. We will have a special meeting tomorrow night for them. It is critical that we get as much public input as we can. These folks will be directly affected by this. Our next public meeting is October 9th. John Gardner is here if there are any questions on the main street plan.

Councilman Cook: First of all, can we track or see how many hits we get on our website?

Trey Eubanks: We will be able to track that when we update our website. I am not sure how accurate the data is currently.

Councilman Cook: I think that is something we need to gauge and be sure that we track to see how much interest is out there. The other thing is the sale that I think we need to do on this corridor in my opinion is the property owners and business people. They have to have the buy-in on this. I am glad to see that you are having a separate meeting with them and I think that is a good step.

5. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Fire (Chairwoman Gettys)

i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

Chief Sapp: For the month we had 226 total calls, 149 fire and 69 medical and 8 miscellaneous. Our response time is 2.8 minutes and that is all I have.

Chairwoman Gettys: I wanted to commend Captain Crawford and his men. I had the honor of participating in one of the Miracle League games a couple of weeks ago. They were there and to see their interaction with those kids, they did a good job.

Chief Sapp: Each shift goes out at least once or twice a year. They go Saturday and Tuesday and they all work really well with those kids. They enjoy it too.

Chairwoman Gettys: All of the adults only had nice things to say about the department.

b. Police (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

Chief Turner: I thought you were going to give him an award. You have your information from the police department. There was an addition to that in the aspect of SRO. You will see an attachment. Make sure you read that. I asked her to give me her thoughts on that. It is a different world for her to go in and handle those issues. If you see her, please offer your support to her. As far as the police department, earlier this evening we had our explorer meeting updates. Prior to youth camp, it would be about four kids who would show up. Now, parents drop them off by the carload. Technically they are not explorers, they don't fit the age group, but we are going with the 11-14 age group. We don't want to lose them and we will keep them active. You will see them at Mauldinfest. We have bright orange shirts with the logo on it and writing on the back. You will see them out helping with the parking and helping Greg's guys with trash. If you see them, please mention that you appreciate what they are doing.

Councilman Hunter: Those young men outside have not forgotten the lessons they were taught. They were just as polite and said yes, sir. Thank you.

Councilwoman Gettys: I took up tickets at the high school for JV and C-team football and I observed Officer Rose interact with the students. He really did a nice job. The kids respect him. The principal said he is doing a great job.

Councilman Reynolds: Was the shirt store sold out of garnet shirts?

Chief Turner: Something about... I don't want to go there.

Councilman Reynolds: Your evaluation is coming up.

ii. Reports and Communications from Municipal Clerk of Court /

Administrative Judge

Angela Martin: Jury trials are November 17-21st and prelims are October 27th. I spoke with Ms. Cooke and she is doing well and will come back the first or second week of October.

c. Recreation (Chairman Reynolds)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director.

Van Brannon: Thank you. Updating on the Recreation Dept, over 2600 Seniors participated last month. They went to the Peace Center to see Mama Mia. Our youth sports continue to do well. I know some of you have received some concerns regarding parking at Springfield Park. We have received permission to use the Vision of Victory Temple. It abuts our report. We let them use our facility when theirs burnt down. Pastor Phillips was very kind in allowing us to use that for overflow parking. I don't think we will have any more issues. Our adult volleyball has been successful. Julia has started working on the United Way campaign for the city. She wants to go above her goal for last year. I worked with a group from Greenville Vision 2025 to discuss ways to preserve green space in the county.

Councilwoman Gettys: Apparently we have a lot of people from church participating in your adult volleyball program and they love it. They had a lot of positive things to say about it.

Mayor Godbey: Council has received some emails regarding the concession stand.

Van Brannon: That was a miscommunication between the coach and parents and that has been corrected.

Councilman Hunter: What is the latest on Pine Forest Park?

Van Brannon: I am currently in the process of- the way we are going to bid the playground is a little different. We will give vendors a specific amount of money and you rate it. Some of the community members have agreed to be on a committee with me to make that selection. I have had to take some documents from other people who have used that type of bidding process because it is a little more difficult. I do think it will give us a bigger bang for our buck.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Director.

Peter Nomikos: At your seats is the monthly report for the Building Department. For the month of August we issued 50 permits. It is mostly commercial property which has been the trend because of the economic downturn and the mortgage meltdown. Hopefully that will turn around in the near future. We have the final plan review for an office development on Holland Road next Tuesday for the Planning commission.

We have had a petition for annexation from the Leopard property on Corn Road from Spectrum Retirement Community. They are looking at a 160 unit retirement facility. We had a public meeting on August 26th which was attended by five residents of Forrester Cove. The response was positive. I did approach them about annexing into the City after the meeting and they were very interested. Apparently they have tried previously and there have been difficulties. They asked if the retirement community came in if they could annex individually and I informed them that they could do that under the 100% method, but we would prefer to get the whole neighborhood if at all possible.

Chairman Hunter: How is our activity level in construction as compared to last year?

Peter Nomikos: Less than half. As I said, residential construction has dropped off significantly. We have two houses in Tanner Estates and three at the Heights. Other than that, the activity is commercial.

Chairman Hunter: Is most of the multi-family built out now?

Peter Nomikos: The two apartment complexes we had going are now complete. That was Alta Brookwood and Vinings at Brookfield. Townhouse development other than Parkside has stopped. Poinsett Homes, all of that stopped once they declared bankruptcy.

Chairman Hunter: Is Mr. Cross here? Josh Cross?

Peter Nomikos: No, he is not. He was out sick today. He did go in Saturday for the commercial electrical exam and finished with time to spare. He has been doing very well. This is his last commercial certification. If he passes this, he has far exceeded my expectations.

Chairman Hunter: Would you invite him to the next meeting?

Peter Nomikos: I will be happy to.

Councilman Black: I would like to report out since our last meeting that the house at 134 Brookbend that burned in December is no longer there. Do you know of any inquiries on the lot?

Peter Nomikos: The daughter of the victim did contact a local attorney, Timothy Farr. We had already put the property up to bid and he called me the day before the 10 day demolition period was to expire. I explained to him the low bid of \$3800 which was half of what I anticipated. Apparently the demolition company worked with her previously in her career with the Greenville Housing Authority and did it as a favor to the family. I did send a copy of the bill to the attorney and he was to check with the insurance company about getting compensation under the debris removal clause in the homeowner's policy. I told him I would hold off as far as filing the lien for a couple of weeks. We did talk to some individual that are interested in the

property and once this is all settled, construction should start in a few months.

Councilman Black: I wanted to tell you I appreciate that and like I have stated before, if we have other properties like this in the city that I think we should contact the city attorney first. I appreciate everyone that was involved in it.

Peter Nomikos: With the foreclosure filed a week before the incident, it muddied up who owned it.

Mayor Godbey: I got some emails from some people in the area and they were pleased.

Chairman Hunter: I appreciate your report and if anything it has more detail than we would care for, but thank you.

e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director

Greg Fincher: Thank you. We have a lot going on. Mauldinfest is coming up and that is a big event for my department. We have been working on this for two weeks. We received our leaf machine from Old Dominion. The 25 yard machine as well will be coming late October from them. Trey and I sat down this week and met with Ron Lawson and Aaron Frazier on the sewer evaluation. We are working on this year's work plan. We are going to try to take this on ourselves in house.

The parks look good, city hall looks good. These guys are out every day. We started the GIS up and running on the 9th. The trash trucks are data collectors. I want to show you the unit. Don't mash any buttons, it will be on the computer. You are looking at the icons, that is a white good. We can track the materials instead of looking for them all day. The software allows us to print a work order and it gives the truck Number, address, and date and time. We get phone calls about no cans. People say they didn't have their trash picked up, but by using this it tells us if their can was out and at what time. Now when they call we ask them what time their can was out and they say 6:00 , and we say we were on Old Mill Road at 7:39 and this gives us verification of the truck going through the neighborhood.

We set all these icons up and we can print out each category. This is all brush. The trash trucks bring the data back and we know where the items are to be picked up. We can track loose grass. When they push the button, we can take the list and go back and put our orange tags on the door informing them that there is a bagging ordinance. I have one in my truck. I can look at sewer, safety, grass, parks, etc. I think being able to do this is going to save us so much money. At first the guys didn't like this because they thought we were spying on them. I won't do that, yet. You can't ride down a street in this city without finding something that is on this machine right here. This is helping us to be more efficient. What used to take 8 hours, now takes 30 minutes.

We are still mulching and you see it at the park. We are going to do some work at Pine Forest Park. Other than that, I am done.

Chairman Kennedy: When I was running at City Park, I saw the mulch you have put out that helps with the erosion. You are putting it in the level places. I see you have put it out at Springfield Park too.

Greg Fincher: Put a bunch of it out at Springfield and Sunset. A lot at Sunset.

Councilman Black: Did I understand that your machine in a future update will have the capability of adding a camera to it?

Greg Fincher: Right. It has that capability right now, but the software is not available. I am going to add another button to this. I am going to put in code violation. You put this thing and when you punch the button for code violation, it comes up with a time and date stamp and you can use this unit to photograph where you are. I have to ask mini me, but I think that would be admissible if we have to take legal action. They are doing a lot with this thing and we are trying to learn how it will benefit us right now, but they come up with updates and it will get better. You see the recycle brochures in your packets. Those came from DHEC and didn't cost us a dime. We would like to get this out to the community. Lisa can expound on this, we made money, we made more money last year on recycling than we did the previous year. She was asking about this. We made money, we saved money, and now we are getting people on board to recycle and that will reduce our tipping fees at the landfill and also will be friendlier to our environment. We will get those flyers out. My guys are going to be doing some stuff at Mauldifest and letting people know what we do.

Councilman Reynolds: Greg, I just wanted to take a moment to tell you how much we appreciate your hard work and please send that message to your guys.

f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and Communication from Finance Director

Lisa White: You have your report for the period ending August, which is the second month of our new fiscal year so there is not a lot of activity to report on. In connection with the question for Pete, it is hard to tell where we are, but I want to reiterate that we did a very good job budgeting conservatively in our revenues. We were very conservative in construction permit revenues. Pete had seen the trend coming and I don't think we will be caught off guard by that. Of course, we don't know what the year will bring, but I also mention that the City has a very strong fund balance. We have nearly \$7 million of fund balance in the general fund. Some of it is restricted, but we do have a good fund balance. We have a very available debt capacity to fund the projects the icy administrator had talked about. We have a good footing to go get some debt. I wanted to make sure everyone knew, I went home and watched the news, and just today was terrible, but we tried to be conservative and hopefully we are prepared if something should turn down. The department heads did a great job on their budgets. On top of that, we had unexpected revenues, so we are ending the year 08 very strong and are prepared for whatever comes up. That is my hope.

6. Unfinished Business

a. Consideration and action on Toates property annexation. (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Hunter made a motion to accept this annexation with a second by Councilman Black. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

b. Consideration and action on Cultural Center by-laws and the Young Marines request(Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Reynolds made a motion to approve the bylaws as distributed with Councilwoman Gettys seconding.

Councilman Cook: I wasn't at the cultural center meeting. Article 12 will stay like it is?

Councilman Reynolds: Yes. The ones that are highlighted are staying in as well.

The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Reynolds: The second motion I would like to make is to allow the Young Marines to use the Youth Activity Room. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Reynolds: Since we are allowing the Young Marines a room, we would like to have a memorandum of understanding. I would like to accept this as stated.

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

7. New Business

a. Consideration and action on program assistance form (Rec)

Chairman Reynolds: This item is a scholarship program to allow kids whose families can't afford the activities at our rec department to play within our department. I would like to approve the form as written.

Councilman Cook seconded.

Councilman Black: I just noticed this. Maybe we don't need to, do we need to include some of our elderly residents in this? Is this possible to amend? It would go through the same form.

Mayor Godbey: I think you make allowances already.

Councilman Black: We added a lot of programs and I don't want to keep them from participating.

John Duggan: If you look at the form Van drafted, it is the goal to allow everyone to participate in our youth programs. If you simply said recreation programs, that would cover all categories.

Mayor Godbey: Do you have a problem with that, Mr. Brannon?

Van Brannon: Not at all.

Councilman Hunter: Some families have circumstances, you can change that wording to include individuals as well.

Chairman Reynolds: I make a motion to amend the motion to change to recreation programs and change families to individuals.

Councilman Black seconded the amendment.

Councilwoman Gettys: Do you think this is too vague? Does it need to be more specific?

Van Brannon: It is fine.

Chairman Reynolds: This will all come through Mr. Brannon, so he will have complete oversight for the program.

Councilman Cook: I appreciate your looking after us old folks.

Councilman Black: I wasn't including you.

The amendment to the motion was unanimous (7-0).

The vote on the motion as amended was unanimous (7-0).

b. Consideration and action on employee incentive program (Rec)

Chairman Reynolds: This is an employee idea incentive program to encourage employee participation and suggestions on how to save money. This would be \$100 a quarter for the best cost savings or efficiency idea. All employees are encouraged to participate. I make the motion to accept this.

Councilwoman Gettys seconded the motion.

Councilwoman Gettys: If there is not an idea, is there a possibility that no money would be awarded in a quarter?

Trey Eubanks: That is a possibility. This funding in the grand scheme of things, we are not talking about too much. It is a good incentive, though.

Mayor Godbey: I would like to track this for the first year. If it is all going to one department or anchored in one area, I think it needs to be monitored.

Chairman Reynolds: I would not be opposed if council wanted to raise this to \$200 a quarter. That would be fine with me.

Councilman Cook: I make the motion to amend it to \$200.

Councilman Hunter seconded the motion.

Chairman Reynolds: I want it to be a real incentive for them.

The amendment was unanimous (7-0).

The motion as amended was unanimous (7-0).

c. Consideration and action on relocation of grave (Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Black: During the site survey of the Homes of Hope project, which the City of Mauldin is contributing \$300,000 in HUD Community Block Development Grant (CDBG) funds, an infant grave was discovered on the subject property on Miller Road. Title 27, Chapter 43 of the South Carolina Code of Laws requires that the governing body of the county or municipality find that the relocation of the grave is "necessary and expedient". Homes of Hope has made all due efforts to contact possible relatives and has found none per the note from Don Oglesby (attached). Homes of Hope have contracted with Cannon Memorial to relocate the grave with a new marker in a perpetual care cemetery. I make a motion for approval of the relocation of the abandoned grave to Cannon

Cemetery. This cost will be out of the contribution we have already given, correct?

Trey Eubanks: Correct. The only cost is the \$300,000 contribution from our CDBG funds.

Councilman Hunter seconded the motion.

Councilman Cook: Mr. Attorney, have you looked at this?

John Duggan: I have. It is alright.

Mayor Godbey: There was a part on Friday's Walter Edgars journal on public radio that talked about relocation of graves at public historic sites. There is a process that was coincidentally talked about recently.

The vote was unanimous (7-0).

d. Consideration and action on Western Carolina committee appointment
(Committee of the Whole)

Mayor Godbey: Mr. Hunter and I were at this committee meeting when Mauldin was selected for a three year appointment to a committee. This just happened recently. I will go ahead with what we have. There was a tie vote for the two municipalities that represent this body- Simpsonville, Greenville and Mauldin. Representatives from Simpsonville and Greenville were not present so it was recommended that Mauldin be given the three year term. Mr. Lawson is on a technical support committee and Mr. Hunter is on a support committee. I will entertain a motion to have a representative.

Councilman Cook: I make a motion to appoint Mr. Hunter if he can work it in his schedule. That is up to him.

Councilman Hunter: I am happy to do that but I don't know if I will be able to attend all of the meetings.

Councilwoman Gettys: I make a motion to amend that to just have someone from the public works committee attend.

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

- e. Executive Session on a contractual matter and a personnel matter
(Committee of the Whole)

Councilman Hunter made a motion to go into executive session. The contractual matter is perhaps employing a realtor. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Hunter reported that no vote was taken and no action was taken.

- 8. Public Comment.
- 9. Council requests.
- 10. Adjournment.- Mayor Godbey adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk