

**Minutes  
Mauldin City Council  
Informal Session  
February 26, 2007  
7:00 PM**

**Members present were Mayor RC Jones, Council members Don Godbey, Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter, James Kennedy, Dale Black, and Jerry Smith. Interim Administrator Russell Sapp and City Attorney John Duggan were also present.**

1. Call to order.- Mayor Jones

- a. Invocation- Councilman Smith
- b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Godbey
- c. Welcome- Mayor Jones
- d. Proclamations and Presentations- None

2. Reports from Standing Committees

a. Fire (Chairman Godbey)

i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief

Captain Jimmy Crawford: Mayor and Council, Fire is 2.9 and medical 2.8. There were a total of 153 fire and medical calls inside the city and 57 in the district. 214 calls for the month of January total.

Chairman Godbey: I would like to at this time as I do every month you keep the response time under three minutes, congratulate you on a job well done. I know that is a critical factor for folks considering annexation into the city. We do appreciate all the hard work the fire department does.

ii. Discussion on thermal imager purchase.

Lt. Chris Walker: This is a Scott unit. This helps pinpoint victims and hotspots so that we can go in there. We can shine this unit on an outlet and it will tell us what temperature it is. We got a grant two years ago which allowed us to buy two units for two stations. Each station will have one.

Chairman Godbey: At the committee meeting, we talked about the Bilo warehouse...

Lt. Walker: The freezer was so cold we couldn't find the fire. The imager was used because of the steam. We saved them a bunch of money.

Mayor Jones: The Bilo fire?

Chairman Godbey: In some warehouses with fluorescent tubing...

Lt. Walker: You can hit the ballast with this and it will tell you what the temperature of the ballast is versus the wall. We had a citizen a few years ago and we couldn't find the smoke. We tore his room up and found an outlet behind one wall that he remembered. If we had this, we wouldn't have made him mad. He understood after we explained it to him and once he saw it.

Chairman Godbey: When ballasts are about to go out, they are going to get hot and it is hard to calculate how many fires we have prevented from using the thermal imager.

Lt. Walker: We have gone in a house and spent two hours looking for something and now we can spend 15 minutes. We got to each outlet and each light and it tells us that is 80 and that one is 200. The 200 is your problem. We have saved a lot of money.

Mayor Jones: Didn't we budget for two?

Chief Sapp: We already have two we got through the grant and this will give us one at each station.

Chairman Godbey: I would like to move this forward to the regular session for review by regular council.

- b. Police (Chairman Cook)
  - i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

Chairman Cook: I want you to note how he is decked out. Mr. Hunter said he had new shoes on.

Chief Bryan Turner: About two and a half hours old. Just to give you a couple of highlights. January is a little slower for us. The cold weather might have kept some people in, different things that made it happen. Internally, we had a couple of things going on. We had two vacancies- one being Captain Steve Moore, and the other came from the communications side. Those vacancies happened in February, but we are still full staff. Our department is concentrating- there are a lot of cars on the roadway and a lot of cars being stopped. Our department was not a part of what Spartanburg has going on, but we are part of the National Highway Safety Campaign. With that going on, we are looking at speeding enforcement, DUI enforcement, and also safety belt enforcement. Detective Thacker from Investigations was sent to a free school provided by DEA for narcotics enforcement. I will not sit here and tell you that we do not have some issues going on in the city. We are trying to be proactive before they become larger issues. One step to do that is to get our guys trained. That is one thing we are doing. I would like to call our newest guy up here Joshua Robinson.

Angela Cooper administered the oath of office to Officer Joshua Robinson.

Chairman Cook: We see you guys on the road all the time and appreciate that. I am all the time getting comments and got one tonight. I don't guess Leo will mind if I tell you, but he was bragging on the police department and the job they are doing on Bridges Road. I want to pass that on to you and Leo passed that on to me. We are glad to have you with us, Chief.

John Duggan: I am looking forward to prosecuting Mr. Cook for all the difficulty he has caused me.

Councilman Smith: It is very gratifying to see the efforts that your police officers are doing on the roads and we are grateful for it.

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

Angela Cooper: For the month of January, there were 669 new cases filed in Mauldin municipal court and we disposed of 559. Today we started our spring term of jury trials. We have gotten rid of 20 cases. We have preliminary hearings in March. I am happy to announce that I have hired an Assistant Clerk of Court. She comes to us from inside. It is Debbie Cooke and she was already helping me anyway, so that made the best sense.

Chairman Cook: Ms. Cooper, we certainly appreciate what you do in keeping all the records. We know this young lady will help you out and the Chief hates to see her go. That is how he is- cooperative and will work with us.

iii. Discussion on acquisition of new vehicles.

Chief Turner: Coming out of the committee meeting, we had talked about the purchase of three additional cars for the police department. Cars are always an issue. You have to have equipment. This is the biggest purchase for a police department. With that in mind, we looked at our mileage and are trying to get rid of some things that are taking up space. We have several that are out for bid to get them out of here. Several cars have high mileage. They were purchased in 1999-2001 and have excessive miles. The original budget was allocated for three cars. We went to committee for the funds for those three vehicles. Right after that, there was an issue that came up in the police department that is more pressing than the cars. We need to purchase some equipment that we can use to handle video tapes and crime scene tapes. We are very limited in our processing of tapes in evidence. That in part is because we didn't stay up with the times on some items. If some businesses in town have some issues, it is almost impossible for us to turn around and provide footage to the news media or the general public

or newspapers the next day. We have to rely on another agency to perform this task for us. The one time I have had it happen it has taken five days. That is totally unacceptable. We need to be to the point where we are self-sufficient. I believe that is the bottom line. I am willing at this point to forego the purchase of one of these vehicles. Not that we don't have the need for the vehicle, but this is a higher need. This equipment, we have had a vendor come in and give us some information on it and I will bring that to the committee meeting next week. We are looking for the funds to purchase two vehicles at the price of \$62,860. This is for two police vehicles completely equipped. The price of those vehicles is \$29,500 each. We are also going to update our software system. We are trying to get away from VHS tapes and is looking to make an upgrade to mobile vision. This upgrade will cost about \$1900 per car for a total of the \$62,860.

Mayor Jones: We had budgeted \$97,287 for this right? The two cars- how much is the equipment going to cost for the video camera?

Chief Turner: We sent out sealed bids for the purchase of the cars turn key that had the VHS system. The difference is \$1930 between the VHS and digital equipment. The price of the cars together is \$59,000 even and an additional install for the upgrades which is \$3860.

Chairman Cook: We discussed this in committee three cars. I sat in on some of the demonstration of the video or imaging equipment that we think we need and that is what he is going to come back to the committee with. He is telling you when he sent the video out for processing it took five days and when it came back it was no better than it was when he sent it. We definitely need that and that will come out of the committee at our next meeting.

Chairman Cook made a motion to send this item to the formal agenda for purchase of two police cars in the amount of \$62,860.

Chief Turner: We did some research on the turn key and got bids. We went with the state contract price. All three manufacturers are on state contract this year- Ford, Chevrolet, and Dodge. Ford is \$20,897, Chevrolet is \$17,834, and Dodge depending on the engine is \$20,599-\$22,570. The prices are comparable. The reason I looked at purchasing the Crown Victorias is the size of the vehicle. It fits our needs- the officer has room up front for his data ports and there is enough room in the back for transporting.

Mayor Jones: You still need three cars because one you were going to replace has a lot of miles on it. Correct? Why did you not do it when we had budgeted \$97,287 which leaves enough money to get the third one?

Chairman Cook: Mr. Mayor, what we are trying to do is play the game. What we want is two cars- we would like three cars- but we in committee discussed, well, no we haven't discussed it in committee, excuse me, Chief and I want to bring it to the committee that we need this imaging apparatus which is about \$23,000. We are going to bring that back to you. We are sacrificing one car with what we think will help with the safety and benefit the city.

Mayor Jones: So you will still have \$15 grand if you need it. OK. That clears it up.

Councilman Kennedy: You said that the Crown Victoria is that the car you are talking about? The efficiency of the cars with the capacity that they can haul is more economical in your means instead of buying an economized car because you said if you have to transfer someone, you would have to make more than one trip, right?

Chief Turner: Right. 7 out of 10 agencies I would guess use Crown Victorias. Those who don't have them in their fleet. We can put three personnel in the back. We are limited with those Impalas. We can't do that. There is also a vast trunk in the Crown Victoria. We did discuss gas-wise if the Impala was a better choice and that is one thing we are willing to track over the next 12 months and see and compare the costs and benefits.

This item was moved to the formal session.

c. Recreation (Chairman Smith)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director.

Van Brannon: Thank you. I have a brief update for you. Our Senior program is still adjusting to our staff being gone at the Sports Center. I think they miss us a bit and we miss them as well. I think they are doing a good job straightening things up and trying to make that area their own. The seniors went shopping and out to eat and had two buses full on Thursday. Bart went to help drive. Our youth sports, we are in transition mode again. We just completed our basketball season and finished up our signups for baseball and softball. Some have already had tryouts. We should have the young men and ladies on the field for some practices next week. That is going well. Our numbers are down a little, but as we checked with other areas, that seems to be a trend. We did have a good turnout as usual. We will get on the fields soon. The parks management crew has done a great job and we are ready to go. We will have the fields in top shape when the kids hit the field.

The Sports Center is going well. We received our final bid on the wall that is going to go up between the desk and the fitness area. We feel like this is a good addition. The gym floor we had a problem with- they were in today re-sanding it. They will come in to put more poly on it and repaint and put more poly on top of that. They used a paint they

haven't used before on gym floors and they think that is what caused the problem. We also spoke with Bonitz who did the track floor. We had some issues with the seams on it and the weld that will mean that a one piece floor was scheduled to ship out today. When that comes in, they will be in to repair it. We had Business After Hours and the public got to come in and look at it. We are now over 1000 individual members. That is all I have.

Councilman Godbey: The signups. Last year the issue came up about scheduling the parks and ages of playing time for the younger kids. They were playing till 9 or 10 at night and not getting home until 10 or 11 on weeknights. Parents were concerned about that.

Van Brannon: We are always aware of that. Hopefully with the numbers being down, we will have some leeway. Sometimes we can't avoid it, but we are aware of it and are definitely going to make any changes we need to.

Mayor Jones: What is your position on paving? Have you got everything in to start?

Van Brannon: I talked with Greg again and he felt good about what he had heard. I just wanted to confirm. I have a call into the grading contractor for confirmation that any water will go into the retention pond. I am waiting on the grading contractor to meet with me

Mayor Jones: Do you feel confident that this can be done by March?

Van Brannon: We will definitely work on that.

Councilman Black; Will you give the council and citizens an update on the additional parking at Springfield?

Van Brannon: We have had an issue with parking at football and baseball games. We took down one of the shelters that was kind of a nuisance and in bad shape and that will open up some additional parking. With the number of kids we have, that becomes an issue. Hopefully we will alleviate some of the major problems.

Councilman Godbey: The activity building- you have the computer to make the cards. That has been held up?

Van Brannon: The original trainer we had was not very helpful. Since then, they have found a good trainer and they are in the process- they are probably 200-300 shy of having everyone in the computer. They didn't want to make the cards until everyone is put into the computer. They have to input 1000 names and that is difficult. We should have everything done in 2-3 weeks.

Councilman Godbey: Are they picture id and a barcode?

Van Brannon: Your picture will not be on your card. It will be stored on the computer and when you swipe your card, your picture will be on the screen.

- d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)
  - i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Administrator.

Peter Nomikos: Good evening. You should have a legible copy of the tickets we issued. Most of which have already gone to court. We have several in Glendale II, one in Glendale III, and there is a jury trial on Friday on a violation from Glendale I. As it stands right now, we had a packet of information submitted by Glendale II. The one most noticeable violation is at 200 Parsons Street. We cited the property owner at Sycamore and Parsons for the pool. They will go in front of the Judge. 120 Sycamore was cited for trash and rubbish in the yard. They contacted us and are in the process of cleaning up. We wrote a ticket to the property at Riggs Court and Sycamore regarding shingles and building material in the yard. We are making progress. Hopefully everyone should be in good shape in a month.

Chairman Hunter: Were those the incidents that Mr. Bowen brought up in the meeting?

Peter Nomikos: Yes. Several of those he mentioned we already had cases going. There is one in particular at 102 Hickory Lane regarding four vehicles parked in a driveway. They have current license plates. The property maintenance code provides that the vehicle must be in operable condition. The progress that we have seen shows that the vehicles are periodically rearranged. I don't think there is anything else we can do at that particular property. The property owners do have a right to due process so if they request a jury trial, it may not get to court for some time. When we do have voluntary compliance, they do get corrected in short order. Other than that, our other staff have been working on the large volume of business license renewals that have been coming in. Hospitality and Accommodation taxes have been coming in and we are also working on several annexation requests.

Councilman Cook: Peter, inoperative vehicle. The only way we can prove it is operable is that they move it from one place to another. We have no means except someone is moving from one place to another.

Peter Nomikos: The property maintenance code defines an operable vehicle as one that is capable of being moved under its own power. We have no way of knowing the vehicle is operable or not short of going to the door and asking someone to start it up. If the vehicle is in whole condition with no flat tires or fenders missing, and it does have a current plate, we are stepping over the line into personal property rights if we are going to the door and asking them to show us. We do have photographs that have been submitted and the vehicles in the photographs have been moved. The arrangement of the vehicles in the driveway is reordered periodically.

Councilman Cook: We are at their mercy. I am not talking about this particular place, but that anybody can move those cars any way they want to whether they are inoperative or not. Your pictures are saying they are moving them? Can you describe that to me? From this end to that end or side by side?

Peter Nomikos: The vehicles are parked side by side two deep. For example, the Cadillac may have been in the front right next to the house. The next time it was in the front left. A Cadillac of that size is something that is not readily moved. We have had reports that the people have started the vehicle and driven it down the road and have had it towed back. We have not witnessed that. Obviously the vehicle has taken off under its own power. As far as the vehicles having a tag, there is no law that says that someone can't own a vehicle and just choose not to drive it.

Councilman Cook: I understand that. We don't have no way to check it if it is running. What you are saying is that it is going down the street and then towed back, that is not running is it?

Peter Nomikos: That is the report.

Mayor Jones: Let me tell you something. We wouldn't be infringing on their rights if we say let's see you drive that car up and down the road, would we?

John Duggan: No.

Mayor Jones: It is up to you to knock on the door and say let me see you drive that car. It is not infringing on their rights.

Peter Nomikos: Under the legal guidance, we will contact the owner and ask them to prove the vehicles are operable.

ii. Discussion on on-street parking.

Chairman Hunter: At the called Council meeting on November 29, 2006 there was discussion of amending article 6 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow properly constructed on-street parking when it is specifically approved by the Mauldin City Council in the acceptance of a newly dedicated Mauldin City street.

The Planning and Economic Development Committee voted to forward this item to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation. This request was heard by the PEDC on December 4, 2006 and was forwarded to the Mauldin Planning Commission. On January 23, 2007, the Mauldin Planning Commission voted unanimously to forward this item to Council with a recommendation for approval. Council voted unanimously to approve.

Chairman Hunter moved this to the formal agenda.

Councilman Black: This came about because of the Sports Center and we did not have any on street parking at all on city streets. If we do approve this, you can't just randomly park on city streets, it has to be approved by Council. The way the architects drew up this street, there is on-street parking. Our policies and procedures did not allow on street parking.

iii. Discussion on Bethel Greene annexation.

Chairman Hunter: This has been before the Planning Commission and Council and I would like to move this forward for second reading.

Mayor Jones: Mr. Raines, are you prepared for the garbage?

Dennis Raines: They are reserved. Yes, sir.

iv. Discussion on amendment to Zoning Ordinance to allow a third sign for freestanding commercial businesses located on corner lots.

Chairman Hunter: I would like to make a motion to amend the ordinance to include "except for corner lots, which will allow three per business." This has to do with any corner lot zoned commercial will be allowed to put up three signs announcing their business. Not advertisements but signs announcing their business. That would change from two to corner lots being allowed three per business.

Councilman Black: This would allow two verticals signs and the other sign would be on the building itself. We are not increasing the vertical signage.

e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director.

Dennis Raines: I have a short report tonight. On the street side, we are continuing to work with Greenville County on the traffic calming policy. Those meetings are going well. We are enhancing that policy. Greenville County has done a very good job of writing a traffic calming policy and we are trying to emulate that policy. The transfer station is going well in Sanitation. We have 63 cans reserved. We are getting low again on replacements, so we will probably be coming back to you for an additional order. I think we can find the funding for that. On the

sewer side, the work plan has been submitted to Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority. We are awaiting a meeting with them. The initial reaction from them has been very positive. We will have approvals and signoffs and then WCRSA will look for us to sign an intergovernmental agreement. McDougal Court, I understand the title search cleared today and we are awaiting a closing date. Do we have to do a plat survey?

John Duggan: I will defer to the recommendation of the surveyor. They will tell you that.

Mayor Jones: As soon as that comes back, we will own it right?

John Duggan: After the closing.

Councilman Cook: How is the transfer station going?

Dennis Raines: Very well. We are communicating very well.

Councilman Cook: Have you had any complaints about mixed?

Dennis Raines: No, sir. Not the first one. We are still about three weeks into that.

Councilman Cook: You or Chief Sapp need to make a surprise visit and make sure that is being handled properly because we could lose a lot of money.

Dennis Raines: Yes, sir. The Sanitation Acting Supervisor was out there earlier this week on an issue with the truck and he said it looked good. They are keeping our household garbage separate.

Councilman Hunter: Mr. Raines, how are we doing with hiring the new street crew?

Dennis Raines: The street crew is operational. I don't know if you know this, but we went and cleaned up East Butler down in front of the high school, of course, it takes about one composition book and it gets in bad shape again. They are operational. We still lack two laborers. One went through the whole process and then decided they were moving again.

Mayor Jones: You got your lawnmower and everything is ready.

Dennis Raines: Yes. I think you will see an improvement.

Councilman Black: Mr. Raines, have we completed all of our paving?

Dennis Raines: All of the first phase is done. We are patching as part of the second phase. We will probably not begin that until March or April.

Councilman Black: When the temperature is warmer?

Dennis Raines: Yes.

Chairman Kennedy: I had the pleasure of going down the main highway 385 that adjoins Laurens Road, there is a lot of debris, are you going to schedule someone to pick that up?

Dennis Raines: Yes. They will be getting major thoroughfares.

Chairman Kennedy: It needs to be picked up. I don't know how you are going to schedule it.

Mayor Jones: How are you coming along with the driver for the street sweeper?

Dennis Raines: We have three people trained on it.

Mayor Jones: When are you going to put it out full time?

Dennis Raines: Full time, it has been out at least a couple of times already and out when we need it.

Mayor Jones: From one subdivision to another?

Dennis Raines: We will get the subdivisions a little later in the process. Right now we are trying to get the main.

Councilman Hunter: Didn't we pass an ordinance that required traffic calming techniques in all new subdivisions?

Peter Nomikos: We had an amendment that to the ordinance that does require traffic calming devices in all new subdivisions.

Councilman Hunter: I just wanted to make sure you knew that.

Dennis Raines: We will compare that with what we have already.

Councilman Hunter: Thank you for doing that.

ii. Discussion on executive session for personnel matter.

Chairman Kennedy sent this item to the formal session.

Councilman Godbey: I have asked in the past to have some information about the reason behind this. I haven't received any information about this particular matter and can't in good conscience vote to go into executive session on something I don't know anything about.

Mayor Jones: It is hard to put out anything in writing. You know we can't discuss personnel matters openly. It is real simple. We are going to clarify a job description.

- f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)
  - i. Reports and communications from Finance Director.

Lisa White: Thank you. In your packets, you will find the monthly financial report for January. It is a detailed budget actual report year to date that shows expenditures and revenues. I have prepared another report to summarize. We collected 47% of our revenue in January. Business licenses are collected in the spring and property taxes are collected in February and March. We will have a better look later on. These are reports given to all department heads and the city administrator to look at and they are capable of looking at where they are and what they have to spend.

Councilman Cook: Tell me if I am off base. I got a memo from you on where we invest our money. That has not been done until now.

Lisa White: In the past you didn't have a Finance Director.

Councilman Cook: Don't steal my thunder. Just answer my question.

Lisa White: Every week, I get the bank balance and look at where our money is and what type of payables we have that week and whether it is a pay week or not. I move the money in and out of our different accounts. We have an operating account at BB&T and we also have a Investment Account at the state with a higher interest. Normally BB&T gets 4% and on a million dollars that is a lot of money even for a day. I move the money in and out to get a higher interest rate.

Councilman Cook: If I understand what I read, we have had interest saved of \$181,000.

Lisa White: What I did was compare where we were last year.

Councilman Cook: Over the past years, we have been losing money, is that correct?

Lisa White: Right. We didn't actively move.

Mayor Jones: I don't think we were losing money, we weren't making any. Keep on and she will be wanting a raise.

Lisa White: I think I have paid for myself.

Chairman Black: On the Mauldifest account, it is 217% over.

Lisa White: We paid for the electrical out at the park. The chamber has agreed to pay us back. Basically, about \$10,000 the chamber will pay us back over a three year period. They haven't paid any yet. That is for the permanent power at Sunset.

Chairman Black: I thought that was it. We made an agreement to pay for it in lieu of them renting generators.

Councilman Hunter: In Sanitation under Recycling/ Waste Sales, it is about 200% above budget. Is there a reason for that?

Lisa White: In the past, that was put in other places. We are trying to consolidate it and track it closely.

Councilman Hunter: I was wondering if we found a bunch of stuff we had and sold it for recycling.

Lisa White: It just got buried. A lot of times it was not accounted for correctly. We are keeping a close eye on where things are.

- g. Committee of the Whole
  - i. Discussion on executive session for contractual matters.
  - ii. Discussion on clean-up at Jenkins Street facility.
  - iii. Discussion on Christmas decoration purchase.

All of these items will be discussed in the executive session at the end of the formal session.

### 3. Adjournment.- Mayor Jones

There will be a 10 minute break before the formal session to allow those present wishing to address City Council an opportunity to sign the speaker's log.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk

**Minutes  
Mauldin City Council  
Regular Formal Session  
February 26, 2007  
7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order- Mayor Jones
2. Reading and Approval of minutes- Informal and Formal sessions- January 22, 2007. Special called minutes February 5, 2007.

Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the January 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Godbey made a motion to approve the February 5th minutes with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

3. Public Comment on items appearing on the agenda.
  - a. Earl Alexander: Mr. Mayor and Council, you people made my job a lot easier tonight. I am not the type of fellow that likes to blindside people. That is why I gave everyone a copy of our complaints two weeks ago to give you a chance to look at them. Now. I am going to go over my spill. It seems that despite bringing several issues to the attention of Mauldin City Code Enforcement, no action has been taken to rectify the situation. We the citizens of Glendale are here tonight on some issues and we need some answers. Two years ago we were here with some of the same issues and problems and they still exist. We were told that the people that had problems had been contacted and because of financial problems, they were being given some extra time to correct them. I am going to start with one in particular- 200 Parsons. There have been as many as seven vehicles parked in the yard all with paper tags. Outdated paper tags. The vehicle I am showing you that has an expired tag is being driven today with another paper tag. When that one runs out, slap another one on.

I need to tell you something. Several years ago I bought a truck in Greenville. I couldn't drive two home and I waited until 5:00 pm, picked my son up and took him to Greenville. He drove the truck home for me. We came down Laurens to Butler and one of Mauldin's finest fell right in behind him. When we got to my driveway, Mauldin's finest put its blue light on and pulled all the way into my yard and I am trying to stop the man and tell him to turn his lights off. He didn't want nothing to do with me. He wanted my son, his driver's license, and the paperwork on the car. I heard tonight talk about enforcement. I heard a young man stand right here and take an oath to uphold the ordinances. We have ordinances here in Mauldin that cover this kind of stuff. How can people that we have been reporting since August, Mr. Nomikos, driving around on paper tags and I am paying insurance? Big insurance. I keep all mine licensed and updated.

101 Sycamore Drive. Let me tell you something that bothers me. I look out my window, there it is. I look out the front door and there it is. I look to my left and there it is. I am having my say. 101 Sycamore has a truck sitting in the front yard with expired tags since May 2006. Nothing has been done about it. I take that back. Mr. Nomikos said something had been done and the man is coming to court on the 7<sup>th</sup>. This same house with this picture here- this is a swimming pool in the yard. Two years ago we were here with the same problem.

Mayor Jones: Absolutely. I remember. The fence, the gate and the pool. In the picture you got, there is a picture of a Lincoln Continental facing – how did this vehicle get turned around because it was facing the other way? It was turned around manually so you couldn't see the tag. The Cadillac has been sitting there for years. The last time it was out it came back on a wrecker. Tonight you gave the man the authority to knock on the door and I appreciate that.

109 Hickory Lane has an inoperable swimming pool. This is the same pool that we came about two years ago. When you sit on my front porch and I hear ribbit from frogs, that is inoperable. That is a nuisance and a hazard.

Earl Alexander: 102 Hickory Lane. Inoperable vehicles. We are proud of our neighborhood. I was talking to a neighbor that just purchased a newly built home. He just moved from Connecticut. He told me the reason he bought the house was he tried to find an average priced homes only to find out that people had lived there awhile. I have been a resident of Mauldin for 35 years. Our neighborhood is full of owners who have been there 25, 30 years. We aren't going anywhere. There are 87 signatures on this petition. We want the City to enforce the ordinances that are being violated. I feel this way, I feel like I can go down Butler at 80mph and if I get a ticket so what? It won't be enforced. Thank you for your time.

Mayor Jones: I think we all heard you loud and clear. Chief, you heard the things about the cars and paper tags. Mr. Nomikos, we will make sure that these are carried out and council will make sure that this is followed up on and corrected.

John Duggan: Let me say this to you. Part of our responsibility is to prosecute cases if jury trials are asked for. It will be helpful if those of you who are witnesses to specific issues contact us and be willing to testify to help us establish this. We need some witnesses.

Councilman Cook: Peter, update us on what these folks are talking about. I would also like you to communicate with Mr. Alexander. It disturbs me that some of those things are two years old. I am not criticizing you, I just don't know what went on at that time. Something should have been settled on them.

Peter Nomikos: I can update you right now on 109 Hickory. We did cite the property owner for the pool and a truck full of garbage two years ago. 101 Sycamore, we cited them a couple of years ago and they covered the pool. It is since off and it is unsanitary. As far as the truck, the last time my inspector was there he did not see the truck on the premises. We will ask them to start the vehicles for us.

Councilman Cook: Please update me in writing.

Councilman Black: Could I ask a question? What method do we use to notify the people that they are in violation? Something attached to the door?

Peter Nomikos: Both. If there is a violation and the inspector is there, he can go ahead and leave a write up. It is followed up by a letter in the mail and they are given two weeks to correct it. If at that time they have not made any effort or if they have contacted us for an extension, we will work with them on that case. We will issue a summons. We leave our phone number and hope they will contact us but in most cases they do not. We take it to the next step which is to have them appear in front of the judge.

Councilman Black: Would it be beneficial for your department to rotate some hours during the week to catch these people at home?

Peter Nomikos: The inspector comes in at 7:00 pm and works until 3:00 pm and catches people before they leave. We could possibly look into having them come in on Saturday.

Councilman Black: If we do not contact these people personally we don't know if they got the letter, citation, we don't have proof that we notified them.

Peter Nomikos: The codes require that we give written notice and it can be by posting on the property or putting it in first class mail. Both are acceptable means of notice. If we send a ticket, we send that by certified letter.

Councilman Cook: Mr. Sapp, would you work with Mr. Nomikos.

Mayor Jones: Working 7-3 won't get it, sometimes he needs to come in a 12:00 pm and work until seven or eight. That is when you will catch them at home. I think every letter you send should be certified. It costs an extra \$2.00.

Councilman Hunter: Would you put that on the committee agenda next month?

John Duggan: We can have the police department help catch them at home. They could call the building department and someone can go by and give them notice.

Peter Nomikos: We could also give it to the officer on shift to take it.

John Duggan: Absolutely. Some coordination with the police department where we have someone on duty seven days a week, 24 hours a day would be a good idea. I bet we can get them that way.

Mayor Jones: They would pay more attention to it.

- b. Unknown: I have one quick question. In the ordinance does it say anything about owner or resident? Because if it is a resident who doesn't own the property, he probably doesn't care. Is there any way we can address that to the owner?

Mayor Jones: Absolutely. He is the one responsible.

Unknown: A lot of people who are the problems are not the owners, they are just people living there.

- c. Skeet Prinze: I live at 117 Hyde Circle. I have a couple of questions. First of all, why was Spinx singled out when right across the street, there is two signs on the pole for Eckerd's, which by the new ordinance you are putting out will still make Eckerds, if I am understanding correctly, at four. There are two poles, one on each side of the building.

Russell Sapp: The pole only counts as one sign.

Skeet Prinze: I am talking about two poles and two sides of the building. Spinx only had two signs on the poles and one sign on the building.

Mayor Jones: The problem is they want to put their name on the building. You're right.

Skeet Prinze: Of course, we won't talk about the city and the cultural center. Where it says about the products, does that mean that they can't put products up?

Mayor Jones: Are you saying advertisements? They can use banners. It is all clarified in the ordinance.

Skeet Prinze: Like Kellett's has Citgo written several times plus they have two signs. I just wondered why Spinx was singled out.

Mayor Jones: I don't think they were. Years ago, there were a different group of people here and we are just trying to clarify it. You're right. That's where I got involved. Spinx tried to put his name on the building and he couldn't. Mr. Hunter took it back to the committee and corrected it.

Skeet Prinze: It was on the building.

Mayor Jones: I know. We made him take it down.

Skeet Prinze: Across the street, Eckerds has four and Walgreens has three. I am curious about that. We are trying to bring businesses in, and we need to either let everybody have it or nobody. Since they brought up this thing in Glendale, why are the police not taking the summonses anyway? If it is something to take you to court, why don't the police take them?

Mayor Jones: The Zoning Official, that is his job. He has a badge, too. He made a good point. If the police take it, that will get your attention.

Skeet Prinze: That was it. I was concerned when Spinx took their sign down and I thought, why is he doing that? I can name six or seven corner lots.

- d. Leo Joyce: On the pool issue, why isn't it possible to have an ordinance on the pool issue that says failure to upkeep your pool, if it is an underground pool, the City will come in and cover it and charge them. If it is an above-ground pool, they will come in and remove it. Is it possible to put that in an ordinance.

John Duggan: If you charge them with nuisance, and if they do not correct it, you can, like a property owner has a dilapidated building and won't bring it up to code, we can take civil legal action and tear that building down. The City has to pay for that and then we seek recovery costs from the owner. Frankly, the difficulty is that it costs to initiate the legal action and then it costs to tear the building down. If you have a property owner that doesn't have any assets, you the taxpayers get stuck with it. We use it, but do so sparingly because of the costs.

Leo Joyce: Then you should charge taxes for people who have in-the-ground pools. Sorry, Dale. In Long Island, people were charged taxes for above and in-ground pools. I know one fellow put an in the ground pool in and he found out his taxes went up \$4000 a year, he told them I don't have a pool and invited them out because he covered it with dirt. Cheaper that way.

- e. Unknown: In Glendale, I don't know how you prove it, but we have houses with more than one family living there. The one across from me, there is someone living in the garage, the bottom and top part of the house. They have furniture in the garage. Is there any way... we own our house, those other people are all in that house together. I think that is why the whole neighborhood is going down.

Mayor Jones: I may be wrong, but I think Mr. Nomikos can go to the post office and find out who is getting mail. Thank you all for coming. You have to help us and I know, Earl, you have done this for two years and I am very disappointed in this. I won't continue. Don't feel bad to call us if you see something.

- f. Unknown: I have been a proud resident of Mauldin and have worked for Mauldin Elementary for 23 years. I have seen our neighborhood change. This stuff hasn't just started. I talked to him personally and someone else in the office that covered the position for a while. He asked me to be patient that he was new. I was about this close to calling channel 4 to find out why Mauldin is not enforcing their city ordinances. Like a lot of people, my home is all I have, that is my equity. I don't want to move, but because the ordinances are not being enforced, there are a lot of us contemplating whether we need to cut and run now or stay in Mauldin. I consider us the hub of Mauldin. I can walk anywhere in Mauldin. I could walk to school if I wanted to before they moved. All of our children are getting ready to be shipped to Greenbrier. They are moving us out. We are not even considered City of Mauldin anymore. This incident on the corner of Parsons when you first walk in to our neighborhood, those cars were gone Sunday. I went to the store and they were all gone. The junk was still in the back of the house where you can see it, but when I came to the meeting tonight, now a new van is parked behind the house where you can't see it and another car is in the driveway.

The house is in disrepair. I asked the owner myself, are you going to finish painting the house. Oh, yeah, I am going to take care of that. Now these people are renting, they don't care about our neighborhood.

Mayor Jones: That is the problem. I am glad you are saying this because what is happening is that people are renting their houses rather than living there and we need to get with the owner of the property and they are going to have to correct it. We can correct and charge them for it and if they don't pay put a lien against their property. We can correct it, we just haven't been doing what should have been done.

Unknown: I think that we have been very patient. We have tried to work within the law, but the law is not really helping us.

Mayor Jones: Give us a little time and keep coming back. Do not let it go a year or two.

- g. Elmer Grimm: When I moved to Forrester Farms, I went to every door, told them I was moving in, this is my address, and the place looked like a mess. There was so much brush in the front yard, it had been for sale for probably 2 ½ years and no one looked at it because they couldn't stand it. The people next door to me went on their honeymoon and when they came back, the front yard, what was there, I cleaned it all up. I pruned the shrubs, I talk to people when something bothers me on my street. I am the lawn police. If they don't cut their grass, I will be over. Weeds, if they don't take care of it, I will come along and spray it. I don't want grass growing over the curb, and if it is, I will bring my weed whacker and go around the whole street. They know I mean it. If you come down our street, you will understand why it looks the way it does today.

Mayor Jones: He probably has 1000-2000 plants in his yard. It is probably the nicest yard in town. He is a master gardener.

Councilman Cook: I hate to do this, but I am going to. If you have a problem and you can't get anything done, call me. Then if it is not done, you can call me and blame me for it. But, I am in the phone book, if you need to call me, call me. I might not can do everything you want, but I will listen to you and we will work on it.

Mayor Jones: I appreciate that. Tell them what you normally tell them.

Councilman Cook: I am going to tell them to call the Mayor. But I will listen to you. But seriously, and I know each of these folks will do the same. If we don't know it, and let me, Mayor if I can take a few minutes. When I was on County Council, I used to get 50 calls a day. Then you know things are not right. I have been here three years, and I bet I have got less than ten calls with someone complaining. I don't want them complaining, but what my point is, if I don't get calls, I think everything is wonderful.

Earl Alexander: I think we have beat this horse to death. The police chief took some notes and I appreciate what you are saying. Mr. Nomikos is going to get on it. He is responsible to you, you and you. We are going to sit back and watch and then we are going to call you.

Councilman Cook: I can handle it.

#### 4. Reports and Communications from city officers.

- a. City Administrator: I have one thing. I talked at the last council meeting about the entranceway sign. This is a start. Visualize this 25 feet long, I have to get the size factor down at the site as far as the height. Also, visualize flags behind the sign. This will be lit. This last thing about the lights, those are renderings there. This is a smaller version of what we have at the sports center.

Mayor Jones: This is a first rendering of Mr. Sapp's thought. It will be landscaped and it is at Forrester Drive and 276, we also will have something coming in from Columbia on 276, one at 417, and two at East and West Butler. This will be the largest one.

Mr. Sapp: We would have to put the brickwork out to bid. I feel sure this is within our budget to get something going. I know this has been a long time frame.

Mayor Jones: We are pushing hard to have this completed by July. We have been stalling, not council, but we need to get this completed.

5. Reports from standing committees.

- a. Fire (Mr. Godbey)
- b. Police (Mr. Cook)
- c. Recreation (Mr. Smith)
- d. Planning and Economic Development (Mr. Hunter)
- e. Public Works Committee (Mr. Kennedy)
- f. Finance and Policy (Mr. Black)

6. Reports from special committees.

7. Unfinished Business

- Planning and Economic Development Committee (Mr. Hunter)
  - a. Consideration and action on on-street parking.

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this on second readings with Councilman Smith seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- Planning and Economic Development Committee (Mr. Hunter)
  - b. Consideration and action on Bethel Greene annexation

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-).

8. New Business

- Fire Committee (Mr. Godbey)
  - a. Consideration and action on thermal imager purchase.

Chairman Godbey made a motion to purchase the imager with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).
- Police Committee (Mr. Cook)
  - b. Consideration and action on vehicle acquisition.

Chairman Cook made a motion to buy two police vehicles with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).
- Planning and Economic Development Committee (Mr. Hunter)
  - c. Consideration and action on amendment to Zoning Ordinance to allow a third sign for freestanding commercial businesses located on corner lots.

Chairman Hunter made a motion to pass this with a second by Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- Public Works Committee (Mr. Kennedy)
  - d. Consideration and action and executive session for personnel matter.

Chairman Kennedy made a motion to go into executive session after the formal session with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Godbey: During the break, I was informed on the reasons for this session and I will vote for it.

- Committee of the Whole
  - e. Consideration and action on executive session for contractual matters.

Chairman Cook made a motion to go into executive session after the formal session with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- f. Discussion on clean-up at Jenkins Street facility.- executive
- g. Consideration and action on Christmas decoration purchase.- executive

Councilman Hunter made a motion to reject IBM's request for forgiveness of late business license penalties. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Hunter made a motion to accept Bi-Lo's settlement of the business license dispute. Councilman Godbey seconded and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Kennedy sent the personnel matter back to committee.

Councilman Kennedy reported that \$48,000 is allocated for Christmas Decorations and made a motion to accept the lowest bid. Councilman Black seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- 9. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda.- None
- 10. Council requests.- None
- 11. Adjournment.- Mayor Jones

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk