

**Minutes  
Mauldin City Council  
Informal Session  
March 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. City Attorney John Duggan and Interim City Administrator Russell Sapp were also present.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Jones
  - a. Invocation- Councilman Black
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Cook
  - c. Welcome- Mayor Jones
  - d. Proclamations and Presentations- Proclamation on sunshine law week.-  
Mayor Jones  
Martin Livingstone was present representing CDBG and gave the public hearing.
2. Reports from Standing Committees
  - a. Fire (Chairman Godbey)
    - i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief  
Lt. McAbee: Good evening. You have in front of you the monthly report for February. The average response time was 3 minutes for February. Fire was 3.1 and medical 2.9. The fire was up a little because of two mutual aid calls with Simpsonville so that increased our response times slightly. The top of your paper says Performance Report, January 2007, it should be February. We caught that this morning. For runs, we had 208- 53 fire, 147 medical, and 8 miscellaneous. That is up from last year. The call volume is increasing drastically. We are averaging 10.5 FF per shift. The dollar loss is pending on insurance claims. I will be happy to answer any questions if I can.
  - b. Police (Chairman Cook)
    - i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.  
Chief Turner: Good evening. Nice to see you again. February was an interesting month. There are highlights in your notes. The robotic animal we purchased through funds from Bilo, we made sure that we put that to good use in some of the schools locally and businesses. We tried some different things in that avenue. As you remember last month, we had Joshua Robinson sworn in front of you and he is progressing well. We had a vacancy filled in dispatch with Allie Monson. She is doing well in her new role. She is only 18 years old, but is trying to get a grasp on things and finding out how she can

help the City of Mauldin. I do not feel that this is going to be something she wants to do all of her life, but it is going to give her insight into the job force and it is probably the best job she has had to this point. Anything we can offer as far as experience is very important.

We did have one structural change with Debbie Cooke who was working in our evidence department. She is now in court and works under Ms. M. Cooper here so that leaves us one vacancy. That is something we are going to work on this month. Training and a couple of other things were off this month. How what and why different things are offered and what we have going on in the City. The statistical report- there is a new section this month as I had promised just to give you an update where we are.

That is all I have at this time.

Councilman Hunter: The numbers from this year and last year are up in almost all categories. Is that better reporting or more incidences investigated?

Chief Turner: Overall, the calls for service are up. As I discussed with you when I was first hired, the calls for service numbers are a little high and I still believe some of that is due to inaccurate reporting. If you will go down the list and the type of calls, there is an increase and that is standard throughout the state and the nation. We would like to have a substantial decrease. Property crimes are steady- personal injuries- you can't gauge when that is going to happen. We know in summer months as things get heated, people get heated. We try to prep for that, but I would say those numbers are very accurate as far as that. That is the non self-initiated things. That is not traffic stops but you call me and I respond to your house.

Councilman Hunter: Is domestic violence still the biggest issue we face?

Chief Turner: It is one of the biggest ones and I think it will continue to be. We try to prep our officers on education and training on CDV. The coding changes- when I went through classes some of those were CDV and it is a family issue and of course we have to respond to it. When you are convicted of CDV there are a lot of things that go with it. You use your ability to carry or purchase a weapon, so the courts are constantly modifying it. That is one of the issues we still see a good bit of.

ii. Discussion on Police Forensic Video Analysis Software

Chairman Cook: I was privileged to sit on in this demonstration and the videos they showed and how it worked. I think it is something we are really needing. It will help us in the long run. Chief?

Chief Turner: Right. Really briefly, this is a need we saw in the Department a couple of months ago and tried to address. We sought approval of two cars instead of three. This will definitely be of a value and asset to all of us at the police department and also Simpsonville, Fountain Inn, that may not have this equipment. Looking into the process, basically this is a system that will allow us to take both digital and VHS tapes, single out different picture frames, convert those over to whatever modifications to extract whatever images we need and print these images out in a timely manner. I mention the store where we had a safe taken out of a business and we couldn't get for whatever reason produce images for the media. Although we could see the guys come in and pick the safe up, we could see them look at the camera and go over to the door, we couldn't do anything with it. We had to rely on someone else to process it for us so we were at their mercy when we could get that information out.

With a trained person, we could probably pull that image in six minutes. That means in six minutes, we could have it emailed, faxed out to the media to officers and whatever else. That is robberies, vehicles, it would be very beneficial for us to have. Child abductions. They may coincidentally be taping an area that we need and we could pull that image in closer to get someone's tag number. The original amount was \$23,100 and they went through and gave us a 10% discount for \$20,810. There is a \$1500 yearly contract that keeps us up to date with any modifications in the program and they will come teach us and do the additional software for that. With this, if you look at my recommendation, we will move forward with this purchase. I would also like to gain approval for two officers for out of state travel to train at Signal Scape Headquarters in Cary, NC. This training is provided with the purchase of the equipment, so we will be looking at the travel expense as well. I wanted to get that all on the table at one time.

Mayor Jones: Chief, does this make us totally self-sufficient where we won't have to send anything out to anyone and wait for it to come back?

Chief Turner: We will have one of the premiere video enhancement tools in the state. There is one notch above that and you can only purchase it if you have a wealth of funds available. There may be a time where you have to send something to SLED to process but that would be the extent of it.

Chairman Cook made a motion to send to council approval of the equipment purchase at \$20,800 and the \$1500 for the service contract. That comes in after the first year. The motion also will authorize the out of state trip for training.

Councilman Godbey: Mr. Cook at the police committee meeting impressed me with the clarity of the pictures and enhanced videotape. It will do more than capture images, it captures them in a very useful way.

Chairman Cook: He gave up a new police car so it is very important. He is really sold on it.

iii. Discussion on Travel Approval for Property Evidence Training in Atlanta, GA

Chairman Cook: On the financial impact, \$675 dollars includes the fee and members, \$79 for hotel and lodging for one night. We questioned the Chief about this and the two young, I hope I am saying this right, the two young ladies are going to stay in the same room. We questioned that and I think in the future we can look at letting them stay in a room by themselves. \$153 per diem. We also will go in a marked police car.

Chief Turner: I am not one to put all my eggs in one basket. When you have one leave on emergency or sickness, or whatever, it cripples you when you do not have someone to immediately fall into that place either to temporarily take it over and massage it through or to take the place. That is why we are looking at two. Both of these ladies need this training whether they continue a full-time assignment in that area or not. We need our technicians to be trained because chain of custody is something we cannot afford to compromise.

Councilman Black: Is this to fill the vacancy in the department?

Chief Turner: Partially. One of the officers that is doing this is Officer Carpenter. She is trained to do some different test like marijuana and that is a little separate than this. But, yes, that is the goal.

Chairman Cook sent the item of the two officers to training to the formal session.

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

Angela Cooper: My report will be short for February. There were 748 new cases filed, 546 cases were disposed of, and as of the end of February, 1992 are still pending. I wanted to inform you that Judge Romosca is in his final week of Judge School. Judge Salvini will be here Wednesday and it will be her first term of court.

- c. Recreation (Chairman Smith)
  - i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director.

Van Brannon: Thank you. Just to catch you up with what is going on at the Recreation Department, our Senior program continues to thrive in our absence. The annual Easter Egg Hunt is Thursday. We will have over 500 children 5 years of age and under. If you come, be ready. In our Parks Management division, they are continuing to do a great job. If you have had a chance to go out to the parks you have seen the way the rye grass started to jump with this nice weather. You would be hard pressed to find any better facilities as far as the turf not only in the state, but the country for a municipality of our size. Jimmy and his staff have done a tremendous job. Now that the fields are in very good condition, he is focusing on some beautification projects. Landscaping at City park, signage around the restrooms, drainage work at Springfield Park. Our baseball and softball program, they have been practicing and getting ready to start this season. Saturday is opening day which is a big event. It starts at 8:30 am and we would like to have everyone out there if possible. The sports center, the number continues to grow. We have over 1600 members now. This is truly amazing. The staff is doing a great job dealing with the members and all the other issues trying to keep everything moving forward. The kids. The doors- as of this afternoon are scheduled to be framed on Wednesday. This will alleviate some of the problems. The membership cards are getting sent out. We are getting a price on tying that in with the system that unlocks and locks the doors.

Our fit kid program we are very excited about. It will start after Spring Break. I want to thank you for all your support.

Councilman Godbey: On the opening of the sports center, we have talked about scholarships for medically needy and other folks.

Van Brannon: Linda and I are playing phone tag. I called her and she called me back and left a message. She was going in the sports center today. We are going to meet with her tomorrow to get some insight since she deals with the same kinds of issues. We want some feedback from her. Opening Day is 8:30 a.m. at Sunset.

Mayor Jones: It will do your heart good to see that money kids participate in the sports program.

Van Brannon: Come Thursday and Saturday and you will see plenty of kids. I assure you of that.

Chairman Smith: Do you have any idea of the total number of kids that will be involved in the games Saturday?

Van Brannon: It won't be our entire program- but will probably have 1,000 kids.

Chairman Smith: You and your department are to be commended on the way that has gone. I know it will be an outstanding event for you.

ii. Discussion on Parks management staffing.

Chairman Smith: In your packets, you have the information where the Recreational Department where the parks management department has been appointed to take care of the grounds at the cultural center and at city hall. In order to do that budget-wise, Mr. Brannon has asked about \$5,000 being transferred from PW to Recreation to account for a staff person to handle the additional work load. I make a motion that we approve the transfer of these funds from the Sanitation Department to Recreation.

Councilman Cook: What is this going to do to our street cleaning? In reality, this was not ever discussed with the PW Committee. I think that we are getting complaints about our streets and sidewalks not being cleaned and then we are going to divvy up \$5,000 to help the Recreation Department. I have a problem with it and someone might be able to explain it and change my mind.

Councilman Kennedy: We haven't discussed this in my committee and we always need to discuss issues like this before we move any monies to any department. I think it should come through the committee initially and let us discuss it before we try to transfer funds. That's just my opinion.

Russell Sapp: This money was allotted to begin with for building and grounds maintenance. It was not anything to do with streets. It was budgeted for building and grounds. It was taken away from the PW Department and moved to the Recreation Department. Jimmy is taking care of the grass out front as well as at the other departments. That is what the move is for is out of the building maintenance fund.

Mayor Jones: We gave them the obligation to do the work without funding staff, is that right?

Russell Sapp: Correct.

Councilman Cook: I understand that. Why is it just coming up now when we transferred it over, why didn't they ask then?

Mayor Jones: I guess they didn't realize they would need them. I assure you that they are doing a lot of extra work and might need another person.

Lisa White: It is actually building maintenance and that line item in building maintenance which used to include grounds has 78% budget remaining and should only have about 33% left, so it is way under budget in the salaries. The way Tom Lynn budgeted was to have the people in the building maintenance department clean the lawn at city hall. Jimmy Whitesides was doing such a good job with the lawn, he took it over and we let them continue it without giving them the funds out of building maintenance.

Mayor Jones: The \$5,000 is not going to affect the department?

Lisa White: Not going to hurt it a bit.

Councilman Cook: The thing that gets me if they came and took it over and did such a good job, what do they need more money for? The thing that we are off base was that y'all are taking money from our committee and not telling us until we come up here. It should have been discussed in the Public Works committee saying we need this and we all agree. Then I just saw it on my computer today. \$5,000, I don't have a qualm with that, but I am saying we could use that \$5,000 and I know it is in building and maintenance, but we could also transfer it from building and maintenance to streets. Is that correct?

Lisa White: Mmm hmm.

Councilman Kennedy: We need to make sure that each committee when you are transferring money, we need to know what you are doing. The procedural matter of it is what I am concerned about. You might need these people, but you have to let us know what you are doing. Keep us in the light not the dark.

Mayor Jones: If it is not going to affect the street department, you said you had 78% of the budget left, it is part-time and we are trying to get through June 30<sup>th</sup>, do you really have that much problem with \$5,000 when we still have 78% of the budget left?

Councilman Godbey: I applaud Mr. Cook and Kennedy for paying attention to process and policy. I think it is extremely important to pay attention to the process and this has been an issue for me as long as I have been on council. I do think with this matter, I agree with your position that it is \$5,000 and it is already being used for the purpose it was set aside for. I don't have a problem with going forward but I agree with the objections raised by both council members.

This item was moved to the formal agenda.

Councilman Black: Was this discussed in the Recreation committee meeting this past month? If it was, then all of council had the pleasure of reading this before tonight. I think it was discussed.

Chairman Smith: It was discussed and approved.

Councilman Cook: That don't mean, what are you trying to say?

Councilman Black: If it was discussed in Recreation and you have the minutes of the meeting and you had a problem with the transfer of \$5,000, someone should have brought it to the attention of Mr. Sapp and Ms. White prior to tonight.

Councilman Cook: Mr. Black, I beg to differ. Mr. Sapp and Ms. White should have brought it before PW Committee. I read the minutes but it should have been brought to them, we shouldn't have to seek out everything.

Mayor Jones: Can you live with it this time?

Councilman Cook: Oh, yes.

iii. Discussion on Capital purchase of a truck.

Chairman Smith: You will notice on your sheet that money was in the budget to purchase a sprayer and two field groomers which after the recreation department refurbished the machines, they were able to get by with them. They need a truck more than new equipment. As it was brought forward, the process has been gone through to get bids and you have that information. I will make a motion to move this to the formal session for \$20,296.

iv. Discussion on CDBG resolution.

Chairman Smith: I will make a motion to move this to the formal session.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Administrator.

Peter Nomikos: In your boxes on Friday, you should have received an update on Glendale II. Just to go over briefly, we had a total of 11 cases, of those, one the police chief informed me that the owner of the vehicle that has been swapping paper tags was stopped and ticketed. The blue Navigator has not been seen since. The landlord at 200 Sycamore is in the process of evicting the tenant for non-payment. I believe they have already filed something with the magistrate in Simpsonville. The owner at 109 Hickory was cited previously and we issued a new ticket because they paid the fine but did not correct the violation. They are supposed to appear before the magistrate on April 4<sup>th</sup>. 101 Sycamore, the owner there had been fined previously on the pool and was fined \$200.00. The pool has since been covered and that is closed. The pickup truck has been removed from the property that had an expired license plate.

103 Verdin, the blue Lincoln Town car, the owner had just removed the tag to transfer it to another vehicle and is trying to sell the vehicle. They did ask for more time and we granted an extension. 102 Hickory that had vehicles with current license plates that were allegedly inoperable, after input from the city attorney we did contact them and they did on March 15<sup>th</sup> demonstrate that both vehicles would start up, go into gear, and move under their own power. They are operable by the definition and that case is closed. 212 Hickory, we found a pile of carpet at the street which has been removed and that case is closed. 221 Hickory, there was a pile of carpet at the street also. It has been removed and the case closed. 204 Sycamore, the trash that was in the utility trailer has been removed. The owner asked for an extension to enclose the open carport to keep the El Camino. We did give him an extension and he is currently working on that. 208 Hickory on the complaint we received regarding 3 families living in the dwelling, that turned out to be unfounded. There is one couple living in the house. They did have her daughter and son-in-law staying with them for about five months last year. 102 Sycamore, the trash and rubbish has been cleaned up. 108 Sycamore, the trash has been cleaned up and those cases are now closed. Those are the cases in Glendale II. We have been in Glendale I, III, Eastdale and Montclair and we will go through Verdin Estates, Holly Springs, and then on the other side of town. Hopefully, we will be able the bulk of them before grass starts growing and complaints come in heavily.

Mayor Jones: I would like to ask you one question. How much time did you give these people?

Peter Nomikos: 2 weeks.

Councilman Cook: It must be my night. Have you read the resolution or what the county is looking at for a nuisance law? We have places like we have and I think they give them 10 days. I don't know if they passed it or not, but it is something we might look at. If they don't do it, we come in and clean it up ourselves and put a lien on the property. Can you look into that and get back with me?

Peter Nomikos: Actually, we could do something similar. We already have the ability to do it. The problem is when you go in and tow off vehicles, you have to have an impound facility to keep the vehicles secured. Next, the owner can come back and claim that the vehicle was in some way damaged when we removed it from the property. If it is material on the property, they can claim that it had value- it was not trash or rubbish. The clearest and cleanest way to do it is issue a citation and then follow up with a ticket if they fail to comply with removing it themselves. It saves the city from potential liability.

Councilman Cook: I would like us to look into the ordinance for inoperable vehicles. I understand that some places have- to me, an operable vehicle would be one that you can get out of your driveway and drive on the road. What is going to stop someone from fixing it where it will run. It might just run that time we went down there. Is it going to run the next day? You don't know. Those cars can be operable and not run. I think operable should be where they can run on the highway. You might want to check with our illustrious attorney and get some verbiage on that. I would like to see something where we can or can't do it. Those cars sit there and you say they are operable, but they don't operate, they sit there.

Peter Nomikos: In this case, the property owner came into the office about the ticket they received. I explained to them that if the vehicles were operable, all they had to do was demonstrate that. Immediately thereafter we left the office and went to their house. They started both of them up and moved them under their own power.

Councilman Cook: How far did they move them?

Peter Nomikos; I just had them move them to the end of the driveway and back.

Councilman Cook: We disagree on that.

Mayor Jones: I think we need to refer to the attorney. He is scribbling over here.

Councilman Black: That is going to cost us.

Mayor Jones: Always. I think he wants to clarify.

John Duggan: What we will do is for the committee, we will draft revised wording for you to look at to define more specifically what you all want to be an operable vehicle. We will get that to committee.

Mayor Jones: By next week?

John Duggan: We will try, who should this go to?

Chairman Hunter: Mine.

Councilman Black: I would write it in English.

Chairman Hunter: I appreciate your efforts. How are we going to maintain this from developing again in Glendale II?

Peter Nomikos: We have been working this area for the past several years. It turned out that there were more violations than we were aware of. We will try to stay on top of it. For the most part, we work on a complaint basis, so if we are made aware of a violation, we will take care of it. In this instance, we are trying to be proactive while we have the chance.

Councilman Cook: In the county, when we had a complaint, we went out there and we also looked at the neighborhood while we were there.

Peter Nomikos: That was a program I instituted while I was with the County.

Councilman Cook: Will you institute it here?

Peter Nomikos: We have it here too.

Councilman Cook: When did we start? Since you have been here?

Peter Nomikos: Well, it had been primarily complaint only. I have got the inspector focusing more on the neighborhoods now that the sign issues have been taken care of. It can concentrate more on the neighborhoods and improve the quality of life there.

Councilman Cook: Are there any repeaters in this?

Peter Nomikos: We have some. In particular, 109 Hickory with the swimming pool. We cited them last year and the year before. The pool gets green and they don't take care of it. It goes back into disrepair.

Councilman Cook: We don't have anything in the ordinance on how they have to cover it?

Peter Nomikos: Securely covered.

Councilman Cook: Do we go back after they say it is secure, do we go back and check it?

Peter Nomikos: We do follow up to make sure the violation is corrected before we close the case. One thing I will add as far as the offenders, first offense is a notice, second time is a written notice giving them so many days to correct it, third offense we go straight to a ticket.

Councilman Cook: If I remember correctly and somebody has got to help me, I believe we discussed previously that we were going to look into the possibility of hand delivering the citations. Where are we at on that?

Peter Nomikos: When the inspector has a violation at the property, he will write a correction notice and leave it on the door and follow it up with a letter in the mail.

Mayor Jones: Is the letter registered?

Peter Nomikos: It is not registered. The cost of registered letters are \$4.50 a piece.

Councilman Cook: It wouldn't cost as much as riding out and hand delivering it.

Peter Nomikos: The acceptable means of notice are posting on the property, depositing in first class mail, or handing them to the individual. The tickets are sent by registered mail because we are required to get a return receipt when we deliver an ordinance summons ticket.

Councilman Cook: One more question, what are we doing on the weekends? Anything?

Peter Nomikos: I asked Stuart on the possibility of doing it on the weekends.

Councilman Cook: Peter, let me say something and it is going to be kind of blunt. Whoever you are talking to and what the possibility is, I think you heard from council that is what we want. I think you should be telling me that we are going to do it and not we are talking to him about the possibility. I want to hear from you that we are going to do it. That's blunt.

Peter Nomikos: We would have done it this past weekend, but he had a family emergency to attend to in Jacksonville, FL and was not able to start. I believe he will be doing it this weekend.

Councilman Cook: Peter, let me go back again. What you believe don't help me at all. I want to know what you are going to do. I don't want to be a smart aleck, but that is what I want to know.

Peter Nomikos: 95% certain I can get him out this weekend.

Councilman Cook: My suggestion is that if he can't, that black car should be riding around. But, you work for Mr. Sapp, not me. I am just telling you my feelings.

Mayor Jones: I have got two cents. Mr. Nomikos, 7-3pm is not going to get the job done. The first two hours, nothing happens. I can take you any day you want to go after 5:00 pm and that is when they think everyone leaves and everything starts to happen. You are going to have to change the hours, 10-6 or something two to three days a week. That might solve the weekend problem, but people know that when 5:00 pm comes, no one is going to bother them. I can take you to see any violations you want to see. You are going to have to do something, because 7-3 don't get it.

Councilman Black: Is Stuart the only one that is certified, qualified, or trained to do this?

Peter Nomikos: He is the only inspector I have that is currently qualified to do it.

Councilman Black: Are you qualified?

Peter Nomikos: I am qualified, yes.

Councilman Black: So there is two of you.

Peter Nomikos: When I have the time, I try to go out with Stuart through the neighborhood.

Councilman Black: What do you do when Stuart is on vacation or out sick?

Peter Nomikos: I usually handle those cases then.

Councilman Black: I think it is a matter of scheduling and working that out with Stuart for the citizens and this is what council asked at the last meeting.

Peter Nomikos: And we are well ahead of schedule as far as hitting all neighborhoods. We are through Glendale 1, 3, Eastdale, and Montclair and should have Verdin Estates and Holly Springs this week.

Councilman Black: Like Mr. Cook says, my suggestion is every opportunity you can to hand deliver them and talk to them about the violation and tell them why you are giving them the violation. I read them, and I am sorry, my handwriting is not too good, but I cannot read part of them. It would be hard to interpret what the violation is unless you have got the code book in front of you.

Peter Nomikos: I have two announcements. Paula Foltz's mother-in-law passed away last Tuesday and Donna Carbaugh, our permit clerk, her mother passed away this morning. We will send some flowers.

Mayor Jones: Sorry to hear that.

- ii. Discussion on request to remove dying "Historic Tree" at Crescentwood.

Chairman Hunter: We have a request to remove historic trees at Crescentwood Village. One of the historic trees that was preserved between buildings B and C is dying and has become a hazard to people and property. The new owner of the property is requesting removal of the tree. The prior owner had requested and received approval to remove two other trees in July, 06. These trees were affected by construction and grading prior to the new tree protection

requirements.

Chairman Hunter moved this item to the formal agenda.

Councilman Godbey: There will be tree credits they will have to abide by.

e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director.

Interim Administrator Sapp: A couple of items. The 22<sup>nd</sup> was Mr. Raines' last day. He submitted his resignation on the 13<sup>th</sup> effective March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have advertised for the position and it is to close on the 30<sup>th</sup>. One of the other issue is the work plan for the sewer department. The work plan is in place and I understand from talking to Mr. Lawson that they have met with WCRSA and right now have a couple of items to look at and they are going to get back with me so that we can approve the agreement. Give me some help.

Chairman Kennedy: What phase are they in now with the agreement?

Ron Lawson: We met last week with Ray Orvin and Brian Bishop and we reviewed the work plan. They had one request for an update on a status for 2006. Once that is finished, they tell me it is complete. And, just as a reminder, the agreement says the work plan will follow certain steps. They were asking us to sign the agreement prior to the work plan and that was an open-ended contract. We said approve the plan and then we will discuss the agreement. That is what they are doing. The next step is for us to draft our version of the agreement and submit it to them. We will involve Mr. Duggan on this, but it is modeled after one that has been approved by Fountain Inn, plus some improvements on things that were worked out with Taylors. We will bring the agreement back to the committee and ultimately council for your review, questioning and approval. It is amazing how the hands of time softens up some of the difficulties. I am confident right now that we will have a good agreement within the next month.

Russell Sapp: One more thing, we did close on the property at McDougal Court. We placed on the committee of the whole referencing purchasing fencing so we can secure the facility. We have discussed this in prior meetings. Also, we are going to upgrade the fencing at Jenkins Street. What we are looking at is getting McDougal secured, moving equipment from Jenkins Street to McDougal, and tearing the fence, brush, shrubs, trees, and replacing the fence in the location there and hopefully getting some trees planted to hide the existing facility over on that side to make it a little more presentable.

ii. Discussion on truck purchase.

Chairman Kennedy: We need to purchase a 2007 Trailblazer and sealed bids were received from Kevin Whitaker for \$21,380 being the low bid. This item will be charged to Sanitation.

Chairman Kennedy made a motion to send this to the formal session.

f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and communications from Finance Director.

Lisa White: Thank you. In your packet you will find the February financial report. We have received 73% of our revenues to date and expended 85% of our budget expenditures. A large portion is the final payout for the Sports Center, which was \$2.5 million. This is a total of \$10.5 million out of the \$12.5 budgeted. The finance department is currently busy preparing the budget. All departments have submitted their budget requests to the city administrator, I have compiled those, and we are in the process of cutting budget trying to prepare for Monday and Tuesday through Thursday, we will have committee meetings where each department will bring their proposed budget so they can go through a detailed explanation of their needs. After that, we will have a council workshop and if I can answer any questions about budget or the financial report, I am glad to.

Chairman Black: Thank you. I appreciate the job you and your staff are doing as well as the other department heads and employees.

ii. Discussion on issuance of bond for McDougal Court.

Chairman Black: This is first reading, and if this is passed on second Reading we have 18 months to do the bond. This is a decision council is going to have to make. We have already paid for the property, but we have a reimbursement bond to include the building at Springfield Park for Recreation and fencing at Jenkins Street in this \$875,000 figure. This came out of committee with a unanimous vote. I move this to the formal agenda for first reading.

iii. Discussion on budget amendment to move money from Public Works to Parks Management.

Chairman Black: The next item is the moving of \$5,000 out of building maintenance over to parks maintenance. This is for the maintenance of city hall property and involves the \$5,000 transfer from one department to another. I move this to formal agenda for adoption.

Councilman Cook: That isn't going to be \$10,000 because we voted on it twice is it?

Mayor Jones: Just one.

Councilman Cook: I don't want y'all to put one over on me.

- g. Committee of the Whole
  - i. Discussion on entranceway/cultural center sign- info to follow

Russell Sapp: What I submitted to you was a rendering of the sign itself. This is for the main entrance at Forrester and 276- N. Main. We are in the process to get some pricing on the brickwork itself. Understand that the lettering we are looking at is silver brushed aluminum with the Lion's Club and Rotary Club International logos and the City of Mauldin logo. We are looking into the cost of the brickwork and the pillars on the sign itself will be 4x4, 12 feet high. The wall in between will be 2 feet wide as far as thickness and the entire sign will be 25 feet long. We will raise it to about 14 feet to allow for plantings of flowers and shrubs that we already have money for through a grant. This sign also has two lights on the top of the columns. The lights are similar to what we have at the sports center. We had talked about those lights at one time, using the same ones down there. We are going to look at that. The lights are fairly large, and we may look at something the next size down.

Understand we are getting ideas on pricing for brickwork. If it is over \$5,000, we will send it out sealed bid. The lettering for the sign is \$5016. I am waiting on the price for brickwork. We discussed this a little more. It is a possibility that the sign will be a little more of a curvature like out front. Put it across the corner to where you can see it up Forrester and 276. Behind the sign will be three flagpoles, one for the American flag, the City flag, and the state flag. They will be lighted by in ground lights left over from the sports center that we will utilize. The next stage will be a 12 ½ foot sign at the other entrances. Four more signs. Please give me any more suggestions you might have. We need to get on this.

Mayor Jones: The paper that is going around, I think it was two or three years ago we got \$15,000 grant for landscaping. The area will be about 70x40 and will be landscaped. It will be lit at night.

Russell Sapp: The sign at the cultural center. I have some ideas on that. I have not received anything from Masstar. I am looking at two brick pillars and being able to slide in some mason like signs and slide a card into the brick itself. The top will be more rounded with the Mauldin Cultural Center, city seal, and having the other members that are occupying the cultural center. I am brainstorming on that.

Councilman Godbey: The signs in Greer coming in on 14 are similar to this. You may contact them on the problems that they may have come up with. They had a landscaping plan and then had to tear it out. If you are thinking ahead, it might be worthwhile to talk to them over there.

ii. Mauldinfest committee appointments.

Mayor Jones: We have Sgt. Reid here volunteering to work and MR. Hunter, Mr. Godbey, and Mr. Smith, would you volunteer?

Councilman Smith: I would be glad to volunteer.

Mayor Jones: I will also help.

Pat Pomeroy: Thank you. I am Pat Pomeroy with the Chamber. I would like to thank you for allowing Ray Reid to be my helper. He has done a very good job. Mauldinfest will be September 21 and 22. We are gearing up for that because it is always a big weekend for the City of Mauldin. We had a group that approached us a few weeks ago about being a part of Mauldinfest and we have been real excited about it. We would like to let you know what we are planning.

Ray Reid: Harley Owners Group is having their state rally in Greenville that same weekend. Normally they go to Greenville. The gentleman who is over their advisory committee approached me. They are not satisfied with Greenville and what they offered them and asked about the possibility of coming to Mauldinfest. I spoke to Pat about having their closing ceremony on Saturday evening at Mauldinfest. It starts at 6:00 pm and runs about an hour. Like she said, Pat has discussed it with some of you. We have gone back to the Harley Owners Group and they have accepted to do it here. In conjunction with that, they were going to do a poker run, but they are going to allow us to do it through Mauldinfest. We are looking at 500-1000 motorcycles. The National President of Harley Davidson is scheduled to be here as well as some regional officers. Our intent was to make a good impression.

Pat Pomeroy: We did let them know up front that we do not sell beer or any type of alcohol for a family festival. That is the reason they approached us. Most of these people are professional people and they are there to enjoy the festival. We are working out some details, but they publish a booklet and they are going to give Mauldin Chamber and City a full page ad which we thought would say Welcome to the City of Mauldin. This is a little brochure that they brought us. I am pretty conservative, and I am really impressed with what they have brought. I think it will be something great to do a little different. They want to spend money so I think we will have some great vendors.

Mayor Jones: What kind of program will it be on Saturday night?

Pat Pomeroy: They would like to have one hour for the closing ceremony. They will have a few speakers to end the rally. They are staying at the Embassy Suites, which is a chamber member, so that was fine with me. They want to parade into Mauldin. I know it will be loud for a period of time, but I think it will be nice to represent the City of Mauldin by allowing them to come in.

Ray Reid: I spoke with Eric Bedengfield and he has agreed that the House will issue a proclamation declaring that Saturday to be Harley Owners Group Day in Mauldin in the State of South Carolina and I may approach the City for a proclamation of something similar. Part of the goal is they have the rally up here every 4-5 years and if we satisfy what they need, they will make return trips each time they come to the Upstate and not going to Travelers Rest or somewhere else.

Pat Pomeroy: And the fact that they are going to be in Mauldin means they will spend money here and that is important for the economy.

Councilman Hunter: Chief, are you supportive of all this?

Chief Turner: We have talked from the beginning. We are going to have to make sure we can accommodate on our end as far as safety and everything else. It will be a work in progress, but if they think they can do this, we are going to lend our support.

Pat Pomeroy: They have a \$1,000,000 insurance policy and they are going to issue us a copy of it.

iii. Council compensation discussion- possible executive session.

Mayor Jones: Has this gone through your committee, Mr. Black? It has been ten years since council had a raise.

Councilman Black: We discussed this many times in committee even back to when Mr. Treadway was here. We have various documents to substantiate the findings. There has not been an increase for 10 years. You cannot get a Cost of Living raise like the city employees can. It has to be voted on by council. It does not take affect until after the next general election where two or more are elected. This has been in committee and I believe the suggestion is to bring it to a workshop or forum.

Mayor Jones: This is compared to Greer? The Mayor makes \$8600 which is \$3.22 an hour. They are talking about raising it to \$10,050. Mayor Pro Tempore make \$6500 a year and they are talking about \$7537 and Council makes \$6150 and they are talking about moving that \$6850. This will be a 20% raise. I believe the city furnishes council members who need and want a cell phone and a lap top. When I was in before in the 80s we had insurance but stopped that.

Councilman Black: The only surrounding municipality that does not offer insurance is I think Travelers Rest. Even cities of our size throughout the state offer council members only insurance at the city employee rate. We found out through the city attorney and attorney general if you have insurance through another means and this is adopted, you can take the money in lieu of it to pay towards your other insurance. This would not go into affect until January, 2008. The

recommendation is either you have the insurance at the city's rate or the money which is a taxable income. You would have a cell phone and a lap top if you desire and the increase in monthly compensation and expended as paid with the forfeiture of a voucher or expense receipt. If you have receipts you can be reimbursed for that. My recommendation is that I would like to see us adopt this with the compensation, insurance, lap top, and cell phone.

Mayor Jones: I don't have a calculator but I guess that brings my salary from about \$3.22 to \$3.45 or something. I didn't run for this job for the money. I would sure like for them to pay my gas. I use my vehicle more than probably all the department heads put together. I am going somewhere. This job has almost become full-time. This is about an \$800 raise.

Councilman Black: The cost to the city for a half year would be \$21,000. The cost for a full FY would be \$42,000.

Mayor Jones: Does anyone want to make a comment?

Councilman Black: There has not been an increase since 1998. All the city employees, we looked back and checked with just their annual cost of living raises and they have gotten approximately a 35% increase in the last ten years.

This item was moved to the formal agenda.

iv. \$150,000 matching fund for paving.

Mayor Jones: How many streets have we paved so far?

Russell Sapp: 32.

Mayor Jones: If we match \$150,000 grant, we will get an additional \$150,000. That would give us the opportunity to pave 10 more streets. We are asking to match the \$150,000 grant.

Councilman Godbey moved this item to the formal agenda.

Councilman Hunter: Excuse me. Where is the money coming from?

Lisa White: I don't have a place for the money. It would be unbudgeted. There is no place to move it from. You can create a budget amendment and add the expenditure. We have some excess revenues that we have gotten this year. I propose an offsetting budget amendment. The way we are going to get that money is that it would be billed in four installments from CTC, so we are not actually going to get the \$300,000.

Councilman Cook: One of our sister cities has not participated in this in a while and they have gotten behind in their paving.

Mayor Jones: We did this last year. Mr. Hunter has a good point. During the break do you want to see if you can come up with something or take it out of the leftovers for where we purchased the building.

Councilman Godbey: I would like to amend the motion I have made to work with Finance to find the money and working with her discretion.

Lisa White: I think right now what Chief Sapp needs us to do is approve it. The contract is signed.

Russell Sapp: That contract was signed at the beginning of the budget year and not budgeted. I know one other administrator requested and was going to get some out of individual department budgets. At this time, that much money is not available at the end of year. We are coming down to redo the budget and we have received some unexpected revenues in the last month or so that we can utilize to pay for this. This will signed a good while back.

Lisa White: We could bring a budget amendment to the Finance committee next month.

Councilman Black: When are the increments going to come in?

Russell Sapp: I don't know. They have already started paving.

Councilman Black: When are we getting a bill, do we know? If we get a bill and it has to go through council and committee, that will be about four weeks.

Mayor Jones: If it comes to a point and it has to be done, we can have a special called session.

Russell Sapp: We will also have a council workshop coming up sometime, too.

Councilman Godbey: Ms. White will be able to advise us in the formal session on options we have to finance this.

v. Fencing at McDougal Court/ Jenkins Street.- info to follow

Mayor Jones: The McDougal Court property now belongs to the City of Mauldin. It is 2.7 acres with a 23,000 square foot building. The Sanitation Department will move there as soon as we get it fenced in. This is what Mr. Sapp was saying a minute ago. He has the bids in. The lowest bid?

Russell Sapp: \$26,564 plus a gate operator. We are looking at not to exceed \$28,000. The gate operator is supplied by others. We are requesting that council approve \$28,000 to put the fencing in for security.

Mayor Jones: That is not Jenkins, too.

Russell Sapp: No sir. That does not include Jenkins. We have to clean that up before we do anything with it. They can't get down there to even measure because it has grown up so much.

This item was moved to the formal session.

Councilman Black: This is 1500 foot of 8 foot fencing with three strands of barbed wire on the top, is that correct? This is one proposal. Is that the right footage that was bid on by all vendors?

Russell Sapp: Yes, sir.

vi. Sliding scale business license sliding scale.

Mayor Jones: We have been talking about this for a long time. We have never had but two businesses that would relate to these numbers of \$300,000,000 plus. We have been trying to find a solution to lure other businesses into town. We have tried to cap it at \$300,000,000 so you would know where you stood with your business license. Paula gave me this earlier this afternoon as related to one of our larger employers, Bilo. Their sales last year were \$395,000,000. They have just settled their business license with us. I am going to let Council come up with some ideas and make some comments. I would like to know your thoughts. She did this right before they closed this afternoon.

Councilman Hunter: Mr. Mayor, there are some legal ramifications of using a sliding scale. It has to be used across the board, not selecting only one category or vendor. Most scales are graduated in increments of a million or two and you would pay 100% on two million, 80% on the second two millions. Ms. Foltz has done some work on that and how it would impact taxes on our employers in town. I have talked to ACOG and ran a proposal by them. Our numbers, in his opinion, are low. \$1.25 per thousand. It should be \$1.35 to \$1.37. Their recommendation was to redo our sliding scale to all levels, not just 8.

Mayor Jones: I don't know where she came up with this. The one she had was \$25 million. I don't know what happened to it. It would go up and then drop to \$.25 after \$25 million. She had it this afternoon.

Councilman Hunter: Chief Sapp and Paula and I have met on a separate occasion discussing the sliding fee scale. That is where the original numbers were generated. ACOG has an expert on their staff up there. He reviewed it for me and gave me his comments. I have been out of town since that meeting and have not had a chance to revisit it. I

would offer to take that to committee and follow up and be able to present something to council at next month's meeting.

Councilman Hunter made a motion to take this item back to committee with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

John Duggan: Please remember you cannot disclose any specific business and what it is doing in revenues. That is expressly prohibited by statute. When you hold committee meetings and other things, we can use examples that don't apply to any particular business but we don't want to relate this to any business. I just wanted to remind you of that.

Councilman Hunter: Thank you. We have not been talking about specifics, only generalities.

vii. Office of Highway Safety grant resolution.

Chief Turner: You should have this in your packet. Last month, Captain Tripp went to Greenville and sat in on a highway safety grant workshop. They were surprised to see us there. One of the reasons is that we haven't been there in a while. We are looking as I told you to seek outside funding when we can for different projects. I am not looking to tie the city down in any financial problems or anything like that, but there are variety of funds available if you seek it. This is our attempt to throw our name back into the arena to try and seek some of the funding. We are looking to submit this application just to say that we are interested in this.

I do not believe that we would stand as fair a chance as other agencies because this is based off of traffic data and statistics, crash and fatality rate. We have some of that in our favor- the amount of traffic coming through our town, but this would allow us to put a person primarily involved with such tasks as education, events they would also be assigned to go the academy to go to classes to prep them as an all around traffic safety officer and get that under their belt. They would be able to work fatality scenes and things of that nature. Their primary concern is proactive stuff, but they would also work wrecks and things of that nature. That is what we went to the seminar for, just to get into the process. What you have before you is an acknowledgement that I have discussed this with you and that I have council's backing as far as seeking the application and turning it in. Should we be awarded the funding, we do not have to accept it. This is just to make the application and let them know I have your backing in pursuing this.

Mayor Jones: This gives you the authority to try and get the grants and if you do, committee will discuss it.

Chief Turner: Absolutely.

Chairman Cook forwarded this item to 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  
March 26, 2007  
7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order- Mayor Jones
2. Reading and Approval of minutes- Informal and Formal sessions- February 26, 2007. Special called minutes March 1, 2007.

Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the February 26<sup>th</sup> minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the March 1<sup>st</sup> minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

3. Public Comment on items appearing on the agenda.
  - a. Jan Dewar: Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you and the Council.  
I appreciate you coming to our facility last week and if any of you ever have the opportunity to see the Mayor on television you would know about the beautiful sight with the Mayor in an apron and you too can look that beautiful. We package the meals Monday through Friday between 9:15 to 10:15 and it takes about an area to package 1200 meals. The Mayor also had an opportunity to deliver meals as well. Bob Cook, I believe you also are a Meals on Wheels volunteer.

Councilman Cook: Tom back there is too.

Jan Dewar: Tom Bennett- you are with Mauldin Methodist Church?

Tom Bennett: That's correct. We have several volunteers there.

Jan Dewar: Mayor, would you tell us about your experience delivering meals?

Mayor Jones: I was shocked when we got there that out of seven Mayors, only two showed up. I said, my goodness, what are we getting into here. The Mayor from Travelers Rest and myself showed up. They got us in line back there and got us some aprons and said we are going to do these meals, pack them into cartons and get them ready to roll. The people

back there are amazing. Did you say you had a thousand volunteers?

Jan Dewar: It takes 100 volunteers a day and we currently have about 1400 active volunteers.

Mayor Jones: That is great. I enjoyed myself and then I took the meals to the people. The older folks appreciated it and I was very gratified and humbled to do this because they are so glad to see you come and so happy that you are there.

Jan Dewar: Thank you very much.

Councilman Cook: May I add something? Faye and do Fountain Inn route 1. They expect you to come and Faye went one time and I wasn't there. She went with my daughter. This lady was sitting on the porch with a light bulb in her hand and when she got there she said will y'all put that light bulb in? My youngest daughter did it. I probably couldn't have done it. They expect those meals and they are happy when you come.

Jan Dewar: Right. It is not only about delivering meals, but checking on our recipients to make sure they are ok. We provide other services as well. Individual volunteers provide services and we do referrals to other agencies when we find out a client needs help in other areas. For those of you that don't know, Meals on Wheels, the volunteers connect with the homebound in our community. It is regardless of age or income. These volunteers deliver hot meals Monday through Friday for those who qualify. We receive referrals from doctors. Anyone can refer someone to receive our meals free of charge. The referral, the doctor tells us what kind of diet this person needs of course and other needs as well. The other needs could be if someone is bedridden, someone is in a wheelchair, on a walker, we pass this information on to you and let you know so you are not impatient waiting for someone to come to the door or we will tell you to go in and put the meal on the counter or hand it to the person. We let you know what their needs are.

We are a private organization. We do not receive ongoing funding from the government and we are not part of United Way. We depend totally on individuals, corporations, civic groups, clubs for our sustaining. We are county wide including Mauldin, Fountain Inn and Simpsonville, Fork Shoals, Taylors, Travelers Rest, Piedmont, Ware Place. We currently 1500 meals per day to those that qualify. The qualifications are you live alone or with someone else who is incapacitated. In other words, you are homebound. You don't drive or your driving is very limited. Most of our clients are elderly. We do provide for those on a temporary basis that are recovering from an illness or surgery of some kind. So, it is again based on need, not on age or income. I started with Meals on Wheels as a volunteer. I delivered the Mauldin apartment route. We currently have here in Mauldin four routes- apartments, outer 1, outer 2, inner route. Those are in different areas. Mauldin has about 80 recipients of Meals on Wheels.

The meal costs approximately \$3.50 per person for one meal, so Meals on Wheels of Greenville is providing to Mauldin residents over \$73,000 a year. I am here to ask of you is to tell someone about us. We need volunteers. If you don't have time, and we are very flexible as far as that is concerned. You can volunteer once a month, once a week, or any time in between. We will take you. We need substitutes as well.

The Mayor has a huge heart. I was telling him during the break that I realize now he doesn't get paid a lot of money, so evidently he does have a huge heart to come in and deliver these meals for us and taking time out of his day and I appreciate that. You can donate to Meals on Wheels and I would like to invite you to our facility and maybe see the volunteers in action and maybe go on a route with someone. I am sure that Tom or Bob or someone else whose face I don't know who is a volunteer, would love to have you go with them on a route. I challenge you as a council or individual to get involved. Thank you very much for your service to our City and for caring about those in our town.

Mayor Jones: Could you tell us the location for people who don't know?

Jan Dewar: Meals on Wheels is located on 15 Oregon Street off of Augusta. It takes 10-15 minutes from here to get there depending on how fast you go. It is really off of Mauldin Road.

Mayor Jones: Before McDonald's.

Jan Dewar: Oh, yes. There is a Carolina First and a Port City Java on the corner of Oregon Street. I also brought some information that I would like to present the Council members. Hopefully I will hear from you about coming by our office.

Mayor Jones: We appreciate all you do for the people, Jan. It is very gratifying. It is great that many people are giving their time to help people who are less fortunate.

Councilman Cook: Another thing they do is have mail outs. They need people to address envelopes and do stamps and all.

Jan Dewar: Right. We have the meal packet line, drivers, clerical opportunities, we pack bag lunches for times during the winter when perhaps our lights go out or we are not able to prepare a hot meal. We will have bag lunches. It is a great opportunity for young groups to get involved in that way to put bags together. We have to do about 1500 of those. Lots of opportunities and Duke Energy retirees come and help us with mailings.

John Duggan: Do you work with the Boys and Girls Scout troops?

Jan Dewar: We do. During the summer especially. Mauldin High School comes periodically when they are out of school. The honor societies have to put in service hours. They come and help us out. We accept all ages as long as they have a chaperone?

Councilman Cook: Did you see her looking at me when she said that?

Jan Dewar: I thought I was looking this way.

Mayor Jones: I met a gentleman the other day and he impressed me and then I met his wife and I could understand how he got that way. They used to live in Mauldin and then they went away to Chicago and San Francisco and worked their way back. Thomas and Edna, let me tell you a little about what they are doing. Wednesday night at 7:00 pm they are having a workshop out at the church and they are bringing in two detectives to put on a workshop on internet predators against children. They are asking anyone to come and bring their kids. I would like to introduce you to both pastors, Thomas and Edna Jones with the Solid Ground Worship Center here in Mauldin.

- b. Thomas Jones: Mr. Mayor and Council, we appreciate the time you have allotted us. We value it. I want to briefly say a little bit about who we are. We just came into Mauldin Easter last year. We have been in the ministry over 10 years. We have traveled around the world and been on every major continent. We have seen devastation and we have been to Parliament, and ministered with kings and heads of state. We have a pretty good, well-rounded view of what things are like and what people go through. One of the things we have done is we always wanted to go where the people are and bring them out. We wanted to be a positive influence wherever we are. One of the reasons we are here is we want to bring things to the community that will keep it safe, that will bring a renewed awareness to things that we become complacent about.

I am sure you are aware about the things that are going on Dateline. It is a sad situation, but I believe we need to start somewhere to inform adults and kids. This is our reason for bringing this workshop here. This is not the only one we are going to bring. When they demonstrated it to me, I felt the whole world needed to see this. What I did is we have the facilities to be able to bring it in a professional way and we are already set up for television. It is a first class setup. When the detectives saw it, they said this is the place that we need to have these things on an ongoing basis. Because of our heart, we strongly agreed. We approached Charter Communications about it. They were so awestruck about it, they are bringing their cameras. They gave us 512 free TV spots, so not only is it going to bring attention to our ministry, but also to the City of Mauldin. That is where our hearts are. We want to be interwoven in what you believe in and where your heart is. I realized that our hearts are knitted together in our vision for Mauldin and the surrounding areas. I believe as we go forth and we, first I know we have to check each other out- you don't know me. You are going to have to find out who I am. Some of you are coming Wednesday night and I believe you will get to

see in a very short amount of time that I am a man after your own heart. I hope you will bring your children. It is an event that will be so eye-opening, I believe when you leave there you will think how in the world did I let this get by me?

It is that easy. Someone can go into your computer and by the time they finish, they can go to your child's school and pick your child out on the playground. This is information we all need. It is vital to the safety of our community. I think we all agree that we need to do what is necessary. We need to start with our children. My grandchildren live in Mauldin. My son lives in Mauldin. My daughter-in-law lives in Mauldin so it is I important to me that I make sure that not only they are safe but every child in Mauldin. That is my heartbeat and why I live and breathe.

Mayor Jones: If you want to see what they have done with a church, I invite you- I thought I had walked into a studio out in Hollywood or Las Vegas or something. All this equipment is immaculate. He couldn't have done any better. I will be in the middle of it. I was really impressed. You have to see the building, you won't believe it. They didn't spare any expense. He has a tractor-trailer that if he brought it here, he could put three stages there and have three concerts going on at once. It is not for hire, he does it all of the generosity of being a pastor. I was really impressed.

- c. Brenda Harrelson: Council, Pete, Mr. Sapp, we appreciate what you have done in our community this far, but it still lacks a lot. There are still a lot of things that need to be done. Our concern is the definition of inoperable vehicles. We as a community and all the people do not feel that an operable vehicle is one that can be cranked up, backed to the driveway, and pulled to the house. I came in last Friday to get a clear definition of what an operable or inoperable vehicle was. I asked Pete's secretary and she couldn't find it, so she asked Pete and he gave me this. This has nothing to do with an inoperable vehicle, and he is p.o'd at me and that is understandable and that is ok. I don't have a problem with that. Then I told him and he got this and gave it to me which does have the inoperable code on it. I already had this from 2004 when a group of people came in here about these conditions. The only thing I saw on this is the disrepair. An automobile that won't do anything but sit in the driveway is to me and the community in disrepair if the only way it can be taken out is on a wrecker.

I told him these cars were a public nuisance. He said that they may be a nuisance to me, but not to anybody else. I said I beg your pardon. Everyone in our community is concerned about these cars and are fed up and keep asking me why can't we get rid of these cars and all I can say is I don't know, it is the way the city law works. So, I looked up the legal definition of nuisance. To constitute a public nuisance, there must be such a number of persons annoyed that the offense can no longer be considered a private nuisance. He asked me to get the people to come here and address this to council, which is what we have done today. I couldn't get everybody to come on such short notice. Two people had a

death in the family, and they had to go. I would like to ask everybody that is here from Glendale II that agrees with Mr. Cook to please stand. Thank you and thank you for coming.

A public nuisance is an interference with the common right of the general public. It affects at the same time an entire community. I still wanted to know more. Let me go over this first. I emailed all of you on this and you got a copy of it. I would like to read it to the people that were good enough to come here tonight. I looked up operable. That means that is able to perform a function. A function is intended to be useful. If a car can only sit in a driveway and not be driven on the road, what use is it other than to be an eyesore to the community? I went in and looked up section 302.8. I went in on a search engine and looked this up because I wanted to find out what an inoperable vehicle was. Michigan came up- Springfield, Michigan adopted this code. The first page is what does the law say. The law of motor vehicles can be found in the property maintenance code section 302.8 and the code of ordinance section 18-32. Then it mentions 302 which reads almost identically to the Mauldin code. On the second page it says what is an inoperable vehicle? A motor vehicle which is dismantled or partially dismantled. A motor vehicle in a state of disrepair, it talks about license and tags. A motor vehicle which for any other reason is incapable of being operated under its own power on a public street or road. Thank you, Mr. Cook.

Chesapeake, VA- I know you are going to say- but this is what was under the code number Mauldin adopted. The keeping of more than one inoperable vehicles is considered a junk yard and is not permitted in any residential zoning district. Then it goes on to say any residence that has more than one inoperable vehicle is considered a junk yard. I have that on here somewhere. It is not highlighted, but I read it. One of our residents said those very words- this is a junkyard. I won't mention the name but you all know him very well. I feel this yard looks like a junkyard. I know that Mr. Albert is here tonight and he is probably going to get up here and say that this is me and I am the one, but it is not me. It is the whole neighborhood. Our property values are going down because of this eyesore sitting there. We can't understand why they are there if they can't be used. If he is allowed to speak, he is probably going to say this is something that occurred earlier between us that most of you probably know about and that is fine. But, that is not the case. This is the whole community. All the people that were here at the meeting two weeks ago. I had from Friday to today to get people here and two had to leave because of a death in the family. They had to go. You can count two more and then some couldn't go on such short notice.

I ask each of you for your definition of an inoperable vehicle and Mr. Smith doesn't have a computer so I called him. He said if they cranked it and it moved on its own power, and he agrees with the City, that's fine. I didn't get any responses from anybody else. Mr. Nomikos done what he was told to by the City, but we are not happy with the definition of inoperable vehicle. He said we needed to address it with council and see what can be done. That's all I have to say and thank you for your time.

Councilman Cook: I did answer your email.

Brenda Harrelson: Pardon me? Yes, sir. Mr. Cook answered my email and was the only one who did. His definition was verbatim what it says right here is a vehicle that can be operated on a public street or road, which makes sense.

John Duggan: Ms. Harrelson, can I give you my fax number and you provide me the literature you have since I am going to be preparing and drafting a definition for council to consider.

Brenda Harrelson: Sir, I have more copies at home. I will be glad to give it to you now. This part came off the search engine. This is where I looked up the definition of a public nuisance. Thank you.

Councilman Cook: Count that so he won't charge us for looking it up.

- d. Robert Bowen: I live at 101 Riggs Court in Mauldin and have been a resident for 17 years. I am very excited about some of the things I have heard tonight. The internet thing is awesome, mind blowing and I will see you Wednesday. Some of the things we are doing are very exciting. I was up here six weeks ago maybe. I don't want to be all negative because what I see going on in Mauldin are some great things. I also see the March issue of Greenville Magazine shows that Mauldin's property values have gone down 8%. Other areas of Greenville County went up but ours went down. I can drive down Butler Road and turn right on Bon Air. The first house I see behind Ed's Corner Mart, it's now a butcher shop is an eyesore and there is trash all in the front yard. Mr. Godbey's neighborhood on the corner of Locke and Gail Drive, you have a house that basically doesn't have any paint on the front of it; it is being eaten by squirrels.

Your home is the biggest investment you will ever make. I don't think anyone here would say they want their property value to go down. When you drive by and pay attention in Knollwood, every neighborhood I have gone through, you see a fine home and then one that looks like it has never had any maintenance ever. You see people that cut the grass twice a year whether it needs it or not. I have photographic evidence and this is just in Glendale. I know we have done work. Peter, it has gotten better. I commend you and Stuart, it has gotten better. But there is much still to do. I have seriously considered putting my property up for sale. I don't want to take a bath on it and continue to plummet. I would like to respectfully suggest to you that if these guys need help, let's get them some help. It is not just Glendale, it is Knollwood, it is everywhere I drive. I am excited about this guys' church and I am excited when I see this nice Sports Center, and I am excited when I see kids having fun at the parks. Icar is coming into town and that is exciting. I would like to see my property value go up. Everyone here would. Objectively, if you drive through and see blight, that is not a place you are going to want to live. That is true objectively.

I would add one thing. I have heard a lot about this inoperable vehicle thing. I would say a reasonable standard if you can't pop the keys in, start it up, and drive it down the road, it is not an operable vehicle. That is just reasonable and we are beating that thing to death. Thank you.

- e. James Albert: Good evening Mayor Jones. I reside at 102 Hickory Lane, Mauldin. I am here tonight two-fold. First of all, to defend my mother who is a widow, and if I wasn't staying there with her, she would be staying by herself. I finally moved into Mauldin around 1972 and we have been at that residence for at least 35 years. My father is a Shriner, and I am a Shriner. Master Mason, Christian, member of Reedy River Missionary Baptist Church whose pastor is Reverend Dr. SC Cureton. My personal Deacon is Chief of Police Willie Johnson of the City of Greenville police department. After going to college and getting married, I moved back and when my father died, my mother informed me that she was having a problem with racial harassment. I am sure that this is something that a lot of people don't want to hear, racial harassment. This is something we as a community don't need and should not tolerate.

Ever since moving into the home with my mother, I have personally witnessed harassment from some of the neighbors. They have complained about everything under the sun. When there was a complaint that came up, by me being my mother's son, the son of a widow, I tried to correct them. We had a complaint one time that our utility building was too old, that it had rust spots on it and was an eyesore. I bought a new building. We had a complaint that the grass was too tall that snakes and possums were growing and running in the yard in a residential district. That was not true. We had complaints about the dogs barking at night keeping people up. Mauldin does not have a cat lease law. I have white German Shepherd dogs and that seems to offend some people that a person of color has a white dog. I am not saying things I have heard, I am saying things that have been said to my face. But, as a Christian, that is trivial. Pray about it and get over it. I got rid of my male dogs, got rid of all the puppies, only two that are left is a 12 year old female that is spayed and a 7 year old female that is very docile. The reason I got the dogs were that people were running through the yard, jumping the fence, stealing rakes and shovels, things like that. We want to be a positive part of the community and you can't go around accusing people of things where you don't have any proof.

Everything seems to irritate some people. Now we have the things about the automobiles. They say they are an eyesore. The problem with the automobiles is that the vinyl tops- I have a custom full vinyl top on my Lincoln Town Car which has been totally destroyed by cats. They scratched it up and cut it up. When I complain, there is nothing I can do except pay my insurance company the deductible and have it redone. My mom has a half vinyl top on a 1972 Town Car Coupe de Ville which I keep as a memento because my father bought it brand new from the showcase. His first new car. What is wrong with it? The vinyl top is torn up because of cats.

There are some other things going on. People be friends, then you turn around and they don't be friends. Somebody doesn't like something that somebody said about them and somebody doesn't like something that somebody else said about somebody. I don't personally get caught up in things between neighbors and my mother. The only thing I can do is try to abide by the law, the code of this City, and do the right thing. 10 years ago I became sick. I had open heart surgery, prostate cancer, the whole nine yards, so I became a little slow. Things sort of got out of hand with these complaints. A lot of these things have been used as a battering ram to try and force people to move out of the neighborhood. Why should we move when we have been there 35 years? We have two automobiles that you say won't run on the road? When I came up to the courthouse last week to find out what was going on, I said right then and there I will drive the cars up here, drive them around, show you. The staff member of the city went to the house. He got to the house before we did, so there was no time to hook up anything or make any fake preparations. I cranked up the cars, drove them to the end of the yard, which is approximately from maybe that wall to there, drove it and backed it up-both cars. Those cars have been driven around the neighborhood many times and for someone to come up here and commit perjury under law and say that they are not operable under streets and roads, that is a problem.

We are getting borderline on racial harassment, discriminatory harassment and I would advise that you keep up with the policy that you are doing because I think it is a good policy. If there is a complaint, send a letter and it is up to them to prove that the accusations are false, pay the fine, or straighten up the property. When the law comes out and finds out that you are within the law, and that the accusations are not founded, when you prove that your vehicles will operate. If you want them driven on the road, we can drive them on the road, but that is not going to be sufficient when somebody is prejudiced and their goal is to harass you from anything. Harassed about the grass not being cut, harassed about the utility building, harassed because you have dogs. I was told that they were offended because they looked over there and saw my dogs using their business in the backyard. I think it is better for them to do it there and I clean it and keep it smelling good than to let the dogs defecating on someone else's property and then tell me that according to the law you have three to five feet from the road where they can come up in your yard. If I wasn't a college graduate in Business Administrator and a Christian, maybe I wouldn't know, but I know.

I am here to tell you tonight that I am not bitter, but I am surprised. I am surprised. I would ask the City of Mauldin, before you continue on this line of harassment to spearhead their own personal agenda, really check into it. These complaints, who are they spearheaded by? The same person? Who is leading the parade? Who is the head of the game? We have a bully. We have bullies that are going by single people. My mother is a single female, other people are single, I feel sorry for them and I don't blame them. You should try to protect widows. But it comes to a point where the truth must be known and when the courts prove this, the

harassment needs to stop. For you to say this is an eyesore and a junk yard. I wrote down some of these comments and I read the Mauldin Tribune and some comments that were made. They are almost slanderous. It will not be tolerated. Just as other people use the City of Mauldin to try to bring about their own agenda, the same can be done by myself or my family to prove these people are lying. Do we want it in the press, the news, on a national level saying that Mauldin is prejudiced against minorities? These complaints of the people in Glendale. I would say that 50-60% are minorities. Probably blacks and Mexicans. You look at the complaints. Probably 80%. Something is not right. An injustice has been done here. I am speaking on behalf of my mother. I hadn't intended to be living there that long with her. I became ill. I got to see this and this is actually ridiculous. I want to live by myself in my own home, but I can't leave while she is having all of these problems.

Maybe our Senior Citizens can get together and quit bickering amongst each other, but when you start bringing the law into it to fight your own fight. We don't like your yard, so we are going to get the city to fine you. Now what else can we find. We don't like the way your cars look. Both vehicles are operable. Both will drive on the road. I have heard comments that the cars are driven down the street and then had to be towed back. Straight out lies. Straight out. People who have driven by the house, the grass has never been tall enough to the point where you have rats and snakes in the grass. I have heard comments. They keep coming back. These people vow to never stop. They won't stop until they make sure they don't have any blacks living beside them, no blacks in front of them because blacks in your neighborhood bring down your property value. We have five vehicles. Two Jeeps, a Honda, a Lincoln and a Town Car. Which costs the most to drive- the Lincoln and the Town Car. Because we don't drive them when they want us to drive them, they say they are not operable. I am saying that this needs to stop. If there is anything that 102 Hickory Lane can do to make it better, let us know. We will try to do it. No neighbor calls you and says I have a problem with your dog. You only hear about it when the police knock on the door. When their dogs get loose, little poodles, catch the dog and bring it back to them. That is what neighbors do.

Anything that happens at 102 Hickory Lane is an opportunity. I want to tell the neighbors I am well now. My mother does have someone living with her and it is according to the laws. I will protect her and defend her as long as things are right. Things that are wrong, I will do everything in my power to correct them. I wish that the neighbors can decide whether they want to live as a community in America, if they have underlying racial or prejudice problems, they need to pray about it and move. I can't speak for other neighbors, but I can speak for 102 Hickory. We are not as bad as this is cut out to be. You ride by and look at the cars, the vinyl tops, yes they are cut. You think that is an eyesore and you don't like the way it looks, let me know. I am working with the insurance company now again to have the tops repaired. Maybe if enough people see this, maybe I can come to a council meeting one evening and say Mauldin needs a cat lease law. When a cat can come and sit on your car, and yes, the

police have come out and seen the cats on top of the cars. I pray we can resolve this in a peaceful way and if my family has offended anyone, I publicly apologize. I cannot apologize for my mother and other people- these feuding and bickering things they get into. One is mad at the other and the other. I can stand up for a violation of moral law when you stand up and lie on someone and you twist things and get your friends to fall in line with you. Everyone is bitter. Then you hear someone say well, if we can't straighten it out, we can put a lien against their property. Oh, yes. A lien? You know for a fact that automobiles are inoperable when you have a staff member of the City of Mauldin that came out and checked them. You don't trust the city officials unless they do what you want them to do. That is not the way America works. That is not the way Christians work. Anything we can do to make things right, let us know, but this racial harassment and discrimination, nobody is going to stand for that or tolerate it too much longer. God bless you all.

Mayor Jones: Thank you for your comments. I hope we can get this worked out.

4. Reports and Communications from city officers.
  - a. City Administrator
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- None
8. New Business
  - Police Committee (Mr. Cook)
    - a. Consideration and action on Police Forensic Video Analysis Software

Chairman Cook made a motion to approve the forensic video for \$20,810 and the \$1500 contract and also the training to go up there. Councilman Godbey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on travel approval for Property Evidence Training in Atlanta, GA

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

- Recreation Committee (Mr. Smith)
  - c. Consideration and action on parks management staffing.

Chairman Smith made a motion to move \$5,000 from PW to Parks Maintenance. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

Chairman Smith: While visiting the sports center and doing a little workout, the staff people have recommended that a few more of the council people show themselves down there at the sports center to do their working out. It would probably do them good and they would like to see more of you.

Councilman Cook: I pass by there every day.

Councilman Black: I thought about it.

- d. Consideration and action on capital purchase of a truck.

Chairman Smith made a motion to buy a truck for the Rec department. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- e. Consideration and action on CDBG resolution

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

- Planning and Economic Development Committee (Mr. Hunter)
  - f. Consideration and action on request to remove dying "Historic Tree" at Crescentwood

Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve this request with Councilman Kennedy seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- Public Works Committee (Mr. Kennedy)
  - g. Discussion on truck purchase.

Chairman Kennedy made a motion to buy a truck with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- Finance Committee (Mr. Black)
  - h. Consideration and action on issuance of bond for McDougal Court.

Chairman Black made a motion to pass this on first reading with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- i. Consideration and action on budget amendment to move money from Public Works to Parks Management.

Chairman Black made a motion to transfer the \$5,000 between funds with Councilman Godbey seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- Committee of the Whole
  - j. Discussion on entranceway/ cultural center signs.-info to follow

No action needed on this item.

- k. Mauldinfest committee appointments.

No action needed.

- l. Council compensation discussion- possible executive session.

Councilman Black made a motion to approve the council compensation increase in January with Councilman Smith seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- m. \$150,000 matching fund for paving.- info to follow

Lisa White: I have showed you where the revenue is. The debits and credits offset each other. The money can be moved from another area.

Councilman Godbey made a motion to accept the finding with Councilman Black seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- n. Discussion and approval of fencing at McDougal Court/ Jenkins Street.

Councilman Godbey made a motion to approve the \$28,000 for fencing and a gate with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- o. Sliding scale business license.- Will take back to committee.

- p. Office of Highway Safety grant resolution

Councilman Cook made a motion to accept this resolution with Councilman Godbey seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

9. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda.
10. Council requests.

Russell Sapp: I have a memo addressing the committee meetings for April. The 2,3,4, 5, 9, 10<sup>th</sup>, I split them up. We will do Recreation on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, Finance and Policy on Tuesday and that will also include purchasing policy and state contract purchasing and the amendment to the city travel policy.

Councilman Godbey: The Mauldinfest meeting is scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm also. I think she would be able to rearrange her schedule, or just let her know the members will not be present on Thursday.

Mayor Jones: On Wednesday, we were thinking about having a Cultural Center meeting. I am going to see if they will postpone it until Thursday. You need to go to that church and see what they are doing out there. It is absolutely fabulous and how much money they spent and how well they have done it. They are concerned about the kids. I am going to that.

Russell Sapp: I was notified by an individual about some traffic problems at 385 and Bridges Road. I made contact with the guy at DOT. There has been approved a traffic light at Bridges and 385 on both ramps. However, there were no funds available before. He also has concerns about the overhead utilities out there. He is going to work on resolving those conflicts so they can get started and get the money approved for the lights. Chief Turner has had some issues with drivers going out and doing u-turns in the middle of the road.

11. Adjournment.- Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk