

**Minutes
Mauldin City Council
Informal Session
September 17, 2007
7:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor RC Jones, Council members Don Godbey, Bob Cook, Gabe Hunter, James Kennedy, and Jerry Smith. Council member Dale Black was absent due to illness.

1. Call to order.- Mayor Jones
 - a. Invocation- Mayor Jones
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Mayor Jones
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Jones
 - d. Proclamations and Presentations- Two Constitution Week proclamations; Get Buckled proclamation; Harley Owners proclamation
Dennis Raines- Mauldin Miracle League
The proclamations were read. Dennis Raines will make his presentation next month.
Greg Fincher's baseball team from Easley was recognized for their efforts in cleaning up the McDaniel cemetery in Knollwood subdivision.
2. Reports from Standing Committees
 - a. Fire (Chairman Godbey)
 - i. Reports and Communications from Fire Chief
The department response time was 2.8 minutes. There were 262 calls in August. 96 fire, 163 medical, 3 miscellaneous. Total for year to date 1361.

Chairman Godbey: Those monthly totals have gone up consistently. The fact that we are keeping under three minutes for our response time is a credit to our department. I appreciate their efforts.
 - ii. Discussion on fire traffic signal.
Chairman Godbey: The fire department placed in the budget money to purchase Traffic Control Devices and Pre-emption devices to allow emergency vehicles to respond to fire and medical calls from our stations and through traffic lights in certain places in our City. The locations Chief is speaking of are #1- Pre-emption at the Main Intersection at Main and Butler. #2- The entrance to E. Butler in front of the Main Fire Station will have two signs with solar panels and lights that will flash for the Fire Trucks and Rescue Trucks to enter the road in response to emergency calls. They will be discussing with SCDOT

the removing of the existing "X" in front of the Station and adding a replacement. #3- The two intersections located at Woodruff Rd. and Verdin Road and the intersection of Verdin Rd. and Tanner Rd. will be preempted with remote devices instead of wired devices. Also, the equipment will include transmitters for the preemption in all vehicles that respond through any of the intersections mentioned above and allow them to set the lights off in front of the Main Station as well.

The equipment is on State Contract through the SCDOT and will be purchased from that company. We have been provided with copies of the State Contract number and further information on the purchase price. The total amount budgeted for this project is \$15,350. The fire chief wishes to earmark the remaining \$5680 to purchase three misting fans and the other cooling systems for personnel use during fires in the summer or exceedingly high temperatures. That equipment will be shared with the police department.

Total Cost of Project \$9,670.00 includes tax and installation. \$5,680 for the misting fans and other cooling systems, which will be transferred to line item 830 non-capital equipment.

This item was forwarded to the formal session.

Chairman Godbey: The remote control aspect of this, Woodruff Road warrants this and Butler Road is congested also.

b. Police (Chairman Cook)

i. Reports and Communications from Police Chief.

Chief Turner: Thank you. I would like to call Mr. Padgett, Mr. Edge and Mr. Malone. Two of these guys are filling positions you made available this year. One officer is a replacement officer for one we lost who decided to take a one year stint in Kosovo. I was asked the other week was it a criteria that they shave their heads to work here. We are still working on that.

Angela Cooper, Clerk of Court, swore in the three officers.

Chief Turner: I would like to mention that our retention rate, October 2nd will mark one year since I have been here, we have changed some of the rank structure and moved some people around and any time you do that you run the risk of having some lips dragging the floor. There are always those who say they are going to leave. We had one officer retire after 17 years and the other guy went overseas and is looking forward to his return. That says a lot for our department. If you have a good team, other people want them. You have to go and recruit the best people you can. I ask for your support and your thoughts for us.

Your school resource officer activity report was planned in advance of the events that happened last week. I did want to give you a more defined breakdown on what is going on in the schools and now I will put

it into numbers so you will know month to month what is happening in the schools. We have experienced officers in the schools- two in high school, both of whom are certified, and one officer in the middle school that doubles over for the elementary school. She is getting rave reviews from the principals and support personnel. We do have capable employees at the schools. That last week was an ongoing investigation on our part of an event that happened the second week of school. The officers took some information they were given because they are approachable. The students shared the information with them. Some of the students have some issues ahead of them that they will face and some of those are wrapped up in things from other jurisdictions. We are going to hit that hot and heavy. Speaking with several of you, I know I have your support and if we are known for certain things and we take a stand and are the first to do it, so be it. One of the things I am looking at, I am going to get up with Kelly, we are in the process of putting together a PowerPoint presentation for the adults and citizens of Mauldin and the immediate area. I am looking for a location and I feel we will have that done in the next day or so. We will get that out as soon as we can. It should take 1 ½ or 2 hours. We will limit it to adults. Some of the problems come in from lack of supervision.

We need to let everyone know what we are dealing with. No one can say how come you don't let us know. We are going to treat this like any other thing at the school. We are not going to put out any statements. As you can see, this did break some of the football headlines for the area. It was prevalent all weekend. We are going to knock this thing out. Thank you.

Chairman Cook: We are behind you and what you do. I appreciate the way you handled this situation. You could have been a showboat and had all your officers with blue lights, but you handled it properly. I also want the audience to know that you and your police department have a good relationship with the Principal at Mauldin High. I understand that she had some comments on how well you worked together. I was walking through the other day, and heard someone say how nice the school resource officer was and he was the nicest one he had ever talked to. We appreciate the job you are doing.

Councilman Kennedy: I have heard comments from the community about the situation. I am a product of that school because I go there 3-4 times of week. You are not ubiquitous and can't be everywhere at the same time. It is a large school with about 1600 students, you have to be aware of supervision of students with that large number. Being a principal myself, supervision is important and should be emphasized to the utmost. Supervision of that many students has to be vigilant and careful. The students will let you know what is going on if you talk to them. Most times, if anything is going down, they will let you know. Thank you for your help up there.

Chief Turner: The only other thing I want to mention, I received a complaint from a citizen in the county about some traffic issues on Woodruff Road and some late night activities. We have had officers checking for different things. Part of 385 runs through Mauldin. We had some officers spot checking. One vehicle 120 mph, one vehicle 112 mph, and one at 102 mph. That is occurring. It is an issue we are going to have to address. It is a problem for all of us in Mauldin and surrounding Mauldin. We are going to look at that. We are not going to neglect the City, but are going to address that.

Councilman Godbey: I don't think they were buckled.

Mayor Jones: At that speed, does it matter?

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

Angela Cooper: Good evening. For the month of August, there were 544 new cases. We disposed of 489. There are 1631 pending. We have jury trials pending for next week.

iii. Discussion on alarm ordinance.

Chairman Cook: The change is for a fiscal year. I don't know if I need to amend the motion, Mr. Attorney, you can help me, we want to waive the signup fees until December 1st. Some of the neighborhoods we annexed in were probably not aware of them and we want to give them time to get registered.

Chief Turner: We have been collecting on these fees. One of the things is a lot of areas do not know. When they were annexed in, they didn't know, or when they bought their house from the previous owner, they did not know. Some word of mouth dealings were done in years past. We are talking a \$10.00 that allows us to get pertinent information so that we know who to call when your alarm goes off. We need to know who the key holder is and what to do when you go on vacation and things of that nature. It is a one time fee you get when you put the alarm in not transferable to the new owner. We would like to hit this with a media blitz- internet, teleguide, radio, whatever until December 1st. We will write them up as if they didn't have to pay the \$10.00 and that will be an incentive to get people in here. By December 1st, no one should be able to say I didn't know I needed to register my alarm for the City of Mauldin.

Chairman Cook: In 2006, the police and fire responded to 1524 alarms. Out of that number, 1335 were false. We are putting equipment and people in danger for no reason. So far this year, we have responded to 864 alarms and 736 of those were deemed false. We have a problem and need to get that under control.

Chairman Cook sent this item to the formal session.

Councilman Godbey: Chief, one question about change of ownership of homes after December 1st. Do we want to look at that in a year's time and see what a problem that is or do we want to have a thirty day wait?

Chief Turner: As long as we are proactive in getting this information out to the homeowners, there will be a leeway time in there, but we can get the information to the chamber, and we are not just talking about residents, we are also talking about businesses. We have a small number of businesses that we actually have accurate information on and even less that have paid their \$10.00 fee. The transfer of information won't be a big battle for us. We roll it on teleguide every day and we need to media blitz it.

Mayor Jones: Pete, couldn't your office take care of a majority of this when people come in to get permits?

Peter Nomikos: When they come in to get a certificate of occupancy or a business license, we notify them that they are required to register their alarm verbally. We also tell them they need to register their dogs.

Mayor Jones: I think we ought to have that in writing so there is no question they have been notified. That is very good.

Councilman Godbey: I also want to mention that the City fiscal year is July 1st to June 30th. Fines, I think we need to state one more time.

Chief Turner: I don't have it in front of me. 1,2,3 alarms we send a letter to let you know we have gotten false alarms. The 4th offense is \$50.00 and it almost doubles from each one.

Councilman Godbey: We need to say during the media blitz that percentages of false alarms are way up.

Chief Turner: There are circumstances where people have their alarms go off. We do take into account nature, lightning strikes, and things of that nature. If yours isn't the only one going off, we mark that off. There is a provision that allows for people that have a defect in their system, they can appeal. I will review it and if they are not satisfied, they can appeal to the administrator. We are just trying to lower our numbers.

iv. Discussion on out of state travel.

Chairman Cook: We have got Ms. Carpenter going to a level 3 program in Raleigh on October 15-16, four officers are going to Piedmont Natural Gas at no cost, and then the police academy canine program in Georgia on October 12th. The cost for this is the hotel cost, per diem, and the officer's salary. I think we have something coming up in Finance to take care of this out of state travel so we don't have to deal with it every time.

Chairman Cook moved this item to the formal session.

c. Recreation (Chairman Smith)

i. Reports and Communications from Recreation Director.

Van Brannon: Our senior program is growing. They went to Charlotte a couple of weeks ago. They are working on a big trip for November to Nashville for a Country Christmas. Nancy and her staff are doing a great job. Fall baseball, football, and Miracle League are going well. We are having a few parking issues, but we are working with the PW Department and police department on those. We have been planning for the road race, and we have decided to postpone it and reschedule it. We are not going to forget it. We want it to be first class.

The Sports Center has 2900 members. It is continuing to go very well. Most of you are coming in and seeing us. I would like to mention to put this on your calendar we are planning a November 10th fall frenzy to have the community come in. We are bringing in the Blood Connection. We want to have some more community events to have them come in and see our facilities.

Chairman Smith: I have a question relative to parking at Springfield Park. Are there no parking signs being put up?

Van Brannon: Some signs are being put up. We are trying to get the word out that they know that area is back there. What is the name of the church that burned?

Peter Nomikos: Vision of Victory.

Van Brannon: When they had the fire, they have been using the senior citizen center for their services. We were doing some cleaning up behind Springfield park and we realized that their property abuts ours. I am in contact with the preacher so that if there is an issue that we don't have enough parking, we are working to put a small walk gate back there so we can utilize it for parking for overflow. We are working with the police department to patrol it. We are not writing tickets, but letting everyone know that there are other parking places and you need to move. I think we will be able to alleviate that problem.

Councilman Godbey: When we were working with Mauldifest, the steering committee looked at when we put the stairway in the grass field anticipating the event. They had football practice going on and there was a tremendous amount of issues with parking, exiting, and folks coming and going. Is there anything we can do to facilitate working with law enforcement to facilitate smoother transition of folks at the events?

Van Brannon: We can definitely do that. That is something we are always trying to look into.

Councilman Godbey: I heard a lot of frustrations.

Van Brannon: Mr. Fincher said the Breakers are free to go. Make sure you go home and get your homework done.

d. Planning and Economic Development (Chairman Hunter)

i. Reports and Communications from Building and Zoning Administrator.

Peter Nomikos: We have several items on the agenda tonight. Another item is a major change to the Brookwood Planned Development district to add a youth activities building at Brookwood. It was not submitted in the original plan. On other business, four of the other six staff members are in Hickory Knob State Park going through two days of continuing education that is mandatory and required by the state. That will take care of it this year. We are in the process of doing that right now. We are going to try not to dominate the docket again next month.

Councilman Cook: While they are at the seminar, what are we doing, just not inspecting?

Peter Nomikos: We notified the contractors in July and had it posted in the department for anyone coming in that there will be no inspections today or tomorrow.

Councilman Cook: Is there anything we can do next year to where we won't stop inspections?

Peter Nomikos: It is difficult to get the credits in without doing it all in one lump sum. The state requires 24 credits per two year period. It is cheapest and easiest to do it at the Upper State Code Enforcement meeting. It is \$55 for 12 credits. It is very inexpensive and we can get it out of the way quickly.

Councilman Cook: Those people will have to double up when they come back. I think we should look into some different way if we can.

Peter Nomikos: I don't think we have had many requests for inspections today and the regulars were notified that we would not do any today or tomorrow

Trey Eubanks: We have asked the ladies in the building department to keep a log of inspection requests today and tomorrow while our staff is getting this training so we can assess the demand. That will give us some information for next year.

Councilman Godbey: I understand that with the local elections coming up, the Presidential election candidates are under the same guidelines we are. 30 days before the primary or election. A year and a month is a bit premature for Mitt Romney and some of the others. You will collect them on Wednesday?

Peter Nomikos: Wednesday morning bright and early we will pick up the ones in violation of the sign ordinance.

Councilman Godbey: I encourage you to contact the campaign office just to let them know what is happening.

Peter Nomikos: We will call the Democratic and Republican party office.

Councilman Cook: If they are out of state, call them collect.

Chairman Hunter: Thank you. Should we ask Mr. Gardner to address council at this time?

Trey Eubanks: I can give a brief overview and ask Mr. Gardner to supplement what he needs to.

Chairman Hunter: This is John Gardner. He is the Senior Planner at the Greenville county Planning Commission. He is also their traffic guru. He is volunteered to help us in our 276 plan. We appreciate your hard work.

Trey Eubanks: I know one of the things I did when I first got here was to get a good understanding of some of the goals and projects that this council wanted to focus on to direct our city. A lot of them were interested in the 276 corridor. A study was done last April by John and some of his staff. This study speaks to some beautification and future land use planning. Taking a step back, we have funding that was earmarked for a greenway trail that did not come to fruition because it was going to be behind the high school and the school had concerns about security issues at the school. There is a funding source for that kind of project. There is ICAR, economic development, and future land use on 276 that can also be applied to other corridors through the city. Mr. Hunter and I met with John and some of the GCPC staff last month. John Owings is interim Planning Director, and between both Johns we had a good strategy to use a couple of

funding sources that John Gardner has a better understanding of than I do. It looks like we can develop a strategy to look at the 276 corridor and work with SCDOT and learn what our parameters are. Secondly, where 276 would be affected, and lastly to take input from both groups and develop a plan to get it implemented. Again, the future of the city, it could be a tremendous asset. Some of the future land use could also play over to West Butler, the Southern Connector could be a good model. I will turn it over to John to talk over some budget numbers.

John Gardner: We have done a preliminary scope. An essential piece of it is a conceptual corridor plan that includes some landscaping and access strategies. I have a chest cold today. One of the opportunities is to put some interconnection into some of your developments to avoid the problems on Woodruff Road as a result of piecemeal development. We have an opportunity to do that and get out ahead of some redevelopment pressure. We think we can do a landscape plan and look at some access plans. Something on the order of \$30-45,000. Some of the funding could come out of the enhancement funds from the greenway that didn't develop. The balance may be available from planning funds available through GPATS. There is no guarantee for that, but potentially, that could be available.

Mayor Jones: I would hate to have his job trying to place roads in this county. You do a good job. You are very informative and we appreciate you.

Chairman Hunter: John is a resident of Mauldin and has a vested interest in our success. We appreciate your willingness to help us out.

John Gardner: My wife got rear ended on Miller Road tonight. No one was injured, but I am, glad that is in our long range plan.

Mayor Jones: I like that word long. Thank you.

ii. Discussion on PHC Communities, LLC Rezoning – W. Butler at Holly Ridge

This item was tabled at the request of the developer.

Mayor Jones: Cary Warner called this afternoon and asked if we could hold this off. He is working on something of great interest.

iii. Discussion on Dewayne Rice property - Annexation and Rezoning – Bridges Road

Chairman Hunter: The subject parcel is currently zoned R-S Residential Suburban in the County. The request was originally for R-

M Multifamily but has since been amended to R-10 Single Family Residential in the City.

Chairman Hunter moved this item to the formal agenda.

Councilman Godbey: I wondered if Mr. Rice has been approached about amending his property from R10 to R12. Was he willing to consider r12?

Mr. Rice: The reason I want R10 is I have no immediate plans for that property. When I do get ready, that is years down the road. By then, the property will be more valuable. To me personally, you want a higher density closer to the interstate so the roads are not crowded like they are now. It is two hours a day nine months a year. I would prefer R10 with a zero lot line.

iv. Discussion on Burgan Property – Annexation and Rezoning – Bridges at Bethel Road

Chairman Hunter: The petition is Southstyle. He would like to be annexed into the city and rezoned R12. This is first reading on this docket. The PEDC committee unanimously approved it.

Chairman Hunter moved this to the formal agenda.

v. Discussion on Chappellear property annexation and rezoning- Bridges at Bethel Road

Chairman Hunter: This is 6.48 acres. Ms. Chappellear is the sole property owner. She would like to annex this property and zone it as RM.

Chairman Hunter moved this to the formal agenda.

Councilman Godbey: Has this person been contacted about R10 or R12? Has there been any discussion?

Peter Nomikos: It was my understanding that this and the prior docket we had discussed amending the requests to R12. The Southstyle property did agree on that. I believe.

Chairman Hunter: Should we amend the motion to go from RS to R12 in the City?

Councilman Cook: I hate to go on I believe so. Is it so or not? Tell me R12, RM or you don't know.

Peter Nomikos: With the Southstyle property, they did agree to R12, I have not talked to Ms. Chappellear. It is my understanding that the purchaser agreed to R12.

Mayor Jones: What has been submitted to us?

John Duggan: There is a contract to purchase the property by Southstyle. The request was for the same zoning, R12, with respect to Ms. Chappalear's property. This property adjoins the tract of Southstyle between Bridges and Bethel, but it also crosses back over Bridges at the intersection with James Riceland Court. There is .99 acres of this property of Ms. Chappalear that crosses over Bridges. All of the property is for R12.

Councilman Cook: R12?

John Duggan: Yes.

Chairman Hunter: I would like to amend this from RM to R12.

John Duggan: There is a recent plat done that describes and shows the three tracts.

Councilman Cook: This needs to be brought to us before we get here. I didn't know what we were talking about.

Councilman Godbey: For clarification, this is first reading. If we have a problem with first reading, we can change the motion for second reading?

John Duggan: You can always amend at second reading. The documents you have in your notebook are described as R12. There are two matters, one is annexation and one is determining its use. That is subject to change.

vi. Discussion on Balcome Boulevard annexation.

Chairman Hunter: The subject parcel is currently zoned R-12 Single Family Residential in the County. The request is for R-12 Single Family Residential in the City so that they can connect to the City Sewer. PEDC Committee voted to forward this with a recommendation for approval.

Chairman Hunter sent this item to the formal agenda.

Mayor Jones: Do we have sewer there already?

Peter Nomikos: There is a sewer line and a sewer tap for the development of the property at Brookwood. There is a line already run.

Mayor Jones: So when they annex in they can tap on and that's it.

Councilman Godbey: I have a question about this area. Folks in that area, I have heard, have had problems with the red clay dust from the

development in that area. It is all part of the Brookwood development. Is there anything we can do to facilitate addressing those concerns?

Peter Nomikos: The site where they are actually doing work and moving dirt around is the Brookwood Apartment site. We can contact the developer and let them know they need to spray it.

Councilman Godbey: Can we also have them contact the impacted residents? Are we able to do that?

Peter Nomikos: We can ask them to do that.

Councilman Cook: I believe it was brought up in the committee meeting that this would be done.

Mayor Jones: Before they finish?

vii. Discussion on Brookwood PD major change.

Chairman Hunter: The subject parcel is currently zoned PD-C, Planned Development-Commercial. The request is to add a youth center up near the circle. Is Mr. Canty here? Would you come forward please?

Mr. Canty: Mr. Batson is also here representing the church. I am representing the architect.

Chairman Hunter: Would you describe to us your plans, sir?

Mr. Batson: The church is planning approximately 10,000 square feet of gymnasium and performance area for the youth program as well as about 2000 square feet of multi-purpose space and 2,000 square feet of storage.

Chairman Hunter: It was originally planned to be near the parking lot up near Balcome Boulevard if I remember correctly.

Mr. Batson: It was actually planned as an appendage to the main building on the north side. The building up next to Balcome is a counseling building.

Chairman Hunter: Why was it selected to be in the circle?

Mr. Batson: We just felt that to be a much better location. It is for high school age kids. They like to be away from us. It is a wooded lot and it gives them a feeling of having the place to themselves.

Chairman Hunter: You guys sure have developed a nice campus out there. It is something to be proud of. Any questions of these gentlemen?

Chairman Hunter sent this to the formal session.

viii. Discussion on annexation and rezoning at East Butler Road and I385 North.

Chairman Hunter: Request to annex and rezone 3.71 acres on East Butler Road at the north bound ramp to I-385. The subject parcel is currently zoned R-S Residential Suburban in the County. The request is for C-2 Commercial in the City. The Greenville County Planning Commission staff recommended approval of this request as it is consistent with surrounding development and the "Future Land Use Map" for the City of Mauldin. The Mauldin Planning Commission voted 5-1 to forward this item to the PEDC with a recommendation for approval. The PEDC voted unanimously with a recommended of approval.

Chairman Hunter moved this item to the formal agenda.

Councilman Godbey: I didn't catch the reason for the one vote against of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Jones: I didn't either. I guess there wasn't one.

John Duggan: Let me clarify one thing. I would ask you to consider an amendment. There are two tracts at the intersection of 385 and Butler Road in questions. One of the tracts lies on this side of I385. The other tract lies on the far sides of I385 on Butler. Both are owned by the same entities. The same two ladies own the properties. They have executed one annexation petition to bring both in. They are broken out as separate tracts here, but I need for you to know that there is one annexation petition for a total of 8.02 acres. The heading in your materials break it out as two separate tracts. If you look at the petition, it is one for one ordinance to bring in all 8.02 acres. Technically, it is the annexation of the two tracts together. I apologize- we got these done late Friday and it took us a while to get this done. We were depending on the legal description provided by the developer and that didn't get to us until late Friday.

Chairman Hunter: I amend the motion to include 8.02 and two parcels and move this to formal council.

Councilman Smith: This came to the Planning Commission as two separate entities, but they both passed, so that is relative.

Councilman Godbey: The question I would have then to the attorney is we are passing 8.02 acres, the rezoning, are we doing that one two separate items? We are going to do it all at the same time. I note on the Planning Commission, the vote was 4-3. I think part of that was because the understanding of what was to be developed on the other parcel was undisclosed.

John Duggan: I have no knowledge of the Planning Commission.

Councilman Cook: Are you getting overtime tonight? We rezone property?

John Duggan: Technically, it is not in the County anymore.

Councilman Cook: We rezone it, we don't tell them what to put in there.

John Duggan: That is correct.

Councilman Godbey: I appreciate Mr. Cook's position, but we do rezone property, we do ask the intention. We don't tell them what to put in there, but we would like an idea.

Mayor Jones: They weren't going to let the cat out of the bag.

Darren Ison: The one concern was the parcel that had the yellow house on it. The reasons it has not been disclosed, is because we haven't even been told until those properties are closed on. The realtor representing the other party will not tell us. I did speak with Deborah Dobson at NHC and was happy to work with her and answer any of her questions and assured her that we will protect NCH from disturbance.

Councilman Godbey: I appreciate your following up with that.

- ix. Discussion on annexation and rezoning at East Butler Road and I385 South.- included in the first motion

e. Public Works (Chairman Kennedy)

i. Reports and Communications from Public Works Director

Greg Fincher: You have confused me. I am going to give you a brief synopsis. We are making progress. We made some personnel changes and changed some of the duties of the existing personnel. I anticipate more changes. We are observing our personnel and their performance and making changes. I always hear Chief Sapp and Chief Turner report on their response times, Wednesday night we got an opportunity to have a response time. We had a tree fall at Carlton and Plnehurst. It was about 80 feet tall and about three feet in diameter. It fell across every power line in the neighborhood. I got the call about 10:05, got to Mauldin at 10:30 pm, we are fortunate there was no property damage or personal injury. I was informed that usually we just cut the tree out of the road and leave it for the next day. I think you know me well enough by now to know that is not going to happen. We stayed out, cut the tree, hauled it off, swept the driveway, and polished the dog... Chief Turner's folks were out and blocked off the roads. In about 3 ½ hours, we had everything cut up and power back on. We had Duke Power waiting.

The guy from Duke Power said he had been coming to Mauldin for 30 years, and that was the first time he had ever seen that happen. We are evaluating how we respond to emergencies. That wasn't a catastrophe, but I got a chance to observe some of our habits. We will change those immediately. There is a lot to accomplish. We are moving along.

Some road signs are missing. You didn't miss them before because you couldn't see them. We completed a street evaluation on over half the streets in the city. We are going street by street and evaluating the condition. We received approval today for some work on Brooks Road and Knollwood. I look forward to starting a sewer rehab project. You take your Hefty Hefty sack up and throw it in the trash and don't think about it, but we picked up 171 tons of residential trash in July. August we picked up 508 tons. That is a big Hefty sack.

I cut it short tonight. You got me confused with all this amending stuff. I am glad Perry Mason is here.

Councilman Smith: You are giving notice to number 1 and number 2 that number three is breathing down their neck, is that right?

ii. Discussion on Insituform.

Chairman Kennedy: Part of the sewer rehab in agreement with EPA. The monies have been budgeted to perform work. We must service and maintain our sewer to provide better infrastructure for the citizens of Mauldin and future expansion. We need proceed with work immediately.

Chairman Kennedy sent this item to the formal agenda.

iii. Discussion on items for auction

Chairman Kennedy: We have taken some of the older equipment and evaluated it to be unsafe, unrepairable and in a state of not being able to be maintained or serviced. We would like to dispose of such items at our discretion, either by means of scrap or removal from property. At the discretion of the Public Works Director, we would like to dispose of items.

Chairman Kennedy sent this to the formal agenda.

Mayor Jones: Is this an absolute auction?

Greg Fincher: Some of it needs to go to the scrap yard. Some of the stuff we can sell online.

iv. Discussion on sewer system report.

Chairman Kennedy: GIS and sewer camera fall under work to be performed on sewer rehab. Purchase of sewer camera to be used to inspect all sewers per EPA agreement. GIS is to be used for mapping, maintenance and location of all sewer lines, manholes, etc.

Chairman Kennedy moved this item to the formal agenda.

f. Finance and Policy (Chairman Black)

i. Reports and communications from Finance Director.

Lisa White: Thank you. In your packet is the financial report for August. Not too much of note to discuss. We are getting ready to close fiscal year 2006 to get ready for the audit. We have several year end reports due to agencies that we are working on now. The auditor is coming sometime in the next couple of weeks. Working on health insurance for the employees is quite a big project, and so I tried to put a lot of information in your packets. There is a lot more to do. This is just the first step. We are going to ask the council to take action.

Councilman Cook: Ms. White, defer that until the agenda please.

Lisa White: I will. I wanted to say just a couple of things...

Councilman Cook: When I leave, you can discuss it, thank you.

Lisa White: Any other questions?

Councilman Godbey: Before you go. I want to commend you on the amount of work you have done on a lot of different issues. Finance and Policy has thrown a lot at you. All of these issues are very intricate and there is a lot going on especially with insurance issues. I do appreciate what you did.

Councilman Cook: Ms. White, would you stay there? I will probably need your help.

ii. Discussion on Mauldinfest insurance.

Councilman Cook: We have not, and you correct me, we have not insured volunteers in the past and that is what we are looking at. Would you give us a synopsis of the quotes and not give out any numbers.

Lisa White: We talked about the fact that we have not had any insurance at the committee meeting. We talked about needing the insurance for insuring the volunteers. I talked to Jennifer Ream, who is our representative for our insurance. She said it is not just covering volunteers. There are gaps in our coverage and when she came to the Finance meeting, she recommended getting it, but she didn't want to specially say all we needed it for was the volunteers. She did give me late Friday night a list of everything our current insurance covers the City for. She still felt there were gaps. It is not just the volunteers, there are other things that are missing.

Councilman Godbey: The City employees in their performance of jobs are covered doing their regular jobs. If they are doing something different

at Mauldinfest, which they are because it is a special event, they do their regular job, but they might be doing something different at Mauldinfest.

Lisa White: She said it could be questioned. The status of where we are now, Pat has been busy this last week since we found out the quote was a lot higher than the estimate we were first given, since that time, she has been trying to find other vendors. Ms. Miller was on the phone calling other cities in the area trying to figure out who they use, so this last week they have been trying. Pat does have a vendor that will give us a quote. They are interested in giving us a quote, which we might have by tomorrow. What we recommend since we do have the one quote, actually two quotes, we were going to recommend going all the way up to the highest dollar amount in that package to not exceed and hopefully by Wednesday we will have a cheaper one. If not, we will fall back to the one we had before.

Councilman Cook: I want to say that we not exceed, and I won't quote the amount, that we will be covered for \$2,000,000 and if we get a cheaper quote, we can go from there.

This item was sent to the formal session.

Mayor Jones: Are these employees going to work at the same hourly rate?

Lisa White: No, we tried to ask most of the employees to volunteer. A lot of our employees will be out there on their own time. there will be police officers out there on duty at their hourly rate, some PW employees will be out there. If I went out there and was driving a golf cart, that is not something I normally do. The sanitation department people will pick up the trash, the police department officers will be covered doing their jobs.

Councilman Cook: It is the volunteers that don't get paid.

Lisa White: And chamber members. The whole event is run by volunteers. Those are the people we are trying to protect.

Councilman Cook: We really have a lower rate, but we were misinformed. Legally, after we have talked about this, if we don't go with insurance we could really be liable.

Councilman Godbey: Mauldinfest is this weekend. As Mr. Cook said, we have opened this up. We do have vendors and fireworks that are insured by their own policies. This was brought up in committee. We are covering our bases. This insurance would cover almost anything that could happen. If an employee is doing something out of the ordinary or anything. I am discouraged that we are having more insurance on it, and think we need to look at this again next year. For the sake of the city, we need to pass this forward. I am going to vote for it.

Mayor Jones: I don't know how I am going to vote when the time comes. I cannot stand to be ripped off. This is three times higher than the estimate. I will decide that later.

iii. Discussion on Mauldin Gazette.

Councilman Cook asked that the Gazette be published in October and sent this to the formal session.

Councilman Godbey: I object to having this published at this time with the elections coming up. I have a copy of the last Gazette that had been published by the city. It was published the week before the last election cycle. This is a quarterly newsletter about the city's activities, and shouldn't be politicized. I think even if it is a neutral commentary, it gives the incumbents an unfair advantage and allows those challengers who are not on council to be held at a disadvantage and holds the city to possible litigation because we have not published in two years. I recommend we publish it November 7th after the election and think that is an ethical and wise move on this council's part. I ask for roll call.

Councilman Godbey- no, Councilman Co- yes, Councilman Hunter- no, Councilman Kennedy- yes, Councilman Smith- yes, Mayor Jones- yes.

iv. Discussion on health insurance.

Councilman Cook: I have to go to the bathroom. I have a conflict of interest.

Councilman Godbey: I will note that Mr. Cook recused himself on this issue for a potential conflict and is doing the right thing. We have been involved with the state plan. The estimated increase in employer cost under the State Health Plan for 2008 is approximately 9.7%. (This increase has been budgeted). Staff has recently been researching possible alternative sources/vendors for employee group insurance. During the past month we have gotten preliminary information from Corporate Benefits, an insurance broker, as well as MASC and have a meeting scheduled with United Benefit Advisors. From this research, we are certain that the City will be able to obtain a better quality insurance for employees at either the same price or lower than we currently are paying. Further research is required, however the City is required to provide the State Plan with notice within 90 days of January 1 that it does not intend to renew its policy. Staff wishes to get as much input from employees and council in the choice of a new insurance carrier. We have planned several meetings and will encourage all employees, spouses and council to attend.

Department heads and other key employees will listen to an overview and be able to have input. A flyer will be placed in paychecks to invite all employees and their spouses to the meeting. Employees will be able to ask questions. Surveys will be provided to all attendees to allow all employees to ask additional questions and provide input on the choices.

Council is encouraged to come to any meeting. Please let Lisa White know of any specific questions or issues you would like to see addressed.

An estimated savings of \$95,930 from our current premium, and projected to provide a savings of \$150,895 from the renewal in 2008. Staff requests that Council authorize the City Administrator to sign the letter of intent to withdraw from the State Employee Insurance Program. If the administrator signs the letter, it locks us out of the insurance program for four years. When I was in the system, it was a one year cycle, it moved to two years, and now it has moved to four years. If we choose to do this, we are closing the door and we can't reopen it for four years. This affects all the families. We don't have to close the door and we can choose not to, we do have to decide tonight.

Councilman Godbey sent this item to the formal session.

Mayor Jones: I would like to ask Mr. Eubanks, are we satisfied with what you have found out?

Trey Eubanks: Yes, sir. We have spoken to two providers and we are going to speak to a third. There were good questions raised in the committee meeting regarding being involved in a pool and what kind of assurances do we have if we get involved in a major claim. What assurances are we going to get moving forward? Our Finance Director has taken the lead on this and we have come up with at least two plans that will provide comparable and slightly better benefits at a reduced cost. We have the numbers that are included in Lisa's report from one provider. We still have our due diligence to do with regards to the plans and exactly what we are going to get and some assurances to their existing clients. We have a 90 day window to get the letter out. I am confident that we will have better coverage than right now.

Mayor Jones: I have been through this in 2001. Constant care, long term care, look at that in case someone does need that.

Councilman Godbey: I am not going to steal Ms. White's thunder, and she is here to answer questions. One of the questions is about the pool includes state retirees who have a lot more claims. We are in that pool. Our pool in our group, in the Mauldin employees, is less in need of insurance claims, so we have a higher rating. We are holding up and helping to support the claims other folks are making. If we get into a pool, if we have one catastrophic illness, it could jack our rates up. We need to be careful of that. This is not choosing which door to open, but only to close the door to our current provider.

Councilman Hunter: We are looking at some capping aren't we?

Lisa White: Different vendors have reinsurance caps. One is \$35,000 and one is \$50,000, which means anything over the cap goes out to their insurance. They take those out when they recalculate your experience

rating. Different ones have different amounts. You can even change your premium by changing the cap.

Councilman Hunter: The vendors you are dealing with, are we assured employee insurance next year?

Lisa White: You have a 12 month guarantee. We have no commitment.

Councilman Hunter: But we will have insurance for our employees if we back out of the state plan.

Lisa White: You get a contract year to year. They are assuring you they will cover you for a year. The state is a four year commitment. I am not sure about the MASC side. The other vendor, there is no commitment.

Trey Eubanks: With the Municipal Association, we don't have their numbers, I am familiar with them. The City I worked for was a member and I actually served on that board, they were formed over 20 something years ago for the purpose of insuring cities. There are currently 96 cities in the state of SC that are part of the pool. No city will be removed from being covered. If we go with the Municipal Association now or in the future, we have to commit for four years, but we would never be denied insurance with them. That is one of three we are looking at. These numbers are not from that provider. Those are some excellent questions. We want to have department heads, employees, and council be a part of these meetings as we move forward. I am confident that we can improve our situation, not just for one year, but also in the future. Not only with cost savings, but the level of benefits to our employees.

Councilman Hunter: I have been through this and know how difficult it is and think you are doing an excellent job. I offer my assistance if I can help. It is imperative that our employees have coverage next year. We need to be assured, but we need to have some source of coverage.

Councilman Godbey: The other comment I have for the knowledge of the council, the vendors can offer the same providers the state does, it primarily works with BCBS, an HMO, and one of the vendors has the same carrier. A number of the employees may not have a change in their provider. I don't know if that confuses. We are trying to get the best bang for the buck. Having been a state employee you do have limited options with the state. Those retirees are having a driven experience rate that goes up. That is just something that folks that study this know.

Lisa White: Mr. Hunter, I think I misunderstood you. I thought you were talking about renewal. You are talking about January, 2008, are we going to have insurance. Currently, the vendors are impressed with our loss ratios. It is phenomenal how low our claims are, we would have many more carriers trying to get us. We are a group of 140, mostly male, healthy police officers and firefighters. Claims have been very low. That could change in the future. I don't have any doubt, January 2008, we can cover them.

Councilman Godbey: I have given more than my fair share on this issue, but I would rather do this than come up short. We built the sports center that fire and police are accessing. Anything that we can do to promote health and move towards a safe environment, as Mr. Fincher is doing in the PW Department, safety is the number one issue. It is a heavy decision, but we are doing some things. We have a good population to work with. It is a risk to step out but all of those things lend me to believe it is the right move at the right time.

Mayor Jones: I would like to make one more comment. I am speaking from experience. We do want to save money, but when I got sick in 2001, I had never had a pain in my life. All of a sudden I had a problem. My insurance then was \$675 per month, at the end of the year it was \$1800 a month. The state says the insurance companies can't raise rates unless they raise everyone's rate, you can't pick out one person. All I am saying is I hope you are careful. How many people and what kinds of problems before they raise their rates. They are bad. Like I said, I trust you and will support you, but I hope it works out.

v. Discussion on travel policy

Councilman Cook: We have talked about this and council approves out of state travel. We discussed a radius of 300 miles, I made the comment that the first one we would have would be 302 miles. I want to allow the administrator handle the out of state travel and the administrator will advise us on what is taking place and we will hold him accountable.

Councilman Cook sent this to the formal session.

Councilman Godbey: I have discussion. The City Administrator enclosed a 300 mile radius- that includes Charlotte, Atlanta, and part of the Atlantic Ocean. I think that radius would cover most reasonable activities. I think their concern was they don't want to go to council every time they have to go to Charlotte. It covers all travel proposed tonight. If we are going to send someone to New York or Minnesota, I think council should look at this. I would like council to consider the 300 mile radius, which was the alternative.

Councilman Cook: If I can trust the administrator with 300 miles, I can't trust him to report something over that, we need a new administrator,. We don't need a cap. He is accountable to us. If we have someone going to Minnesota, I believe the administrator should contact us. I don't think we need a cap. I want to trust the administrator.

Councilman Godbey: It has nothing to do with trust. I do trust him.

Councilman Cook: 300 miles.

Councilman Godbey: Any extended travel ought to have a review. It is an oversight the council can do. It won't happen often. I think this is legitimate.

g. Committee of the Whole

Mayor Jones: I have something.

Russell Sapp: This is a rendering of two different styles for the sign at the cultural center which will include 6 panels viewed from both sides. I put it two different ways. It is along the same lines as our entranceway signs. It is brick. It has capability of having 10 panels within the sign itself. At the present time we have the Rotary Club, Lion's Club, Garden Club, and we will have the Chamber. This is just an idea. I need to know which way you want to go with it. We will do some fine tuning on it. This is just for you to review.

Councilman Cook: I like the one with Mauldin on the top and not the bottom.

Mayor Jones: I agree. He needs clarification so he can send it to bid.

Councilman Hunter: I make a motion to put this one out to bid.

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

Mayor Jones: The Garden Club President, Bonnie Nisley, and Elmer Grimm found a creek that they were recommending us to put beside the log cabin. There is a company called the Pond Society of SC and the President lives in Forrester Woods. They will do the work for free if we come up with the sand or whatever. Have you looked into this?

Trey Eubanks: Mr. Gene Cook is the past President and is a resident. We had a good discussion on the water feature. The material estimate we received for a 60' stream beside the cabin came in at just under \$4,000. The pond society has indicated through the Garden Club that they would be able to provide the labor. We are waiting to speak with them and set up a meeting to get some more details. It looks like it would be a great asset right beside the cabin. I did speak with Bonnie Nisley this afternoon and I believe Mr. Gene Cook has been out of town. Hopefully we can schedule more detail on that next week.

Mayor Jones: Didn't the recommendation come in for 120 feet?

Trey Eubanks: I would say that would double the cost, which would be about \$8,000. Furthermore, I did some looking into this and there is \$10,000 earmarked in the budget for the Garden Club. We could look at that and see what labor we can get from the pond society and our public works department to work out some of these details.

3. Adjournment.- Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting.

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
September 17, 2007
7:00 pm**

1. Call to Order- Mayor Jones
2. Reading and Approval of minutes- Informal and Formal sessions- August 20, 2007.

Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Hunter seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

3. Public Comment on items appearing on the agenda.
 - a. Danny Day: I am Danny Day. I am a 31 year resident of Mauldin on Fargo Street. It runs about 1.1 miles and is kind of a u-shape right off of Bethel Drive. We periodically had some problems with speeding and people cutting through our neighborhood, which is really known as Glendale III, even though we don't have an entrance sign. In 2005, one of the residents decided we needed to do something about the cut-through traffic. A petition was circulated to put speed bumps on Fargo. In addition to that, I think you as the Council have been lobbied pretty hard to take some action and you have responded. You have really done a good job trying to address the problem,. What happened though, a lot of people, including me, who signed it in 2005, indicated to the people pursuing the petition that if this brings attention to the problem, that is great, but you need to understand I don't really want speed bumps.

Here we are in 2007 and I think you have possibly made some arrangements to put in some rubber speed bumps. We really don't want those. We have done a petition against them. In 2005, there were 24 residences on Fargo Street that signed. Fargo has 54 residences on it. 44% signed it. The petition I just gave Mayor Jones only addresses Fargo Street residents. 36 residences of the 54 homes signed, so 66% say we don't want speed bumps. We still have problems and we are still going to talk to you about possible solutions. We have had some improvement in two years, some of the younger drivers have gone off to college, so that helped a little bit. Some of the older ones have been yelled at and that has helped. We really don't want the bumps. I know it is rare for someone to come to council and say you don't need to spend any money in terms of resources and capital to put in speed bumps. I happen to live on the hill. It is a great sledding hill when we get our one out of 30 year snows. I also frequently see kids go down the hill wide open on bicycles, skateboards, and scooters, and if they hit a speed bump at the bottom , it is not going to be pretty.

The other point is if I am house hunting and I go into a neighborhood with a speed bump, I will not consider it because it identifies clearly to me that there is a problem, so I consider that a devaluing of the neighborhood. We would like to pursue more with you at some point. If you recall, some council members were involved with shutting off Danbury, which is a connecting street. We can't tell you how great that was for the two weeks you had that street blocked. It basically killed the traffic. I thought the neighborhood had died. That was really effective. We probably at some point will talk to you about that. We are trying to get a feel what else we might do remedy the problem. I think the key there, and you pointed out to the group petitioning originally, that you didn't like it because it slowed down emergency response and was rough on the equipment. Typically, it is not fair for us to deal with speed bumps, because we are not the ones causing the problem. That is the petition, we don't want speed bumps. We will look from support from you. We appreciate that.

One other thing, the people who worked hard for that. We all agreed there was a problem but don't agree to the best solution. We are going to try to get more unified and not cause the confusion of more petitions. Some want them, some don't. I am one of the original signers, but of the 36 residents we caught the other day, 16 of those signed the original petition. It is two years later. People change and some things improve a little bit. This is where we are so we are saying don't do this.

Mayor Jones: How many households on Fargo?

Danny Day: 54. There is a debate whether it is 54 or 55, because one of the residents at Bartlett and Fargo. The original owner was a Bartlett. The new owner may have done something to change that, but I couldn't catch him to ask to be sure. There is 54. 36 signed opposed. There were only 24 on the original petition. I am only speaking for Fargo Street. I am not speaking for Bartlett. Bartlett is not on here. It was on the original one. I would encourage you to have the residents on Bartlett verify they want speed bumps before you do anything. What I would say, I know all the neighborhoods periodically get problems, I did get this from 945 Fargo the morning after Labor Day. It is two empty six packs of beer. They are not only littering, but probably also DUI. I see, my wife has the regiment where she thinks she has to walk 5 miles a day rain or shine, so it is good for our health and we walk through the neighborhood. I think if we cut that street off, that would help. I pretty much know everyone in the neighborhood and what they drive and everything else. After 31 years, you just do. I hope you will consider this and we can save you some money and aggravation with that. Thank you for your time.

Councilman Godbey: Part of this is before Greg's time here, but we passed something on the use of speed humps and we had a criteria set up so we didn't do this willy nilly. I would like to look into this. We want to have a criteria or a threshold to meet before we go with this.

Mayor Jones: We are going to let each one of the out of city residents speak on items c,d,and e for three minutes. Please don't be redundant.

- b. Andrew Clark: My name is Andrew Clark and I live on Old Towne Way in Holly Tree. I would like to speak on the annexation and planned development at the intersection of Bethel and Bridges Roads. From day one on this particular proposal that has been given to you, it has been not the detail, investigation, consideration, and study that it probably deserves. This is a tough piece of property. The developer is proposing to eliminate something on the order of eleven acres of trees. He proposes to eliminate that and avoid a flooding problem for a family named Lovelace that lives downstream from the property. The property contains a ravine and a running spring even with the drought we have had. It connects into Gilder Creek, which is infamous around the county and upstate as a flood prone area. We have objected to this project for a variety of reasons. It is a poorly conceived proposal from a technical standpoint. The land is not suitable for a development. The developers plans 48 or 46 units which he calls pinwheel condominiums. It is not clear to those of us that looked at the zoning ordinance if R12 allows that density. The density for R12 is 3.6 max units per acre. What this gentleman has proposed, if one obtains extra easements required by SCDOT along Bethel plus this 15 foot ravine, will not allow him 3.6 units per acre.

In addition to these things, the flooding situation is a serious one to those of us who live in the area. There are people in the room tonight who have lost significant amounts of land from the Gilder Creek. This plan will take 18-24 months to do, and the flooding potential is very serious. Last Friday, we had about two inches of rain in the area of this development. Within an hour of the maximum amount of rain, Gilder Creek was up to the bottom of the bridge that crosses Holly Tree golf course around hole 16. It doesn't take much additional water flow to make a serious problem in this area. We understand that development will eventually come to this property. It won't sit there forever and we know that. We are asking that you give careful consideration to the property. We prefer that it stays woods, but understand that is going to happen. Gentlemen, the potential for a flooding and other problems is real. The flooding problem exists today with 11 acres of trees in place. With 11 acres of trees gone, replaced by asphalt, it is going to be a serious problem for the people who live downstream. The development is too compact and too intense. There is a 60 foot drop from one end of this property to the other. That is going to require grading and pushing dirt around. That means a lot of mud and water downstream. I ask you to consider this.

- c. Mel Larkins: Good evening. Sorry we are keeping you late, but it is nice to be with you tonight on this intersection. It is interesting that you started off today with the Constitution Week proclamation. That drives us all. I have spent, I live on Honeyhorn, probably four or five houses down from Mr. Clark. I have been a resident only three years, but I came back to this part of the country. I have worked for Fluor for 39 years in planning, but I came back here because my other opportunity was in Houston, and I was not excited about that. What we came back for was we love the

Upstate. I came back to tremendous growth, but we came back to the same roads. I have heard Mayor Jones say many times that the infrastructure is not getting there quick enough to support the development we want. You go back to some of the basic wording. Your own website says Great Cities Don't Just Happen, they are purposely planned around the lifestyle of the people that live them. I have a lifestyle I enjoy and I think each of you do also. Then you go to your zoning regulations and they are in accordance with the comprehensive plan that is designed to lessen traffic congestion and secure safety from fire, panic, and dangers, prevent overcrowding and encourage appropriate land use. I am not angry with you. I can go talk to Butch Kirven the same way. Everything that is going on in the upstate is too much development and too little infrastructure. Where are the dollars? From a tax base, but you can't continue to play land grab to get your tax base. There must be some way we can work together. The developers need to be held accountable for part of the infrastructure that is adjacent to the land they want to develop. The county has Atlanta-based developers coming in. Do you realize there are 500 homes under construction within a mile of this development? That industry is in trouble right now. There are more houses than buyers. If you are in a 401-k, you are seeing the affects of that. The second thing that could impact us is you need to get on board with slowing development to substantially improve roads.

I left late on Monday morning to go to work because we came back from a cruise we took to Alaska- you talk about beautiful places, but I was running late Monday. I left at 7:45 a.m. and took a right on Bethel and came down to take a left on Bridges. The traffic from the schools to Holland all the way down Bridges and onto Bethel, that has to be two miles of bumper to bumper traffic. There is no alleviation of the traffic during the peak hours. I don't even go by there at night. Mr. Rice left early, but it goes by his property. What you need to do is help us with the infrastructure. The last thing anyone wants to see is more homes. We want to see some road work done. None of us want a pig farm, but I thought about that, Mayor Jones, you said we don't want a pig farm, but pigs don't drive. They wouldn't add to our traffic.

- d. Teresa Kizer: Mayor Jones, members of Council, once again we come before you to ask you to deny the annexation requests listed on your agenda items 7c,d,e. Serious issues of traffic, roads, stormwater, and density have not been adequately addressed. Both Eric Dillon from SCDOT and John Gardner representing GPATS have refuted the claims at the August council meeting made by staff and council members that the proposed development would not have a negative impact on the existing traffic problems. The study reported Bridges Road at a B level. When Bethel is factored in, this operates at a level F. When I went to school, that meant failure. Recently, many entities have taken turns at pointing the blame for our current conditions. The reality is, several governmental entities and developers are to blame. Inappropriate development only adds to the existing problems. Two wrongs never have and never will make a right. Until tonight, it has appeared that this council has disregarded citizens' opposition to the requests. Publicly it is stated

that citizens are allowed to speak. Until tonight, your past practices didn't always reflect that pledge. Thank you for allowing us to speak tonight.

Publicly it has been stated that Mauldin City Council has the goal to annex as much property as possible to increase its tax base. Sometimes you have to search within your hearts and determine if the end justifies the means. In regard to annexation and rezoning requests, the concerns of area residents remain- increased traffic, density of development, stormwater, safety, and quality of life. These issues should not be ignored. Please deny these requests with your no vote.

- e. Cindy Jordan: Sitting in the back of the room and listening to all of the rezoning and annexation, the question in the back of my mind is where is the comprehensive plan? What part did it play in the decisions to bring this to council to be voted on tonight? The issue of Mauldinfest insurance came up tonight and sounds like it is going to be fairly expensive. My question is, is this for Mauldinfest only? Or is this insurance you will carry year round for all functions that are special and above the day to day activities of the city. Is this on board all the time? Don't just tie it to one event. Spread out the cost over the entire year.

The Mauldin Gazette- I thank Mr. Godbey for his comments on that. I had not realized that it had been two years since the last printing. I hope if you do print it October 1st, that it is used as a means to introduce new city staff members, to talk about good things, and alert the residents of things that are going on and the election is left out of this print. There are rules and regulations in regards to elections.

- f. Michael Reynolds: I live in Adams Mill Estates. Specifically, real quickly, may I ask, I am here to talk about the Gazette, for those who are up re-election would state if they are up for re-election and what their roll call vote was for the record.

Mayor Jones: You came to address us and tell us what you want. We are not going to carry on a conversation with you. Tell us your concerns.

Michael Reynolds: Ok. I think the Mauldin Gazette is a great idea. I think informing your residents is awesome. Anything that brings open government should be addressed. My concern is the ethics behind this in an election time. We do have regulations that the state ethics commission controls. My question is why now specifically when you have had two years to do this. First, maybe it is a genuine interest in the community, and two, perhaps you haven't done anything in two years and suddenly you have, or three it is completely political to get your name out right before an election. I don't know which, but those are the three. On my campaign trail, I am a candidate, I will let everyone know who voted which way. That will probably not reflect well on you.

4. Reports and Communications from city officers.

- a. City Administrator

Trey Eubanks: I was honored to be hired as your City Administrator in June and have been on the job for just over two months now. One of you told me I was in for a wild ride – you were right! I have enjoyed getting to know you and our staff. It is great working for a city with a council and staff dedicated to a great future.

Cultural Center

The City of Mauldin has made significant appropriations to the Cultural Center in both funds and labor, and significant progress continues. The Community Room will be dedicated on September 25th and we are working hard toward the goal of completing renovations to the space for our Chamber of Commerce by the end of the month. We met again this morning to review plans from the GCRA pertaining to the demolition of the '67 wing. GCRA plans to bid this project next month. The City of Mauldin was successful in incorporating this aspect of the project into the GCRA budget. This is an expensive proposition and it will be funded by the GCRA, not city funds.

Furthermore, we are working with the CTC to draw down \$200,000 for Center City Road. SCDOT met with our architect last Thursday and we are working to provide documentation to draw down these funds. We must demonstrate that a competitive process was employed and document costs. Furthermore, we must demonstrate the benefit of this project. Our Sports Center is approaching 3,000 members. The progress of our Cultural Center will result in significant expanded use by our citizens. We are absolutely able to demonstrate a benefit to our community for this project and I am optimistic about getting these funds.

In the near future we need to install a sign and there has been discussion of a water feature adjacent to the cabin. Gene Cook is past president of the pond society and they may provide the labor for the water feature. Chief Sapp has drafted a concept for the sign that he will pass around.

Post Office

Our Mayor recently spoke with Sen. Graham about a new post office. Following that discussion, Sen. Graham's upstate director, Van Cato visited our vintage 1969 post office with Chief Sapp and me. We are not for a new facility and we have to get in the process. This starts at the state level and ultimately gets to Washington. We can make a great case for an office and also have them consider a new zip code. I live in the city limits of Mauldin. My mailing address is Greenville, my two girls go to Mauldin Elementary School and that is Simpsonville. That is also part of what we are going to work with the postal service on. 1970, we had 3797 folks, now we are estimating this past July to have 19,806. That is tremendous.

The entryway sign on 276- sod should be installed tomorrow or Wednesday. They did a great job finishing that up.

A quick note on annexation, we have been asked to speak to Warrenton subdivision on September 24th at their request.

The final thing, I provided you information on goal setting and if you would think of a good date to get together and do that, that would be great. Again, it has been a great, wild ride. I am glad to be here and proud to be working for the city.

Councilman Godbey: The cultural center is something you highlighted a couple of times. The position of executive director has not been filled since Mr. Raines left. The board has talked about it. Part of what I would like to see us do, is define the options for the position so if funding is available, we can move forward rapidly.

Trey Eubanks: At the last Finance committee, one of the directives to me was to come up with a position description for Executive Director. I am working on that. We did also get some clarification from the city attorney that a city employee could engage in fundraising. My recommendation is that we not fund the position from city funds because that is not budgeted. I will continue to make sure that we can use the city as an employer to provide benefits and the foundation could fund that position if they want to.

Councilman Godbey: I asked Ms. White to put that on the agenda for the next committee meeting.

Councilman Cook: We tabled that. To get that on the agenda, I have to take it off the table. We discussed that fully. I don't know what the reason is. We instructed the administrator to come back with a job description. It can't go back on the agenda unless we put it off the table.

John Duggan: It has to come through committee.

Councilman Godbey: My understanding is the policy of the city is any council member can bring to any committee an agenda item. I want to know where the administrator is in his efforts. I am not arguing Mr. Cook's question. I just want to stay abreast of the process. If Mr. Cook wants to take that right from me, I will have heartburn.

Councilman Cook: We can just table it back in committee. Whatever he wants to do. No grandstanding.

Councilman Godbey: One other question I have. The contact with Lindsay Graham's office, I understand from the postmaster is that if we don't get a unified zip code, there isn't a possibility of a new facility. They operate under 29662 and is a limited area. They do, as a postal department, and this is for information, they track it according to the census. Part of what it would do is delay until 2010.

Our growth has been so substantial within the last six or seven years, we can request an exemption.

Trey Eubanks: There was a moratorium placed on new facilities a couple of years ago. That wiped everything clean and we had to move forward. We will make a case with census data. I understand that the zip code issue and the facilities are separate. But I appreciate the information.

Councilman Godbey: I encourage you to talk to the postmaster. She was concerned about upsetting the apple cart.

Trey Eubanks: We talked to her this afternoon and we will keep her in our discussion.

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

- Police Committee
- a. Consideration and action on alarm ordinance.
- Planning and Economic Development (Mr. Hunter)

Chairman Cook made a motion to adopt this ordinance and to waive the fee until December 1st. Councilman Godbey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- b. Consideration and action on PHC Communities, LLC Rezoning – W. Butler at Holly Ridge

This item was tabled.

- c. Consideration and action on Dewayne Rice property - Annexation and Rezoning – Bridges Road

Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve this second reading with Councilman Kennedy seconding.

Councilman Godbey: Given the residents' comment and historical evidence of flooding on Gilder Creek, what I would like to do is table the second reading so we can get more study on this. The developer accommodated the Planning Commission with the power point presentation but, some of the arguments brought forward, storm water management, Bethel Road, and the traffic conditions out there give cause for us to pause and move slowly on this,.

The vote was 5-1 with Councilman Godbey against.

d. Consideration and action on Burgan Property – Annexation and Rezoning

Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve this on second reading. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Councilman Godbey: I will restate what I said and add that the developer is going to take 18-24 months and taking one more month wouldn't hurt us.

The vote was 5-1 with Councilman Godbey against.

e. Consideration and action on Chappellear property- Annexation and Rezoning.

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this on second reading. Councilman Cook seconded and the vote was 5-1 with Councilman Godbey dissenting. Mr. Godbey restated his objection.

- Finance and Policy (Mr. Black)

f. Consideration and action on Mauldifest insurance.

Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the bid up to the quoted amount. Councilman Godbey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

Mayor Jones: We have never had insurance before with Mauldifest and all of a sudden it is going to cost a good bit of money. I don't know... if I vote against it and something should happen, that would be a bad thing to do, but it is going to be a lot sooner next time.

Councilman Cook: In our committee, we discussed with the administrator and Ms. White and I think we need to have this in our budget discussions when they come up. Ms. Jordan made a good suggestion that we don't look at just Mauldifest, but all of our events. That needs to be looked at in our next budget cycle.

Councilman Godbey: I would ask Ms. White to look at the bids we are getting even though we are under the gun, they do include for year round or if they are just for Mauldifest. If it is just for Mauldifest, why not give them the opportunity to quote for year round. We do have the Christmas parade and the lighting of the Christmas tree. If we can get it year round in the next two days, that is alright.

8. New Business

- Fire Committee (Mr. Godbey)

- a. Discussion on fire traffic signal

Chairman Godbey made the motion to approve this with Councilman Smith seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0). The other money will be carried over for the cooling equipment.

- Police/ Judicial Committee (Mr. Cook)

- b. Discussion on out of state travel.

Chairman Cook made a motion to approve out of state travel for the police department. Councilman Hunter seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- Recreation Committee (Mr. Smith)- None

- Planning and Economic Development Committee (Mr. Hunter)

- c. Consideration and action on Balcome Boulevard annexation.

Chairman Hunter made a motion to accept this on first reading. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- d. Consideration and action on Brookwood PD major change.

Chairman Hunter made a motion to approve the major change with Councilman Cook seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

- e. Consideration and action on annexation and rezoning at East Butler Road and I385 North.

- f. Consideration and action annexation and rezoning at East Butler Road and I38 South.

These two items are combined. Chairman Hunter made a motion to annex and rezone both parcels on first reading. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- Public Works Committee (Mr. Kennedy)

g. Consideration and action on Insituform.

Chairman Kennedy made a motion to accept this agreement with Insituform. This will realign the pipes for \$80,645. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

h. Consideration and action on items for auction

Chairman Kennedy made a motion to approve the auction with Councilman Godbey seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).

i. Consideration and action on sewer system report.

Chairman Kennedy made a motion to approve this with Councilman Hunter seconding.

Councilman Godbey: Mr. Lawson has done a tremendous job on getting us through the EPA requirements. Those requirements have been lifted on the City of Mauldin.

Trey Eubanks: I wanted to get that on the record that we have been released from the consent order. We have to continue to comply with the work order. We have entered into an agreement with WCRSA. We will go out to bids for the camera system and have that for you next month. We want to stay in the good graces of the EPA.

The vote was unanimous (6-0).

- Finance Committee (Mr. Black)

j. Consideration and action on Mauldin Gazette.

Councilman Cook made a motion to print the Gazette in October. Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Councilman Godbey: If it was published as always, it would have been published on a regular quarterly basis and it was not. It was last published in November 2005.

Mayor Jones: I am glad you said that. Before the election.

Councilman Godbey: It hasn't been published for two years. I think it puts the City at risk of litigation given that it hasn't been published for two years. I request roll call.

Mayor Jones: It has been published on a quarter basis. We got off track because we went through so many department heads and administrators, we couldn't get ourselves together. We are going to get back to a quarterly issue.

Roll call- Councilman Godbey- no, Councilman Cook- yes, Councilman Hunter- no, Councilman Kennedy- yes, Councilman Smith- yes, Mayor Jones- yes.

k. Consideration and action on health insurance.

Councilman Cook recused himself before this discussion.

Councilman Godbey: Councilman Cook has excused himself because of a potential conflict of interest. I don't think he has a direct conflict, but I appreciate the fact he has excused himself. The estimated increase under the State Plan is approximately 9.7%. We have all heard this. I make a motion to allow the city administrator to sign the letter of intent to withdraw from the State Employee Insurance Program and allow the administrator to shop around recognizing that it will be four years before we can get back in.

Councilman Smith seconded the motion.

Mayor Jones: We were talking about costs. The reports we got was we have very few claims. Why would they go up 9% on us? We don't have many claims and they have taken in hundreds of thousands of dollars. I am still leery of insurance companies.

l. Consideration and action on travel policy.

Councilman Cook returned.

Councilman Godbey: We just have one more issue and that is the alternatives to state travel. We need some discussion with Mr. Cook since he has voiced a clear preference.

Councilman Cook made a motion to let the administrator approve out of state travel. Councilman Godbey seconded the motion.

Councilman Godbey: I bring out the 300 mile radius. It cuts right into Jacksonville, Florida. 300 miles is sufficient for most of the travel we would have.

The vote was 5-1 with Councilman Godbey dissenting.

- Committee of the Whole

9. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda.

10. Council requests.

11. Adjournment. – Mayor Jones adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller

Municipal Clerk