

The special called council meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m. after executive session. Councilman Matney reported no decisions were made and no action was taken.

**MINUTES
MAULDIN CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 20, 2017
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Members present were Mayor Dennis Raines, Council members Carol King, Terry Merritt, Taft Matney, Scott Crosby and Larry Goodson. Councilman Dale Black was out of town. City Attorney John Duggan and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.

1. Call to order. –Mayor Raines
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Goodson
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Army
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines
2. Proclamations and Presentations-Mauldin Chamber; Presentation of audit; City app presentation; InnovaPad presentation

Trey reported that the chamber has some upcoming Christmas activities and there is a report from them in the agenda packet.

David Phillips was present to give the audit findings. We received an unmodified opinion again this year. The City is doing very well financially and has a large fund balance of almost 50% of the general fund.

The Bright City app was presented as a tool for our citizens to use to be more engaged in government and improve communication. We would be able to participate in a trial period of six months for free to see if the citizens are interested in using the app. The City must let the company know by December 30th if we would like to participate in the trial.

Vik Pearce from InnovaPad was present to talk about the reimbursement program. The company provides each fire station with an IPAD that sends accident reports to InnovaPad so they can file for accident reimbursement from liable parties' insurance companies. This bill is only sent to insurance companies, not citizens. The amount requested from the insurance company is based on how many trucks respond to a scene, how many hours are spent there, and any special equipment that was used on the scene.

John Duggan said he has looked into this program and this is a legal way to recover some of our fire department costs of responding. The SC Attorney General has also issued a favorable opinion on the program. Trey asked Chief Stewart if this program would change his emergency responses in any way. Chief Stewart answered no. Trey then asked Mr. Pearce if a citizen has a wreck that is recoverable and their insurance refuses to pay the fee, would they ever know anything about that? Would they see a bill? Mr. Pearce answered no. Councilman Goodson said he would feel more comfortable with this program if there were set fees for each incident.

This item was for information only and will be sent back to committee for more discussion.

3. Reading and approval of minutes.- Council minutes October 16, 2017

Councilman Merritt made a motion to accept the minutes with Councilman Matney seconding. Councilman Merritt made two typo corrections and with that, the minutes were approved unanimously (6-0).

4. Public Comment.- None

5. Report from City Administrator

Trey said there are a lot of Recreation projects going on. Council has been forwarded a detailed report on ADA requirements from our Business and Development Services Director. Trey also mentioned that in his report to council there are several Christmas events the City and Chamber collaborate on.

6. Reports from Standing Committees- The report is on file.

- a. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)
- b. Economic Planning and Development (Chairman Matney)
- c. Building Codes (Chairman Black)
- d. Recreation (Chairman Merritt)
- e. Finance and Policy (Chairwoman King)
- f. Public Safety (Chairman Crosby)

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on Central Redevelopment District (Building Codes)- Councilwoman King made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. Councilman Goodson seconded. The vote was unanimous (6-0).
- b. Consideration and action on fencing regulations (Building Codes)- Councilman Goodson made a motion to accept this ordinance on second reading. Councilwoman King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).
- c. Consideration and action on development agreement (Committee of the Whole)- Councilman Matney made a motion to consider this as committee of the whole. Councilwoman King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0). Councilman Matney made a motion to accept this development agreement ordinance on second reading. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on city app (Committee of the Whole)- Councilman Matney made a motion to consider this as committee of the whole.

Councilwoman King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0). The initial deadline for the pilot program was November 30th, but we have an extension on that. This is the reason for the presentation tonight. Councilman Matney made a motion to participate in the pilot program. Councilwoman King seconded the motion. Councilman Merritt said he would prefer to see the demo before voting on the pilot program. He also is concerned about time for staff to get out the information to keep the app current. Councilman Matney rescinded his original motion. Councilman Matney made a motion to send this to committee to be discussed on December 4th. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- b. Consideration and action on Forrester Woods storm drainage (PW)- We have committed to repair this problem but the project has gone over the initial estimate. We have sent out two bids and the last bid is \$231,000 more than the amount originally discussed. We have asked the County for money toward the project but their funds have been committed. Chairman Goodson asked that Holly give a report on how this amount would affect the budget and where the money would come from. He also asked that the County be asked for \$150,000 in next year's budget. They work on a fiscal year just like we do. Chairman Goodson made a motion to send this item back to committee. Councilman Crosby seconded the motion, Councilman Merritt said growth is not slowing down. Construction costs are rising. We are delaying the inevitable. We have the money available and need to go ahead and get this project done. The City has been discussing this for two years.

Chairman Goodson asked if we were in danger of losing the low bid. They could not remember how long the bids were good for. We could award the bid and try to value engineer the cost down. We can get a financial report and make the request to the County to be included in next year's projects. There is a possibility if some of the County's projects come in less expensive or fall off, we could get some funding this year. Councilman Matney said we have made promises to Forrester Woods and need to act before we lose the low bid. This will start the negotiation process with the low bidder.

Chairman Goodson made a motion to award the bid to Payne, McGinn & Cummins in the amount of \$731,257 and negotiating with the contractor about reducing the cost through value engineering. Holly will also gather financial information for committee. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- c. Consideration and action on City website upgrade (EPD)- Our current website needs to be rebuilt. Staff has worked hard to identify potential partners to update the website to make it more user friendly. The annual fee will be \$2720 for hosting to come out of the marketing budget. Staff feels the project could be contained to a cost of \$25K-\$30K for the rebuilding of the website. Engenius is the company staff recommends to contract with. Councilman Merritt said he wholeheartedly agrees with Councilman Matney. Councilman Merritt wants to make sure the new website meshes with Recreation, not the Sports Center. We will be able to do online registration for Recreation programs. Chairman Matney made a motion to engage Engenius to build our website and also host it. Councilman Merritt seconded and the vote was unanimous (6-0).

- d. Consideration and action on extension of CRD moratorium (Building Codes)- This is a 120 day extension of the moratorium to allow staff time to develop appropriate zoning regulations to guide the development of the City Center project, and to meet with business and property owners with parcels located in the project area. Councilwoman King made a motion to approve this moratorium extension on first reading. Councilman Matney seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).
- e. Consideration and action on 2018 health insurance (Committee of the Whole)- Councilman Matney made a motion to consider this as committee of the whole. Councilwoman King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0). Our renewal has come in at a 10.5% increase this year. Originally it was an over 30% increase, but we negotiated it down. Staff looked at other providers and the state plan, but found this is the best plan for the best cost. There will an employee meeting on November 28th to explain next year's benefits and a new part of our wellness program. Chairwoman King made a motion to accept this plan with a 10.5% increase for 2018. Councilman Crosby seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0).
- f. Consideration and action on fire department mutual aid agreement (PS)- This item covers mutual aid assistance between fire entities during emergencies. John Duggan has reviewed the agreement. Chairwoman Crosby made a motion to pass this mutual aid agreement with Councilman Matney seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0).
- g. Consideration and action on Knollwood traffic concerns (PS)- Our police department has conducted several studies on Knollwood traffic problems and patterns. Out of these studies come a few recommendations for stage 1 traffic calming. It is recommended that a 25 mph speed limit sign be erected near the intersection of Knollwood Drive and Locke Lane. Second, The 25mph sign at the southern entrance of Knollwood drive is not regulation size and should be replaced with one of official size. Third is to put new left and right turn arrow signs at the curve located in the 500 block of Knollwood Drive. The fourth recommendation is to remove the stop sign from the center of the curve in the 500 block of Knollwood Drive and replaced with multiple left directional arrows. The last recommendation is to install curve ahead signage at the 700 block of Knollwood drive and remove the stop sign ahead signage. Chairman Crosby made motion to accept these recommendations and direct the Police Chief to have these changes made.

Mayor Raines said these look like operational issues. He is not sure why council needs to vote on the issue. They said this is stage 1 traffic calming and this is to consider Chief Turner's recommendations. Councilman Merritt said he agrees with the Mayor. He doesn't want to have to vote on stop sign placement. Councilwoman King said this comes from a traffic study and initiated because a pedestrian was hit by a car on Knollwood Drive. Councilman Goodson said Chief followed a policy stating what needs to be done. The vote on the motion was 5-1 with Councilman Merritt opposing. Councilman Merritt explained his no vote is only because council is taking action on this item and not that he is opposed to the traffic calming measures that will be done.

9. Public Comment

- a. Dr. Jared Sargent: I hope everyone is well. I would like to approach and drop these off please. I am here again to try and get my landscape problem resolved. So, Mauldin took on this project through a grant a couple of years ago. Here is a plan of what was supposed to be done. I have asked these issues be addressed. I don't think it has been properly addressed. I have been in contact with the project engineer, Stephanie Jackson and she sent me an email stating there is an agreement that the Public Works Department will maintain the landscaping. With that said, if they choose to come and mow it all down, they can do that too. Here is a copy of the landscaping guidelines and the maintenance agreement. I also included the definition of maintenance according to Merriam Webster which is the act of maintaining, or state of being maintained, or upkeep of property or equipment.

I have requested in previous emails that I be allowed to maintain it, and I had a spirited back and forth with Gary this morning and told him I would submit a landscaping plan. But as I have thought about it, the grant is taxpayer's money. I heard a lot this evening about being fiscally responsible, and I am a taxpayer, which means some of my money was used. I was told this morning that this is being adequately maintained and I think the pictures clearly show it is not being maintained properly. I would like to request again that this property be properly maintained. Do you not ask any questions at this point?

Mayor Raines: What is your definition of adequately maintained? Is it your ultimate goal that the city take all the trees down?

Dr. Sargent: No, although that would look better. There are tons of holes. If I have to call the City to tell them about dead trees and bushes, that is not really adequate maintenance. If something dies and is removed, why isn't it replaced?

10. Council requests- Councilman Crosby admonished council for not attending the First Responders luncheon held by the children from First Baptist Church. He wished we had more participation from council. Councilman Merritt said last Tuesday a group of

men called the Wise Council hosted first responders at Mutt's for lunch. Councilman Crosby said he was not invited to that.

Councilwoman King asked Councilman Goodson if he would place Main Street landscaping on the next Public Works Committee agenda. Chairman Goodson said he has already requested that.

Mayor Raines wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

11. Adjournment.- Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk