

**Minutes  
City Council Meeting  
June 17, 2019  
7:00 p.m.**

**Members present were Mayor Dennis Raines, Council members Taft Matney, Carol King, Terry Merritt, Scott Crosby, Dale Black and Larry Goodson. City Attorney John Duggan and City Administrator Brandon Madden were also present.**

The Mayor read a press announcement that was given earlier to the Greenville News and Fox 21.

“Myself, city council and city staff, needless to say, are extremely disappointed in the type of behavior as uncovered by our internal investigation.

Tomorrow morning, we will be requesting an external investigation from SLED. Our intention here is to ensure we have an all-encompassing report once their investigation is complete, and we will deal expeditiously as we have done so already in this case.

This is the community we cherish and we will not lose focus on what it means to wake up every day in this City and be a part of a place that is special. We live and serve here too. Family values are at the core of our community here in Mauldin. Unfortunately, humans disappoint us from time to time. Our strength shows in how we respond. We will come out stronger than ever. ”

Brandon also shared where we are with our public safety. “Operation of the City police department has enough staff and coverage to deploy resources so we are adequately providing high quality public safety services to the public. We currently have 52 authorized positions and 45 officers. We are working to make sure we are deploying them in a manner so that we do not have a lapse or delay and making sure we have coverage for our residents.

The police department, Mayor, Council, and department heads, are all dedicated to make sure we can provide trustworthy law enforcement.”

1. Call to order- Mayor Raines
  - a. Invocation- Councilwoman King
  - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilwoman King
  - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines

2. Proclamations and Presentations- Korean War presentation- Lewis Vaughn

Mr. Vaughn talked about the importance of the Korean War and asked for contributions towards a wall at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC.

Councilman Matney spoke about Mr. Vaughn's servant heart and also reminded us that the anniversary of the Mother Emanuel AME church shooting is upcoming. South Carolina came together after that event in love.

3. Reading and approval of minutes

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2019- Councilman Matney made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0). Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2019- Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

4. Public Comment- None

5. Report from City Administrator- Brandon introduced two interns- Sloane Perkins and Emily Mitchell

6. Reports from Standing Committees- Reports are on file

- a. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)
- b. Economic Planning and Development (Chairman Matney)
- c. Building Codes (Chairman Black)
- d. Recreation (Chairman Raines)-

Councilwoman King commented that the Trevor Booker basketball camp is a wonderful thing the City sponsors.

Councilwoman King then mentioned that there are baseball all-star tournaments going on now.

- e. Finance and Policy (Chairwoman King)
- f. Public Safety (Chairman Crosby)

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on Annexation and zoning assignment for property owned by Richard Snipes at Quartz Circle and Fork Shoals Road (Building Codes)- second reading

Chairman Black made a motion to accept this on second reading. This will be zoned R10 and C2 and is 9.8 acres. The motion was seconded by Councilman Goodson. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on FY 19 Budget amendment (Finance)- Second reading

Chairwoman King made a motion to approve the amendment as submitted. Councilman Matney seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- c. Consideration and action on ordinance to amend the procurement policy to provide for development agreements (Finance)- second reading- Originally this item was on the agenda under Committee of the Whole. Councilman Merritt pointed out that the item was discussed and forwarded from the Finance Committee, so this item will be changed from Committee of the Whole to Finance and no informal consideration motion was needed.

Chairwoman King made a motion to amend the policy to authorize the City to enter into development agreements with private developers, property owners, and other private parties in which the City agrees to provide public infrastructure or services which may be of benefit to the private development as well as to the City, its citizens, and the public. Councilman Matney seconded the motion.

John Duggan said normally the City takes bids to make sure we get the best deal. If a developer is putting in public infrastructure, this will require a bid process to be done by the developer. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Consideration and action on budget ordinance FY 2020 (Committee of the Whole)-Second reading

Councilwoman King made a motion to consider this informally with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilwoman King made a motion to adopt the FY 2020 budget ordinance with Councilman Goodson seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the resolution authorizing a lease purchase along with the FY 2020 budget. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

## 8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on Annexation and zoning assignment for property owned by the Life Estate of Helen Hendrix at Standing Springs Road (Building Codes) – First reading

Chairman Black made a motion to pass this ordinance on first reading. The requested zoning is R10. Councilman Goodson seconded. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on appointments to boards and commissions (Building Codes) – Only requires one vote. Randy Eskridge was appointed to the Zoning Board and Teddy Allison was appointed to the Planning Commission.

- c. Consideration and action on eTrak contract (Rec)-Only requires one vote

This contract has been approved by our Finance Department and City Attorney. Anticipated savings to the City is about \$12,500 per year after the initial year.

Councilman Black asked about the compatibility of this with our existing hardware. Joe Lanahan answered there will be some receipt machines that need to be purchased for around \$200.00- \$600.00 each and this software will bring up our technology to better serve our sports center members.

Councilman Merritt said he had a concern that we are going to follow this item with a vote on a new IT provider. He feels this is getting the cart before the horse. On the other hand, it is also cloud based, so any browser based device should be able to access the software. Ports will have to be monitored because there are people who will try to send viruses or get access to our desktop PCs and finance software.

Councilman Merritt asked if the three companies that submitted for our IT Services were given an opportunity to look at the requirements of the eTrak software. Joe said when this was first reviewed, there was a question about cyber liability. The contract was sent back to eTrak and made more clear and then approved by our attorney. This will make sure we have a cyber security blanket. Joe said eTrak works with about a dozen different softwares in other municipalities and they have shown great flexibility in being able to be compatible with all of them. Councilman Merritt asked if the other companies looked at eTrak specifically. Mark Putnam answered no.

Councilman Merritt then asked if Recreation has the 100 MB pipe that will be required to run the programs. Joe said once we determined eTrak might be our software provider, they came in and looked at the sports center's internet and determined it was adequate to handle their software. Councilman Merritt said the contract is \$23,950 currently and the number quoted has increased three times. He said everything he has read on eTrak looks good, he just wants to make sure everyone is talking to each other.

Chairman Raines made a motion to approve the eTrak contract with Councilwoman King seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Consideration and action on IT Managed Services RFP (Finance)- Only requires one vote

Chairwoman King made a motion to approve Acumen as our new IT provider. A contract will be provided for council consideration at a later date. There will be a workshop Friday afternoon and Acumen will make a presentation for information. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- e. Consideration and action on Economic Development Incentive Policy (Finance)- Only requires one reading

This policy will provide for incentives to bring businesses into our City if they meet certain criteria. Chairwoman King made a motion to pass this policy with Councilman Matney seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Councilman Merritt caught a typo. With should be within. The change will be made.

Councilman Matney mentioned this was sent to Finance and Policy for review as well, and the reason behind this is the way state law has been written and interpreted is the state can provide incentives, counties have a lot of incentives they can use for economic development, and the cities really don't have anything. This was important to EPD and Finance to be as welcoming as we can to businesses.

The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- f. Consideration and action on Park Hours ordinance (Public Safety)- First reading

There is currently no signage that provides park hours. We have had some activity in the parks after hours, so signage is needed for public information.

Chairman Crosby made a motion to pass this ordinance on first reading.

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

## 9. Public Comment

- a. Jeff Mott: I live at 211 Pine Crest Drive. Just a quick thing I want to say. I have been coming to meetings for three years now. I want to preface this by saying, and we have all heard the saying, it is not personal, it is professional. I have lived in Mauldin for 15 years. When I first moved here, Mauldin was run in a very efficient way. We could put out limbs and debris and it was picked up in a matter of a couple of days. We just recently trimmed up trees and bushes and they sat out at the street for over two weeks. I now have a dead patch of grass. I just, quite frankly, am not seeing a lot of the leadership that the people of Mauldin has entrusted this group to run with. I don't think there are a lot of things that are being addressed.

I have been coming to these meetings for a number of years and there is only a handful of you on this board that have actually reached out to speak to me- Mr. Black, Mr. Merritt and Mr. Goodson. Thank you. I am just not seeing that this council is showing the respect to the people that they deserve. Perfect example is just tonight. Mr. Merritt asked at 6:00 p.m.- most of these people weren't here- I was the only one in this room. There were three items for discussion. Mr. Merritt felt there was not going to be enough time. He was assured that there would be. This meeting didn't start until 45 minutes after it was supposed to. On top of that, there was also a press conference that obviously everyone knew about. So, instead of starting at 7:00 p.m., it didn't start until 8:00 p.m. To me, that shows a lack of respect to the citizens of this town. A lot of people now have actually left because it is getting late.

Each of you want votes. Those of us who vote want leadership. I know there is an election coming up and a lot of seats will be available. We hope that we start seeing that leadership. Thank you.

b. Jared Sargent: Jared Sargent. I am at 611 North Main which I am sure you already know. Tough week for the city, huh? I find it a little difficult to believe that you have just become aware of this issue as purported. I have known about it since March. I am just a guy who owns a piece of property and a business here. I am glad to see it hasn't affected the fire department, because I think that would just be a terrible thing. Back to address some old issues. My landscaping still looks terrible. I have decided I am just going to take care of it and take it off of everybody's plate. Drainage is also an issue on my property because the storm drains are not cleared properly. During the heavy rain today, the parking lot flooded again. Again, that is something that the City and public works need to take care of.

As far as economic planning and development is concerned, I listened to that as well, I had a conversation with a council member about a month ago and proposed an idea for the Four Seasons building, which council bought for about \$500,000. They assured me they would get back to me, and I haven't heard back from them yet. I am just curious as to why that hasn't happened and why it is ok to tie up \$500,000 of the taxpayers' money. That is around the number that was paid for it. I made a proposal to have that taken to council and the powers that be to put a business in there, completely separate from what I do. That is \$500,000 or half a million dollars of the taxpayers' money. I find it very hard to believe when you say things and you want businesses to come to Mauldin when there is a clear opportunity to have one probably by the end of this year, first quarter of next year, and I haven't been contacted back. That is pretty disappointing.

As far as people taking part in the political process, it seems to be discouraged quite a bit. I send out letters as many of you know, I don't think it is a secret about my displeasure at what goes on in this city at times. I am discouraged greatly from doing that. I even had someone come into my office and act in an aggressive and threatening manner to one of my employees. I don't appreciate that. I am the one who sends out the letters. If that person had a problem with it, they simply could have called me and asked to be taken off the list and that would have been done. But, to come into a place of business and act in an aggressive, threatening manner is totally out of context for what is going on and shouldn't happen. But, it also mirrors the experience I have had with council in the past when they have approached me in a really unprofessional manner. I really hope this changes for the better and I hope it is not just good enough until the votes are had and city council seats come up.

I would like to state again that I had a proposal for a building and I was assured that any day they were waiting on a proposal from a developer for that property. Why wait when someone is willing to put in a business by the end of the year or first quarter next year? It is something Mauldin would greatly benefit from and it is something that is a new idea to this area and could help revitalize this area. If that is what you really want to do, then show it. Thank you.

Mr. Duck had signed up to speak, but spoke to Councilman Matney prior to the meeting and had his questions answered.

#### 10. Council requests

Councilman Black said he has had residents call about brush that has not been picked up for several weeks. He saw one of the public works employees come by with a boom truck to pick up the limbs, but they left leaves on the street. Councilman Black said he has asked for several years to have an inmate come along with a broom or rake and pick up the debris left behind before it is washed down the storm drain.

Councilman Crosby commented on Senator Vaughn's presentation. The most moving of the war memorials in Washington, DC in his opinion is the Korean War memorial and this is a good effort to add to the memorial.

Councilman Matney said we should take a moment to commemorate the 9 individuals who lost their lives at Mother Emmanuel church four years ago. They were gathered together and welcomed a stranger who came in and snuffed out their lives. Our state erupted in love for one another instead of the violence that was erupting across the country.

#### 11. Adjournment- Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk