

Minutes
City Council Meeting
September 16, 2019
7:00 p.m.

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

1. Call to order- Mayor Raines
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Black
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Black
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Raines
2. Proclamations and Presentations

Pat Pomeroy was present from the Chamber. The Train Show went well and was very well attended. Memberfest will be September 26th at CU ICAR.
3. Reading and approval of minutes
 - a. City Council Meeting –August 19, 2019- Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Matney seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0). Councilman Black did not vote since he was not present at the meeting.
 - b. Special Called City Council Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2019- Councilman Matney made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (6-0). Councilman Black did not vote since he was not present at the meeting.
4. Public Comment
 - a. Allen Jones: I think any government has an obligation to its citizens. You should have priorities, but the first thing you should do is protect your citizenry. You do that by appropriating money for the police, fire, and any other necessary services like your great trash pickup. The other thing is to preserve. I would like to see a neighborhood be preserved. Short term rentals have no benefit to the overall City. There is none. Not taxes- a family of four will pay more property

taxes than you will ever realize in property tax or accommodations tax. That is not an argument.

I have five motels, and I do call them motels, in my neighborhood. There is a lock box self check in. Now think about what that means. Someone can go online and make a reservation and get a code to the house across the street from me. They don't have to meet anybody. They are not checked in. It is already paid for. They don't have to see another human being. They check in for three days and they are gone. They don't have to see anyone. That concept is amazing. It keeps the owners from having to go around, let the people in, and settle them in. One of the houses in the neighborhood has the option of being met by a person. Total strangers. The people that own the properties have come in here and told you about the great service they have done in my neighborhood. They make the houses look great. They tell you it increases the property values in the neighborhood. We have flippers buying houses all the time. They fix them up to be sold by a family. Let's not disrupt something that does not need to be disrupted.

Short term rentals are not necessary to help the City of Mauldin be the good City it is with our families, high school football and other things. I need you to think about it. I think we could write some common sense regulations to make short term rentals that are acceptable to the community. Home occupied short term rentals because the homeowners are there. They supervise because they are there. The problem is, and I have read hundreds and hundreds of articles, but the problem is they can show up and they have never been seen by the owner of the house. That is where the problem is. There is no supervision for the people to act like adults.

I have had bachelor parties across the street, bachelorette parties, they turn them into party houses. Will all the houses in my neighborhood be turned into party houses? Probably not, but think about this, I don't know the rest of Mauldin. No one on this council can find the short term rentals. Please postpone or vote no.

Charles Graydon: We have a short term rental down the street from me and we have anywhere from 2-4 to 5 cars up and down the street all the time. They are all from out of state. We do have a party situation like Mr. Jones spoke to. We have people from Tennessee and Texas, we have people from North Carolina and they bring in all kinds of things. Short term rentals are not good for neighborhoods. But, I do want to speak on that other thing after the meeting.

5. Report from City Administrator

- a. Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve- Brandon reported Chief Stewart received an award for employing and allowing National Guard and Reserve soldiers to complete their duties and come back to employment.

- b. Greenville Water Billing Request Notification- Greenville Water has advised the City they will start charging a \$10.19 fee automatically when usage is 2700 gallons or more.

6. Reports from Standing Committees

- a. Building Codes (Chairman Black)
- b. Recreation (Chairman Raines)
- c. Finance and Policy (Chairwoman King)
- d. Public Safety (Chairman Crosby)
- e. Public Works (Chairman Goodson)
- f. Economic Planning and Development (Chairman Matney)-
Chairman Matney made a statement regarding the possibility that rising high school students in the Planters Row area may be sent to a high school other than Mauldin in the next couple of years. The week before last, Greenville County school district sent a letter to some residents around the Ashmore Bridge community informing them of a possible school change in the next couple of years after the completed construction of Fountain Inn High School. There is a possibility that the affected students will be assigned to Hillcrest High School.

This is a neighborhood that has been in the Mauldin City limits since its existence. There are families in Planters Row and others that bought their houses specifically to be zoned for Mauldin schools. The proposed change sends students to schools that are farther away and not served by Mauldin. Chairman Matney said Council provides school resource officers to protect Mauldin children. He said he doesn't support a plan that takes Mauldin students away from Mauldin schools.

Mayor Raines said a final decision has not been made yet and encouraged residents to contact the school board. Mayor Raines said he has had a meeting with the School Superintendent as well as anticipated meetings with some of the school board members.

7. Unfinished Business

- a. Consideration and action on annexation and zoning assignment for property along Miller Road (1127-1133 Miller Road)- (Building Codes)- 2nd reading. There are seven parcels of land with seven ordinances associated with this annexation. All are requesting RM zoning.

Chairman Black made a motion to accept 1133 Miller Road on second reading with Councilwoman King seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Chairman Black made a motion to accept 27 Legacy Lane on second reading with Councilwoman King seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Chairman Black made a motion to accept a parcel off Miller Road on second reading with Councilman Goodson seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Chairman Black made a motion to accept 10 Legacy Lane on second reading with Councilwoman King seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Chairman Black made a motion to accept 1129 Miller Road on second reading with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Chairman Black made a motion to accept 1127 Miller Road on second reading with Councilman Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Chairman Black made a motion to accept a parcel on Legacy Lane on second reading with Councilman Matney seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Consideration and action on Short Term Rentals Ordinance (Building Codes)-
2nd reading Chairman Black opened this issue up for discussion. Councilwoman King stated this passed with a 4-2 vote last month mainly because some council members did not want to take first reading before the planning commission had a chance to look at the ordinance.

The Planning Commission passed this unanimously with a few changes. These changes are to allow for alternative proof of ownership documentation for properties being owner-financed, eliminate the application fee for a short-term rental permit. (Retain the \$200 permit application fee for short-term rentals that are found to be operating without approval of the City), and regarding HOA approval, allow for written confirmation from the association president or other person(s) authorized by the property owners' association.

To overrule the commission requires a super majority. Councilwoman King also mentioned that January 6, 2020 would be the effective date if the ordinance passes. Mayor Raines said he sent council two pieces of proposed legislation prohibiting cities from prohibiting short term rentals.

Councilman Crosby said it is interesting to note that both sides of the issue are against the proposed ordinance. If the legislation does pass the legislation and short term rentals must be allowed, the City will have no regulations to control the rentals if an ordinance is not passed.

Councilman Goodson applauded committee for coming up with this ordinance and for all their hard work over the last few years. Councilman Merritt said short term rentals are a business in every residential area. He is trying to be objective. He likes parts of the ordinance and wants the

businesses which are already operating to be legal. Councilman Merritt said he went on the Air BnB website that shows where rooms are being rented, not whole home. Townhomes are being rented. Councilman Merritt said he has been talking with his constituents to get their feelings on the subject. 79 out of 80 people he has talked with have said they do not have a problem with short term rentals but they do not want them in their neighborhoods. Councilman Merritt said he loves his neighborhood and neighbors and will not vote against their wishes. He said he would like to see Rep. Garry Smith come before council to tell us why he filed the bill and what motives are behind it. Councilman Merritt believes this ordinance is unenforceable.

Councilman Matney said he doesn't like short term rentals and doesn't want them in his neighborhood. That being said, they are here and are not regulated. Under this ordinance, any rentals other than whole home rental would be illegal. The world is changing and council has to be responsible to the residents. He said Council has the responsibility to regulate these rentals and protect citizens' property values. Councilman Crosby said the ordinance was opposed by both sides, Councilman Matney thinks that is a good thing.

Mayor Raines agreed and thanked committee for their work. We must have some tool to regulate these rentals.

Chairman Black said we have been working on this for several years, but does not want to allow short term rentals. His neighbors have said they don't want them either. Councilman Merritt said there was a house down the street from him many years ago that had a room for rent. It was not an issue, because the owner lived in the house. The other side is we have an ordinance regarding rentals for less than 30 days. They are not allowed, but we have not enforced the ordinance.

Councilman Goodson made a motion to pass this ordinance on second reading. Councilwoman King seconded the motion. Councilman Merritt asked for a roll call vote. Councilman Matney- aye, Councilwoman King- Aye, Councilman Merritt- no, Mayor Raines- aye, Councilman Crosby- aye, Councilman Black- no, Councilman Goodson- aye. Motion passed 5-2.

8. New Business

- a. Consideration and action on annexation and zoning assignment for property at 1174 Woodruff Road (Building Codes) - First reading
C2 zoning is being requested for a proposed restaurant. Chairman Black made a motion to pass this on first reading with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).
- b. Consideration and action on annexation and zoning assignment for property at Old Laurens Road (Building Codes) - First reading

I-1 is being requested, This property is across from the Trane Building. Chairman Black made a motion to pass this on first reading. Councilman Goodson seconded the motion. Councilman Merritt asked if there would be a buffer requirement. David answered yes. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- c. Consideration and action on rezoning for property at 20-60 Centimeters Drive (Building Codes) - First reading

There are six parcels requesting RM. Chairman Black made a motion to adopt this with Councilman Merritt seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Consideration and action on Greenville County reimbursement agreement for inmate housing (Public Safety) - Only requires one vote

For the past several years, the City of Mauldin has housed inmates within the Greenville County Detention Center. The Greenville County Department of Public Safety is wishing to update the reimbursement agreement for inmate housing. The intent moving forward is to have this agreement updated on a biennium schedule. Chairman Crosby made a motion to accept this agreement. Councilman Merritt asked if council could approve a contract that is back dated to July 2019. John Duggan said the motion could be amended to make the effective date today's date. Chairman Crosby made a motion to amend making the effective date today. Councilman Goodson seconded the amendment. Councilwoman King said there is a letter from Greenville County dated August. We received this contract late. Brandon said in either case, changing the date or leaving it the same accomplishes the same goal. The vote on the amendment was unanimous (7-0). The vote on the motion as amended was unanimous (7-0).

- e. Consideration and action on 2020 Road Paving List (PW) - Only requires one vote. The highlighted list is "F" streets and will be submitted to Greenville County to obtain the cost for paving. Chairman Goodson made a motion to accept this list with Councilman Merritt seconding. Councilman Crosby asked if these roads would be graded. Chairman Goodson said yes, we are no longer putting good asphalt on bad roads. Councilman Merritt said PW employees will be on site at each of the pavings. Brandon said that was correct, if part of the road needs to be milled down, our staff would mark it to make sure that happens. Councilman Merritt said we are still waiting on the price for Hyde Circle. Council has received the bid price, but not the final cost of the project.

Chairman Goodson said staff has worked hard on this proposed list and he appreciates it. We also may look at a machine that would seal cracks to

keep a D road from becoming an F road. The vote on the proposed list was unanimous (7-0).

- f. Consideration and action on Swamp Rabbit Trail with Laurens Electric Co-op easement and pedestrian bridge to Bridgeway Station (EPD)- Chairman Matney made a motion to commit to the development of the swamp rabbit trail with the Laurens Electric Co-op easement and a pedestrian bridge over I385. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).
- g. Consideration and action on closure of Rothwell Drive (EPD- Chairman Matney made a motion to proceed with the closure of Rothwell Dr., and the construction of new signalized Rothwell Dr. at the E. Butler Rd. intersection. Councilman Merritt seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).
- h. Consideration and action on Laurens Electric Utility Easement- (EPD) - Only requires one vote- Chairman Matney made a motion to approve the Laurens Electric easement agreement. Councilman Crosby seconded the motion. Councilman Merritt said he has been looking at this. He received a question last week regarding the trail not looking like it would connect anywhere. This will make a connection to connect Mauldin across 385 to a new development at Bridgeway Station. Now we have to get it to East Butler and Laurens Electric has granted us an easement next to their high voltage transfer station. We should now see connectivity. Councilman Merritt said he is excited this is going somewhere. This is the future and he is excited about it. The vote was unanimous(7-0).
- i. Consideration and action on Cultural Center Building Improvements (EPD) - Only requires one vote. Chairman Matney made a motion to approve the improvements to the cultural center with security card access at a cost of \$9199 and structural repairs of the walls and window at a cost of \$12,500. The total cost will be \$21,699 with a not to exceed of \$25,000.

Councilman Merritt seconded the motion. John Duggan brought two items to Council's attention. The first is paragraph 8, entitled Indemnity. In the fourth line, it says Allied will be liable for their employees' actions that are grossly negligent or for willful misconduct. The contract excludes simple negligence. Simple negligence should be added to the contract so that they, not the City are responsible for their employees' simple negligence. Paragraph 13 says if there is a contractual dispute the matter will be taken up in a court in Charlotte, North Carolina. This is South Carolina and the work is being done here. If there is a dispute, it should be heard in South Carolina under South Carolina laws.

Chairman Matney made an amendment to the motion to add simple negligence and trying a dispute in a South Carolina court in Greenville County to the contract. Councilman Crosby seconded the motion. The motion to amend was unanimous (7-0). The motion as amended was unanimous (7-0).

- j. Consideration and action on Mauldin Transportation plan (EPD) - Only requires one vote- Councilman Crosby does not want East Butler widened to five lanes as is in the SCDOT plan. He would like to keep it as 3 lanes with a possible bicycle lane. He has an alternate plan he would like to submit before the design is completed. He would also like for Mauldin to be seen as Eastern and Western Mauldin with appropriate signage on I385 to try and divert some of the traffic. He believes five lanes would not be compatible with the image we want for Mauldin.

Councilman Merritt thanked Councilman Crosby for his effort and thinks he has good intent. We can put signs on 385 to try to direct people in different directions, but the bulk of people who come into Mauldin have been coming in the same way for years and he doesn't believe signage will encourage people to drive down 417 or another way to avoid Butler Road. Some of the residents who live on 417 would not want extra traffic on their road. He would like to see some of this fleshed out. This project was first presented about four years ago with a lot of public input. There was a lot of discussion from Council on what we would like to see versus what may come up. Councilman Merritt said he hasn't seen anything official from DOT regarding five lanes. He doesn't know how many homes will be affected. Personally, he would like to see some of the properties removed on East Butler and there has been talk regarding straightening out intersections. Public input from four years ago may have changed. People might want to not be in traffic that takes longer to sit through. He said he would like to hear public input. Maybe people want five lanes so they get places faster. Councilman Merritt wants to see organized meetings and various workshops on the plan to see what truly is proposed. Councilman Merritt said he wants to stay open to all of the options.

Councilman Merritt said four years ago, he didn't want five lanes down the center of Mauldin. He wanted two lanes with a center turn lane and a wider sidewalks and bike paths. A video was shown of someone riding a bicycle down East Butler Road.

Mayor Raines said he is on the GPATS policy committee and David is on the GPATS study team. In three months, DOT will start planning and review on East Butler Road and there is \$15.5 million set aside for the project. There will be workshops and they want public input. Traffic projections for 2030 warrant five lanes. They didn't say they would build five lanes, they just said it would be warranted. This item was left on the floor in Council.

- k. Consideration and action on Greenville County mutual aid agreement (Committee of the Whole)- Only requires one vote. Councilman Crosby made a motion to consider this item informally with Councilman Goodson seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0). For the past several years, the Mauldin Police Department has provided assistance when requested by Greenville County Sheriffs Office. In reviewing our existing mutual aid agreements it was observed the agreement was not current and should be revisited by council. This document has been provided to the City Attorney for review. Councilman Crosby made a motion to approve the mutual aid contract. Councilman Goodson seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

- l. Consideration and action on employee personnel handbook (Committee of the Whole) - Only requires one vote. Councilwoman King made a motion to consider this item informally with Councilman Goodson seconding. The vote was unanimous (7-0). Councilwoman King mentioned this policy passed last month unanimously. After the August meeting, it came to her attention that there may have been some confusion after the lengthy discussion on tattoos. Some council members may not have realized the entire policy manual was being voted on for approval, not just parts of it. Councilman Goodson said he would like sick time sharing to be put back into the handbook. Employees can donate their sick time to employees who have not been able to come back to work and have run out of time. This helps the employee continue to be paid while they are out sick. The donated time goes into a pool that is monitored.

Councilwoman King said she thinks this is a benefit for loyal employees who have not abused their sick time. She said her husband just received this benefit. He works in the private sector. Councilman Crosby said he worked for a company that had this program as well. It raises morale because it allows people to help their co-workers. Councilman Merritt said this is two new occurrences- he hadn't been able to find examples of this kind of benefit in private industry.

Councilman Merritt asked Mark Putnam if the City offers short-term disability to its employees. Mark said the City does not pay for the benefit, but an employee can purchase a short term policy. Councilman Merritt said there are 27 employees who have more than 720 hours of sick leave. The policy states sick leave is not a right, but a privilege. Councilwoman King did a great job with a table and a red-lined policy stating the changes in the

personnel policy. Everyone had a chance to look at the changes and nothing was brought up last month for discussion except for tattoos. The policy was sent out several days before the meeting for those who chose to read it. There was ample opportunity to read it and the vote was unanimous last month. He said he is appalled that someone voted yes on something they did not read or understand. There was good discussion on this policy by committee. He wishes this would have come back to committee and this had been done a month ago.

Councilman Goodson said he read the policy but he thought he was voting on the amendment to the amendment. The tattoo discussion was the most bizarre one he has ever had on council and he was confused as to what vote was being taken.

Councilman Matney said he doesn't believe any of council said they did not read it or did not know what was going on. There was a lengthy discussion about tattoos and he has gotten some positive feedback from the employees for the discussion and decision. Council has lately had some extremely long meetings, lasting until after 11:00 p.m. After working a full day and coming in for meetings, after the 20 minute tattoo discussion, there were some glassy eyes. People are tired and may have gotten a little lost in the items. He thanked everyone for working a full day and then coming in afterward to the long evening meetings. Maybe some of the meetings should be split up so they are not as long.

Councilman Merritt said he appreciated the long hours and understands getting tired. He starts looking at the packet on Fridays and looks at it all weekend. He suggests looking at the information a little earlier.

Councilman Goodson said Councilwoman King did something today that he swears he will do from now on. She thought she was getting lost in the discussion, so she asked the Mayor to stop discussion so she could get some clarification on an item. He wishes he had said that last month and asked for a time out.

Councilwoman King said this is a perfect example of making it right if an item needs to be revisited. It is not a matter of reading the information Friday or Monday. She has no doubt everyone read the policy. Councilman Goodson made a motion to add sick leave sharing back to the personnel policy. Councilwoman King seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (7-0).

9. Public Comment

- a. Charles Graydon: I have been sitting here about two hours waiting for the opportunity to say something to you guys. Quite frankly, I only had one thing to talk about, but after two hours, I could sit up here about three hours and rebut

half of what you all said. So, anyway, the thing I wanted to bring up is the Mayor was quoted in the paper last week on the city center project with a drawing that is probably about ten years old. I sent all the council members an email requesting some type of response, but I only heard back from two of them, which speaks highly of your interest in what the community wants to do. I was totally disappointed in the response of council.

Mayor Raines: Did you send that to me?

Charles Graydon: I did not send you one, Mr. Mayor, because I knew your stance already from the article. Two did respond and I appreciate that. I want to make two other comments. The acoustics in this room are horrible. Dennis, you looked like you were doing a silent movie over here. I could not understand anything you were saying. Mr. Goodson, same with you. The acoustics need to be improved so the citizens can hear what you are saying.

The second thing I want to bring up, and Mr. Madden, you and I talked about a month ago on the relevance of our city web page. We still have Memorial Day shutdown on the front page. That does not speak well to the maintenance of the website or the accuracy of what is being put out to the public. If we are going to have a web page, it ought to be current and viable. You should see the minutes easily without hunting through 15 pages of documents trying to figure out where the heck they are at. And it would make it easier to understand what you are doing. Mayor, I understand you have a full time job and I appreciate what you guys do. I wouldn't do it to be honest. I appreciate it though. A lot of what you guys talked about should have been talked about in committee. Thank you. 948 Fargo Street is the address.

I have an Air Bnb down the street from me and I looked today and the windows have aluminum foil on them so you can't see what is going on in the house.

Greg Parrish- 29 Oak Glen Drive. We were annexed in several years ago when Greenville County wanted to get rid of the Oak Forest Park. I live in the second phase and am Mr. Jones' neighbor. I have the eyesore of the Air BnB across the street. This was a house if you imagine, the other house burned down due to a faulty air conditioner. It was vacant for about three years and then someone comes in and buys it and builds a house, or what they call a house, to minimum building standards. It is the shape of this podium. It is a square box at 32 or 34 Oak Glen Drive. It does not fit into the neighborhood scheme. It is two story versus a single story house.

Mr. Jones speaks of the house and I have the same experience. It is an eyesore. My grandson calls it Minecraft house. If your kids play Minecraft, it is all squares and rectangles.

Mr. Black, on the rezoning of Legacy Lane, is that now the City of Mauldin? Legacy Lane? Will it be zoned in the City? Where I live backs up to Legacy Lane. The people who own the property shoot their firearms towards Gilder Creek behind my property. That scares the living daylights out of me, especially with my small kids. It used to be Greenville County but they would say we can't do anything because they are in the county, you are in the City.

Councilman Black: Call the City police department.

Greg Parrish: I haven't heard anything lately.

Councilman Black: If you do, please call the police department.

Greg Parrish: The third issue, and again, we annexed into the City of Mauldin several years ago, so Mauldin adopted the storm water system. I have a storm water pipe that starts at my property, goes across Mr. Jones' property, and exits into Gilder Creek. Part of the pipe is exposed. It is a 36" corrugated pipe that is rusted out and water is running under the pipe, not through it. Metro and ReWa both have a right of way that runs parallel left and right as it exits. I have heard the City cannot afford to fix the storm water infrastructure. I have had several discussions with people here.

Talking about widening East Butler Road, and I hate to bring up a dead horse, but four or five years ago we had a 100 year flood. Areas around Old Mill flooded and where will all the water go? Downstream and in the creek. At some point I would like a sidebar with who I need to speak to on storm water infrastructure and what I need to do.

Also, Mr. Crosby, you talked about storm water not coming down people's driveways, rainwater comes down Oak Glen Drive in the middle of my driveway and around my house. I am getting rainwater right at my house, so I would like to speak to someone about resolving that issue as well.

Jamie Veronin: 100 Trailstream Drive in Mauldin. Thank you, Taft, for calling me back and encouraging us to come. I am from Planters Row. I am here to represent my neighborhood on what is happening to us. As you know, they are trying to rezone our neighborhood to Hillcrest High School. I am going to read an excerpt of Mark Steinbeck's speech he read to the school board at the meeting last week. "While there are many concerns held by those individuals in Planters Row, and by proxy, 224 household community members that signed our petition," and by the way, we only had a week's notice, so we probably could have gotten more, but that is 40% of our neighborhood. "Since the inception of our neighborhood 25 years ago, we have been part of the Mauldin community, both as citizens of the City of Mauldin and those who have chosen to integrate our lives into the City of Mauldin's fabric. We volunteer in the City's recreation leagues, we work, shop and eat in Mauldin's restaurants, see each other at the many cultural events put on by the City, and workout and play together at the City's sports center. We live in Greenville County, but we are from Mauldin. I understand the school system does not consider the city's boundaries, but understand that you consider them and cares deeply about the sense of community that is created and sustained by our schools.

Our fear is that the decision, for Planters Row, does not seem to take these matters into account. As you know, the Mauldin High School's mascot is the Maverick and the Mustang for the Middle School. The logos are on fire trucks and police cars throughout the City. My sons have worn an M on their helmet every season and in all star tournaments since they started playing baseball. They should be able to wear the same M in high school. Our issue is not with the school itself or the community it is in, the issue is it is not our community. We don't live there, volunteer there, or have many of the residents in our circle. It is not a bad thing, it is just the product of where people live. Increasing the distance from our homes to the school by over 200% will dilute the sense of community in our neighborhood and our City. Being asked to send our kids to a school that is not in our community now, after 25 years, would be detrimental to both the City and our neighborhood. This is not the only issue, but is the main issue for many of us.

Our sense of community and our values to give and serve in the place we live remains strong and we want to be a integral part of the City."

I wanted to ask some questions and address some things from earlier, if that is ok. You said, if I understood you correctly, that the SRO officers are

from the Mauldin Police Department. How much of our tax money pays for that?

Mayor Raines: Greenville County supplements a lot of that, but we take care of any charges over the sum. We chose to use our own officers.

Ms. Veronin: So indirectly, we are paying taxes to Mauldin High School.

Mayor Raines: Yes, and I might mention that Bethel, Mauldin Elementary, and Mauldin Middle have officers in the schools.

Jamie Veronin: We can't be in the school or have the benefit of those officers. Something a neighbor brought up today is that if something were to occur at the high school and we needed to come to a council meeting, we would have no voice. Absolutely no voice because we are not citizens of Simpsonville.

Mayor Raines: But, you could go to the school board.

Jamie Veronim: Right, I understand that. But if it involves council, we don't have that voice. Something I also saw on your website is the cultural center partners with the schools in the school partnership initiative.

Mayo Raines: We host a Greenville County band competition.

Jamie Veronim: I am asking because these are things I want to bring to the board; that we do pay some taxes to the schools.

Leo Swartwood: I appreciate you all listening to each side of this issue. I live at 306 Mapleton Drive. I could argue back and forth and I would be glad to do that, or discuss the issues with short term rentals. There are so many emotional issues that get involved with short term rentals. It involves our neighborhood. I do live in my neighborhood, where all four of my properties are. I love my neighborhood and try to take good care of it. A lot of things were said that would seem that was not the case.

I built a new house in an old neighborhood, which not many people do, to show you the interest we have. Another thing that was said is the cube house. I didn't dictate how that house was built. It was built like a cube. If anything looks like a hotel, that house does. It was mentioned it was an eyesore. I challenge you to look at this home and look at the homes

across the street and down the street and compare. Larry, you have customers in the neighborhood, do my houses look like eyesores?

I want to mention about what was called a sorority party at my daughter in law's house. Sorority parties bring up ideas of drunken crowds and noise. This was 3-5 girls, in town for one of the girl's wedding. They were staying at our house and were upstairs playing cards. The house has a big front window. They looked out the window and saw our neighbor taking pictures of their cars and the license plates. They come out to ask what they are doing, and a conflict ensues and the police were called. They were fearful of what might happen to them. They were doing no wrong, no wrong to the neighbor, as the story might indicate.

A lot of things are said that are not necessarily factual. If you look at Pine Forest subdivision, all of the rental houses, and our short term rentals, not one of those calls have been made about our houses. Laura, my daughter in law, did look and there are many incidents reported, but not about our rentals. I appreciate council drafting this ordinance and looking into both sides. We don't mind being regulated and want to prove ourselves. If you give us a chance, you will probably see a different picture evolve.

Bud Greer: 318 S. Main Street. I think I attended the same meeting Mr. Merritt did about the widening of Butler. Someone needs to do a great job of advertising the DOT meetings, because I don't think I was the only one that left that meeting with the idea that was a dead subject. We thought that would not happen.

Mayor Raines: Four years ago? They will have meetings. We need the input.

Heather Johnson: My name is Heather Johnson. I live at 109 Sea Oats Inlet. When we decided to buy our home about 9 years ago, it was partly because it was zoned for Mauldin High School. My daughter was in second grade at the time, and now she is a junior there. I went to Mauldin High School, my husband went to Mauldin High School, I graduated in 1991 and see a few of my classmates over there and the father of one of my classmates over there. My youngest daughter, who is 4, deserves to be a Maverick too. My family owns a business here, we are members of the chamber, we shop here, eat here, go to the doctor here. This is our community. I played Rec soccer here. My brothers did too. We

don't want to be removed from the community and I feel that is what they are doing to us. I would understand if it was a Simpsonville address, but we live in Mauldin. I appreciate your speaking out, Taft. I appreciate all the support you can give us. We live, work, play, everything in Mauldin.

10. Council requests- Councilman Merritt mentioned that a lady asked about working seniors who are at retirement age but still work. She would like the option to use the Senior Center exercise room after 4:00 p.m. when she gets off of work. To that end, she suggested that seniors be given a code to access the exercise facility.

He also suggested to those who live in neighborhoods without an HOA- they might want to get one.

Councilman Crosby brought up the liability issue of not having a staff member at the Senior Center after hours. Councilman Merritt said the senior is willing to sign a release. He doesn't see the difference from people who play basketball in the gym after hours.

11. Adjournment- Mayor Raines adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk