

Minutes  
PW Committee  
Monday, July 6, 2020  
6:00 p.m.  
5<sup>th</sup> committee meeting

Members present were Acting Chairman Mayor Merritt, Committee members Michael Reynolds and Carol King. Public Works Director Matt Fleahman was present along with Brandon Madden, City Administrator.

1. Call to Order- Chairman Merritt
2. Public Comment- None
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
  - a. Public Works Committee Meeting: June 1, 2020  
Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted with Councilman Reynolds seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Reports or Communications from City Officers
  - a. Department Reports  
Public Works Director Matt Fleahman  
  
Budget Review
5. Unfinished Business- None
6. New Business- Chairman Terry Merritt
  - a. Request from Bent Brook Town Houses to amend Sanitation ordinance 34-5

The City of Mauldin modified its Solid Waste Ordinance in 2008 in order to eliminate dumpster pickup by the Sanitation Department. At that time, the City provided service to approximately 12 customers. Bent Brook Town Houses was one of the 12 customers. The City provided a 30-day notice to the customers to seek out a new service provider. Bent Brook HOA president MJ Seeche requested a 90-day extension to this deadline. No action was taken, and dumpster pick up continued for free for five years.

In December of 2013, Public Works Director Michael Lambert identified this oversight and moved forward on behalf of the City to rectify the issue. The dumpster was removed, and Bent Brook Town Houses was told to purchase nine

(9) cans. Mr. Seeche on behalf of the HOA argued against paying; however, he eventually conceded and purchased the cans in two payment installments.

Bent Brook Town Homes has subsequently purchased two (2) additional cans and stores all of them inside a wooden dumpster shelter at the rear of the property. This issue is now coming to council because residents at the Bent Brook Town Homes have been disposing of loose hypodermic needles which have been falling out of the cans when the truck dumps them. These needles are a violation of the Solid Waste Ordinance and a potential hazard to our City employees. When the violation was brought to the HOA, MJ Seeche became combative to both the Sanitation Supervisor and the City's Code Enforcement Officer. This escalation engaged the Public Works Director's involvement, which then identified the current violations of the City of Mauldin's Solid Waste Ordinance.

In accordance with Sanitation Ordinance 34-5 (d), "All garbage and refuse receptacles must be brought to the public street curb or ditch line adjacent to a driveway on the designated day. Receptacles not so located when the city truck services the street shall not be emptied." Bent Brook Town Houses is not set up like other Town Houses in the City, and only has one entrance off Miller Road. Additionally, the setup of the townhomes is such that there is not space for each townhome to have its own trash can. To empty cans, the City trash truck is required to back into the property and all the way to the backside of the parking lot, in order to retrieve the cans in the dumpster storage area. This current pick up method is in violation of the City Ordinance.

While Bent Brook Town Houses has a dumpster area on the back side of the private property, they have been dumping bulk items along Miller Road in the Right-of-Way. During negotiations with the HOA, Public Works has recommended that bulk items be placed in the dumpster area. Bent Brook Town Houses has agreed to expand the dumpster area within six (6) months to include a bulk item area if the Solid Waste Ordinance variance is approved.

If City Council approves the variance, trash pick-up will continue from the dumpster area on private property effective immediately. If the variance is not approved, the HOA will be required to line up the cans along Miller Road for curbside pick-up, beginning the next trash day (Tuesday) after the variance denial.

Staff makes no recommendation on the issue, both stopping and backing in from Miller Road as well as stopping and dumping cans along Miller Road present risks to City employees and equipment.

Councilwoman King said we are following our ordinance and do not need to treat anyone differently. Councilwoman King made a motion to continue to follow the city ordinance. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

Mayor Merritt asked if the one-armed bandit would be able to get back to the dumpsters. Mr. Fleahman said it is hit or miss whether you can pull in and turn around. If you go in the morning, everyone is still home, and the cars are in the parking spaces. There is room to line up the cans on the sidewalk and that is what our ordinance calls for. The options are either the cans are moved to where our trucks can pick them up or the townhome owners could contract with a private service that would pick up the dumpsters.

Mayor Merritt asked if there was anything in our ordinance about proper disposal of needles. Mr. Fleahman said we do not dispose of those.

There is no other action that needs to be taken.

7. Public Comment- None

8. Committee Concerns-

Councilwoman King asked about the stormwater committee. She asked if there would be City staff and City resources involved or would it just be residents? Mayor Merritt said it is a citizens' group of maybe 12 people. There is a gentleman who lives in Knollwood that has years of stormwater experience and he has agreed to participate in the group. Government agency representatives from DHEC, County stormwater, or Army Corps of Engineers would be invited. City staff will participate if needed. The idea is to quantify the challenges, where the City and County stands, and what the residents would like to see us do. That group would then come to Council with issues and suggestions of what may be done. Councilwoman King thanked Mr. Merritt for the explanation. She did not want to see staff bogged down in another monthly meeting.

9. Adjourn- Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk