

Minutes
City Council Meeting
January 19, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Council Members present in the courtroom were: Mayor Terry Merritt, Council members Carol King, Diane Kuzniar, Jason Kraeling, and Dale Black. Members present via Zoom were Councilman Taft Matney and Councilman Michael Reynolds.

Others present: Brandon Madden, City Administrator. John Duggan, City Attorney was present via Zoom.

1. Call to Order- Mayor Merritt
 - a. Invocation- Councilman Matney
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Matney
 - c. Welcome- Mayor Merritt
2. Proclamations and Presentations- None
3. Reading and Approval of Minutes- Both sets of minutes were approved
by consent

City Council Meeting – December 21, 2020

Special Called City Council Meeting – December 30, 2020
4. Public Comment- None
5. Report from City Administrator- Mr. Madden asked Pat Pomeroy from the Chamber to give her report. She will submit a written report.
6. Reports from Standing Committees
 - a. Finance and Policy (Chairperson Reynolds)
 - b. Public Safety (Chairperson King)
 - c. Public Works (Chairperson Kraeling)
 - d. Economic Planning and Development (Chairperson Matney)
 - e. Building Codes (Chairperson Kuzniar)
 - f. Recreation (Chairperson Black)

7. Unfinished Business

Ordinances - Second and Final Reading

- a. Annexation at Standing Springs Road and Union Church Road- There are three ordinances associated with this annexation.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property owned by Henry Pack Willimon Jr., Revocable Trust, and located at 36 Union Church Road by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of R-10, residential, for said property

Action: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. Councilman Black seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of a portion of property owned by Union Baptist Church at Greenville, and located at 50 Union Church Road by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of R-10, residential, for said property

Action: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. Councilman Black seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property owned by Fork Shoals Holdings, LLC, and located at 2152 Standing Springs Road by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of R-10, residential, for said property

Action: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. Councilman Black seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. Annexation at Perimeter Road and Fork Shoals Road- There are two ordinances associated with this annexation.

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property owned by Ashmore Bridge, LLC, and located at Ashmore Bridge Road and Fork Shoals Road by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of C-2, commercial, for said property

Action: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. Councilman Black seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property owned by William C. Willimon, and located at Perimeter Road and Fork Shoals Road by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of C-2, commercial, for said property

Action: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- c. An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property owned by the City of Mauldin, and located at Plant Street and West Butler Road by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of C-2, commercial, for said property

Action: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this ordinance on final reading. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

8. New Business

Ordinances - First Reading

- a. An ordinance to provide for the annexation of property owned by Nolan Max Cox, and located at 1140 E. Butler Road by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of C-1, commercial, for said property

Action: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this ordinance on first reading. Councilman Kraeling seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- b. An ordinance to approve an amendment to the infrastructure reimbursement agreement between the City of Mauldin and Centerpoint Land, Inc.

Action: Chairman Matney made a motion to accept this ordinance on first reading. Councilwoman Kuzniar seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Standing Committee Items

- c. Public Works Facility Improvements

Action: Chairman Kraeling made a motion to accept Cely Construction as the Construction Manager At Risk for the PW facility improvements. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- d. Resolution to Amend Easement Agreement

Action: Chairman Kraeling made a motion to accept this resolution amending the easement agreement for the Swamp Rabbit Trail. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

- e. Gym/Field Rentals and Tournament Rentals

Action: Chairman Black made a motion to accept these fee changes with Councilman Kraeling seconding.

Vote: The vote was unanimous (7-0).

Committee of the Whole Items- None

9. Public Comment

a. Robert Adams: I live at 907 Fargo Street. I am here about the DOT road proposal routes around Bethel through the bottom of the Taylor property, and out to East Butler beside New Freedom Church. This is going to destroy my immediate neighborhood. Two of my neighbors face demolition of their houses. My next-door neighbor faces seizure of enough land where their house is not going to be worth nearly what it is now. A man on the corner at 900 Fargo, the road is proposed to go so close to his property that they are going to ruin his property value.

They are not going to touch my house, but they will take a little property off of the top. The road will go right behind my house. I may sound like a NIMBY, but the noise coming off the road is horrible. We got hot rodders and it is bad now and will get worse. We understand part of it, and don't want to displace the people in the Mauldin trailer park. We understand that is a low-income housing area. We don't want to displace them. But my opinion is to leave Bethel alone. It would save the cost of making a route through the wetlands, which I love.

All they would have to do is add a light on Old Mill Road and sync them. SCDOT says it is too confining and not enough space between the lights. I can show you several like this. There is one downtown at Stone Avenue and 385. As soon as you get off, you immediately take a right on Stone Avenue towards Main Street and it is less space between lights.

I am hoping you guys will back us in fighting SCDOT to go with a solution that harms nobody. We started a group, Stand with us Mauldin, and we are trying to lobby for this. If you think about it, the way they designed the route, Bethel Road floods when we have hard rains, and you can see in the pictures the flooding will be worse. The way the design is now, the people in Cameron Place will not be able to get out of there unless they go through CVS. The people in Cameron Place need fire protection, EMS, they need to go to work or school, they will have to go through the parking lot of CVS. That is a pretty tight parking lot. I don't see how they are going to maneuver a fire truck in there. They would be better off building a bridge on Bethel where it floods and saving the money. The Taylor property wouldn't be

affected, Pineapple Property Services would not be affected, Mary Sue Barber, her property, the little house next to it owned by Sun something, you guys could help us in fighting SCDOT. We don't want Mauldin to be a cut-through. What we want, at least the people in our group, we want to see Mauldin develop in such a way that it is not a cut-through for Woodruff Road. We envision not increasing traffic.

We want to see people find another way to get to Woodruff Road. It can be done. Imagine if you will, a town that looks like Simpsonville. They have two story buildings. Imagine what used to be the LS Green and you saw two-story buildings there. Nice parking out front and sidewalks like Greenville. We want to slow traffic down, make Butler walkable, and Mauldin a friendly little City where people want to pull into our stores instead of saying I have to go to the big box. Thank you for letting me speak and I hope you will see, heck, let SCDOT dig down to the hard pan and build us a real good road.

b. Jim Butcher: My name is Jim Butcher. I live at 901 Fargo Street. My house is one of the three that will be bulldozed by the proposed SCDOT route Mr. Adams talked about. This is my first time in a meeting like this with this type of format, so I am not sure how to go about this. I was hoping to bring some alternatives that did not seem to be very well received at the DOT meetings on the 14th. I just want to get this on the record and see what Council's opinion was.

The re-direction of Bethel Drive could be altered so it would not destroy anyone's home. This project, the two intersections of Old Mill and Bethel, the re-direction does not have to be done in the first place, for several reasons. The widening of Butler Road would... they are trying to change the road because of the traffic going left off of Butler, or Old Mill from Old Mill left onto Butler. With the widening of the roads, I would like to see if anybody has an opinion on whether a simple dedicated turn lane with the orange markers so no one can cross in and out of the turn lane would absolutely fix that problem. I have taken that route many, many times and have not had to wait more than a few minutes. Most of the time, it is less than a typical light would have you wait. I think that is something to be considered.

In addition to the dedicated turn lane, if it is extended past the GT store, that would allow for people on Old Mill to avoid oncoming traffic and conflicts there. As well as the fact that as Mr. Adams mentioned, the two lights could be synced. DOT mentioned that was not quite as close as they like. It is true there are others that are closer. There is a house for sale on Old Mill and Butler and that lane could be obtained and those roads could be brought closer together to whatever distance DOT would like them to be so that those lights could be synced more efficiently without having to have them meet, which is the main problem. They can't meet them without going through someone's property.

Last, I simply wanted to find out, and have been trying to research this myself without much luck, but how tight can a turn be? The route they are proposing is a very wide and broad turn that can...uh, I apologize, I am not a public speaker. There are many examples everywhere of roads coming up to intersections at a much tighter angle than the roads they are proposing. If they were able to take the turns a little tighter, they could go around my house and everyone else's houses by starting the turn a little bit later and still come out where they wanted to without disturbing anyone's home.

This was apparently one of SCDOT's first proposals, but there was a stakeholder's meeting in September, and they brought the owner of the Taylor property, not the resident, but the owner, from Columbia. When they asked their property not be divided, and their property is empty, on a hill, and not really being used for anything, they asked that it not be divided. After input from that stakeholder, they decided to move it to the right and remove three people's homes. They did that without contacting

what I consider to be the new stakeholders. I am finished, sir, just 10-15 seconds. They decided to do that without contacting the new stakeholders, which are myself, the Clicks, and the people across the street. So, what is the opinion of the Council? Does that invalidate SCDOT's position because they overlooked the requirements by not involving stakeholders in the decision? Does it invalidate in some way their plans? Should I bring this up at a later meeting, or can you answer that at this meeting?

Mayor Merritt: Thank you, Mr. Butcher. There is no back and forth dialogue here, it is just for us to hear comments. Thank you, sir.

c. Clarence Thornton: While you talk about things going on in our nation, you can't help but overlook what's been happening. God is still saying the same thing he always has, "Choose Ye This Day Whom Ye Will Serve." God is still telling us choose ye as a nation who you will serve. America needs to get back to its roots. We pray to God about the pandemic, and God has given us the answer to it. He says wear your masks, social distance, and use sanitizer. You can even go back to scripture where God told Moses tell the people that I will pass through, strike the Egyptians and when you see the blood on the door poles, God will pass over the door and not allow the storm to come into your houses and destroy you. Stay inside. We are the generation that says I don't want to do that. I believe it is my Constitutional right. Can you imagine if the children of Israel said I am not going to put blood on the side or on the top of the door pole? Can you imagine of the children of Israel said hey, we are going to go outside anyway and do what we want to do? What would happen with the plague?

God has given us leaders and told us the right things to do. For whatever reason, we don't want to wear our masks. Oh no, that is too inconvenient. We don't want to stay in our homes, that is inconvenient, so we as a Nation must only be a hearer of the word, but a doer of the word. We shouldn't politicize God. We see that lies are detrimental to our nation. The whole world fell because Satan told a lie. When our politicians, regardless of who they are, tell us things that are not true, then we can't help but have this dilemma. The whole world fell because Satan told a lie. That's why Jesus said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man can come to the Father except through me." We as Christians should always tell the truth. We as Christians must operate in the light. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." He also said Love thy Neighbor. Jesus gave us recognition to go to all the nations. How can we go out to all the nations if we hate one another? How can we spread the Gospel, the good news if we hate one another? Martin Luther King said there are three evils in society and that's racism, poverty, and war and they are all intertwined. Jesus gave us the way and we must turn back to the way. Don't be a hearer of the word. Be a doer. People ask who are we as a nation? I think about Tip O'Neal and Ronald Reagan. They were part of different parties, but they got along well because they were both Christians.

Jesus said, "Peace be Still." Peace be still on our nation. If we want peace to be still in our nation, then it is up to every one of us as Americans to bring peace. There is only one savior but Jesus. No one can save the nation, country, America, but Jesus. There is only one God. The people chose and is Jesus going to be the head of our country? Is God going to be the head of our country? Love is the greatest of all. Hate is the worst of all. If we allow hate in our hearts, do we really know Jesus? Let's work and see what we can do to help people. Thank you so very, very much and God bless each and every one of you. Let Jesus be the head of our nation. Let God be the head of our nation. May God bless each and every last one of you.

d. Heidi Williams: I am sorry. I am new to this technology. I am at 230 Cambria Court in Cameron Place. I didn't have anything to say this time. I am just listening to hear what you were going to say about Butler Road. I have my reservations about the extension and moving Butler Road because that does directly affect us in this neighborhood, but I was just listening at this time.

10. Council Requests

Councilman Matney asked if the limb collection schedule on the website could be updated. It was current up until December 31st.

There are a number of new signs from SCDOT that reference weight limits for commercial and emergency vehicles for the bridge on Old Mill Road and in a few other areas in the County. It highlights the bad condition our bridges are in. He asked what this means for our local traffic because our fire trucks and sanitation vehicles would exceed the limits, but emergency vehicles cannot afford the time to detour where seconds might mean the difference between life and death. Councilman Matney asked Mr. Madden to check into those signs.

Councilman Matney then thanked the citizens for speaking tonight regarding the East Butler plan. He said the majority of citizens think the plan "stinks." The plan does not follow the study that was done in 2016 that was completed with a lot of effort. A plan was created for what we see as the next use for Mauldin and allowing for the increase in traffic that is coming. He urges everyone to make their voices heard at city hall and SCDOT. City officials are also meeting with DOT and the legislative delegation.

Mayor Merritt thanked the citizens as well for speaking about the Butler Road project. He has been very vocal in letting the citizens know what the proposed plans are. He has not heard any opposition to the plan that was proposed by the City back in 2016, but that is not what DOT is proposing. This 30-day period is a public involvement hearing by DOT, it is not sponsored by the City. He encouraged the citizens to talk to the elected officials and our staff, but do not fail to send the comments to SCDOT and Casey Lucas. It is no longer a widening project; turn lanes are being added to improve the flow of traffic, not the volume. The Mayor said he will be glad to take any comments and send them on to the County and State.

11. Adjournment – Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk