

MINUTES
CITY OF MAULDIN
CITY COUNCIL MEETING JULY 19, 2021, 7:00 P.M
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS 5 E. BUTLER ROAD

Members present: Mayor Terry Merritt, Council members Dale Black, Carol King, Taft Matney, Jason Kraeling, Diane Kuzniar and Michael Reynolds.

Others present: City Administrator Brandon Madden and City Attorney John Duggan

1. Call to Order- Mayor Merritt
 - a. Welcome- Mayor Merritt
 - b. Invocation- Councilman Matney
 - c. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Matney

2. Proclamations and Presentations
 - a. Livewell Greenville presentation

Sally Wills from Livewell gave a presentation regarding “Back to Life”, which is a program targeting childhood obesity, helping people who have food insecurities, and also encouraging receipt of covid vaccines. There will be a “Back to Life” event on August 7th from 10am-2pm at Springfield Park.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - a. City Council Meeting Regular and Special Called– June 21, 2021

Motion: Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Matney seconding.

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

- b. Special Called Council Meeting – June 28, 2021

Motion: Councilwoman King made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Reynolds seconding. Councilman Matney stated that he was not in attendance at the meeting due to a previously scheduled work conflict and would not vote.

Action: The vote was unanimous (6-0).

- c. Special Called Council Meeting- July 12, 2021

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Black seconding.

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

4. Public Comment- None

5. Report from City Administrator-City Administrator Brandon Madden reminded Council that if any member was interested in being a liaison to the Greenville Transit Authority to please let him or the Municipal Clerk know.

6. Report from Standing Committees

- a. Finance and Policy (Chairperson Reynolds)
- b. Public Safety (Chairperson King)- Chairwoman King thanked the Police and Fire departments for their help coordinating the community cookout on Saturday. National Night out will be held Tuesday, August 3rd at 5:00 p.m.
- c. Public Works (Chairperson Kraeling)- Chairman Kraeling reported the Public Works department is moving into their new facility.
- d. Economic Planning & Development (Chairperson Matney)- Chairman Matney thanked the Community Development Department for presenting Beachin' Fridays. He has heard comments from citizens that they would like to see other events held on Friday nights.
- e. Building Codes (Chairperson Kuzniar)- Chairwoman Kuzniar reported that inspections have doubled from last year and that 14 new businesses opened in the month of June.
- f. Recreation (Chairperson Black)

7. Unfinished Business

Ordinances—Second and Final Reading

- a. An Ordinance to provide for the annexation of 0.83 acres of property owned by David M. Adams, Sr., et. al., and located at Fowler Circle near Ashmore Bridge Road (portion of tax map parcel: M007.01-01-003.06) by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of R-15, residential, for said property

Motion: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to approve this ordinance on final reading with Councilman Black seconding.

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

- b. An Ordinance to provide for the annexation of 0.5 acres of property owned by 807 Holland Rd, LLC, and located at 807 Holland Road (portion of tax map parcel: 0546.01-01-024.02), by one hundred percent petition method; and to establish a zoning classification of S-1, services, for said property

Motion: Chairwoman Kuzniar made a motion to approve this ordinance on final reading with Councilman Black seconding.

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

8. New Business

Ordinances – First Reading

There are no ordinances for First Reading

Standing Committee Items

- a. Resolution for an Agreement with Crawford Strategies

Motion: Chairman Matney made a motion to approve this agreement with Councilman Reynolds seconding.

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

- b. Maintenance Agreement with the South Carolina Department of Transportation

Motion: Chairman Matney made a motion to approve this agreement regarding the pedestrian bridge project with Councilman Kraeling seconding.

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

- c. Cely Construction GMP (Guaranteed Maximum Price)

Motion: Chairman Kraeling made a motion to approve the GMP Amendment with Cely Construction for the construction rehabilitation of the Public Works headquarters at E. Standing Springs Road. Councilman Matney seconded the motion.

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

- d. FY 2022 Road Paving

Motion: Chairman Kraeling made a motion to approve the FY 2022 paving list with Councilwoman King seconding.

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

- e. Bocce Ball

Motion: Chairman Black made a motion to approve the construction of a Bocce ball court at the Senior Center with Councilwoman Kuzniar seconding.

The City will be reimbursed approximately half of the project cost from GCRA.

Councilwoman Kuzniar asked if the equipment would be provided by the players, or if the City would buy the equipment. Mr. Cumalander said there would be a checkout process for the equipment. The equipment would be borrowed for play and returned. Some participants will bring their own equipment.

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

- f. Review of City Ordinance section 2-33

This is discussion only regarding remote participation by Council.

Mayor Merritt asked each Council member to state their opinion on this item.

Councilman Matney said when Council members are elected, they know when the meetings take place- the 1st and 3rd Mondays of every month. There are times when there are rescheduled meetings or special called meetings. There is room for compromise, but unless something serious comes up, Council should be at the regularly scheduled meetings in person.

Councilwoman King agreed with Councilman Matney. When you sign up and are elected, you know the regular meeting schedule is written in stone. She thinks members should be at the regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in person. She does think there should be a provision for participation for a special called meeting, but does not want that to be used as a convenience. There is some tweaking that should be done, but there is room for compromise.

Councilman Kraeling agreed. He does think there should be an exception for a medical reason if the person would like to participate remotely.

Chairman Reynolds said he would like the extenuating circumstances section to be more defined such as medical condition or death of immediate family member or self.

Councilman Black said he tries to schedule everything around the scheduled Council and committee meetings. There are occasions when vacations with family cannot be scheduled for another time due to schedule conflicts. Meetings are important, but family time is the most important. He will be present at every meeting he can. Zoom meetings can be difficult to participate in because internet connections can be lost, and it is hard to hear some items. If the Governor issues an emergency order, then Council members can participate remotely. If not, elected officials should be in person at meetings if they can be.

Councilwoman Kuzniar said she would like to keep this ordinance in place and maybe fine-tune it. She agrees with the other comments that have been made.

Councilwoman King mentioned that Simpsonville does not have an option to remote-in and neither does Fountain Inn.

Chairman Reynolds said anyone can Zoom in to watch the meeting, but the question is whether you have a right to vote and exercise your duties as a Council member.

Councilwoman Kuzniar said Greenville County allows for remote participation. We do not have to do what the other cities around us do. We need to do what is best for our City.

Mayor Merritt said he also talked to the City of Greer. They allowed for remote participation during Covid, but do not allow it now. He said he chaired a meeting during Covid and did not like it. It didn't work very well, there was no clarity, and the meeting was hard to hear. He likes to meet in person and see everyone's faces. He will attempt to Zoom in as a citizen if he cannot attend a meeting in person, but will not fully participate.

The Mayor said it is very difficult to define extenuating circumstances. Mr. Duggan has worked to come up with a list. The Mayor said he also understands it is hard to get everyone gathered for a vacation, and sometimes Council members need to miss a meeting. He thinks there can be a

compromise. Whatever Council wants to do is what we will do. The Mayor does not have a preference either way. We are working our way through many ordinances that have been around for a long time. He thanked Council for the effort and discussions on this issue.

Committee of the Whole

g. Consideration of Resolution

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to consider this item informally. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

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

The purpose of this resolution is to request that the Planning Commission conduct a review at a public hearing to consider amending the Mauldin Zoning Ordinance to limit the number of thrift stores that may locate in Zoning Districts C1, C2, CRD, and S1.

Motion: Councilwoman Kuzniar made a motion to accept this resolution. Councilman Matney seconded the motion.

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

- 9. Public Comment- None
- 10. Council Concerns- None
- 11. Adjournment- Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk