MINUTES
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 4, 2022, 6PM
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5 E. BUTLER ROAD
3rd committee meeting

Committee Members: Jason Kraeling (Chair), Carol King, Michael Reynolds
Others present: PW Director Matt Fleahman and City Administrator Brandon Madden

1. Call to Order- Chairman Kraeling
2. Public Comment

Mayor Merritt: I reside at 214 Fairfield Drive. As Mayor, I sit on the GPATS policy committee of approximately 31 members. In my year or so, I have seen our East Butler Road project delayed many times. I also see the Fix Woodruff Road congestion relief project get assigned priority 1 and continue to move forward. I wanted to provide you with some data that hopefully you were able to glean in the limited time you have had this agenda packet.

Let's focus on those tangible areas that will affect the citizens of Mauldin.

1. Miller Road is proposed to be closed and abandoned from appropriately 1221 Miller Road and South Oak Forest Drive, westward past Frankie's Fun Park and then to an expanded intersection just prior to the railroad tracks on to Woodruff Road as well as right onto Park Woodruff Road. This will have entrance to Frankie's Fun Park, At Home, Hamrick's and on to IHOP. There are no red lights planned at Woodruff Road.
2. A new traffic circle is planned to take traffic toward former South Oak Forest Drive into Oak Forest and Pine forest. If you look online at the revised proposal, you will notice the Woodruff Road congestion relief bringing potentially more thru traffic to the entranceways to Pine Forest and Oak Forest.

Does that fit our residents in these tranquil neighborhoods?

3. All eastbound Miller Road traffic coming from Mauldin, Five Forks, Corn Road, and Miller would be forced to negotiate 2 traffic circles in order to get to current Miller Road/Woodruff Road intersection.

There will be 2 new bridges built, one over I85 and the 2nd over I385. There will be five in total new roundabouts with the same connections to Woodruff Road. Where does the congestion go? Towards Mauldin on Miller, past the Oak Forest and Pine Forest entranceways and I have not mentioned Smith Hines Road.

Several months ago, GPATS staff, the City of Greenville Mayor and City Administrator, as well as then current Chair of County Council, requested me and Mr. Madden join them for a meeting to discuss Woodruff Congestion relief for those affected municipalities. Mr. Madden and I were scheduled elsewhere and suggested a rescheduled date. They went ahead with the meeting. Mr. Madden called several times for an update and their response was "those affected went ahead and met and made the necessary decisions to move forward."

Based on tonight's committee members needing more time to revise the website and options, plus SCDOT has another public information meeting scheduled for tomorrow night, April 5th at Beck International Academy, 901 Woodruff Road from 5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m. with the drawings and staff to discuss, I would suggest this committee consider holding this item and avail yourself of the educational opportunities available in order to make the best decision for the Mauldin citizens. Thank you.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes
   a. Public Works Committee Meeting: March 7, 2022

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

   Vote: The vote was unanimous (3-0).

4. Reports or Communications from City Officers
   a. Public Works Director Matt Fleahman- Budget Review

   Mr. Fleahman reported all divisions are doing well with their budgets.
   Councilman Reynolds asked if we are still waiting on equipment. Mr. Fleahman answered we are waiting on a Ram 3500, a sewer jetter, and two side-arm trash trucks. There is no ETA on the trash trucks. The sewer jetter's chassis is complete, but the equipment needs to be assembled.

5. Unfinished Business- There is no unfinished business.
6. New Business
   a. Memorandum of Understanding - Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project

   This is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Greenville County, City of Greenville, and Mauldin for the purpose of establishing a focused planning effort for the area surrounding and concerning the future Woodruff Road Congestion Relief Project's parallel road. Construction is slated for 2026. The City would commit to informing the public of the project and adopt an area plan.

   Councilman Reynolds said it concerns him that the meeting was held without us and what is being proposed. Councilwoman King agreed. Chairman Kraeling said if we don't participate, this project will not stop.

   This item was held in committee.

   Mr. Dyrhaug advised committee the City of Greenville and Greenville County will be reviewing this MOU in a workshop setting, so holding this item is not a problem. If we do not participate, it does not affect the project. SCDOT will take comments on this project during the month of April. Mauldin staff has asked that there be a specific meeting held for residents of Pine Forest and Oak Forest.

   Councilwoman King asked if passing this MOU gives Mr. Dyrhaug and Mr. Madden more input into the project. Mr. Dyrhaug said no, it would not open any additional doors. Mr. Dyrhaug said he does discuss this with Greenville City and Greenville County staff. This will continue to happen regardless of the MOU.

7. Public Comment

Terry Merritt: The Fix Woodruff Road congestion relief is moving forward. The MOU is being presented for a project for 2026. East Butler Road is slated for 2024. Where is the MOU for this project? We are supposed to be ahead of them. The money is there, so funding is not an issue. Woodruff Road is a priority 1. You read whatever tea leaves you want to, there is no stopping the juggernaut. I find it interesting that we are supposed to hold to new standards. When you review the drawings, notice the new congestion in the relief corridor, notice the new apartments being built. I am not smart enough to understand how you address congestion, but you put new homes on the dirt right next to the congestion. I wonder if Pine Forest and Oak Forest know about this. We can't stop it, but I hope we can get East Butler Road done before there is another congestion relief project.

8. Committee Concerns

Councilman Reynolds said the fields looked fantastic on Opening Day. This is a comment for Public Works and Recreation.

9. Adjournment- Chairman Kraeling adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk