

**MINUTES
CITY OF MAULDIN
SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 18, 2024
6:00 PM**

Members present were Mayor Terry Merritt, Council Members Carol King, Taft Matney, Michael Reynolds, Frank Allgood and Mark Steenback. Councilman Jason Kraeling attended the meeting via Zoom.

Others present were City Administrator Seth Duncan, PW Director Matthew Fleahman and Finance Director Holly Abercrombie

1. Call to Order- Mayor Merritt

- a. Welcome- Mayor Merritt
- b. Invocation- Councilman Reynolds

2. Unfinished Business

a. Continuation of Budget Discussion

Councilman Reynolds started the budget discussion. Mr. Duncan went through the funding options to increase revenues to meet expenditures. Councilman Reynolds said his preference is a straight millage increase with no public works fee. Councilman Matney said operations are continually getting more expensive. This is an uncomfortable discussion, but tough decisions need to be made. A fee is a tax, so he would rather be honest and tell citizens that there will be a straight millage increase. Councilwoman King agreed and a straight millage increase is her preference as well. Councilman Allgood said he would like option C as well, and asked when the County would consider our millage increase request for the fire service district. Mr. Duncan said that would be next month.

Mayor Merritt said he would like option C as well. He does not like fees. Councilman Steenback agreed. Councilman Kraeling said we need the millage increase but would like safeguards in place that money will be put aside for stormwater in the future. Councilwoman King said there will be a specific line item for stormwater.

Mr. Duncan said there will be a specific line item in the Street Department for stormwater. The full-time position for stormwater will be in the salary line item, but there will be a specific budget line item for stormwater expenses.

Councilman Allgood said the 5-year capital plan should be discussed before next budget cycle. This is the only thing on the budget that has not been discussed.

Mayor Merritt said he doesn't think the fee schedule for the Sports Center is consistent. Mr. Duncan will look into that.

Councilman Reynolds said he is happy with the budget, and he appreciates everyone being active and involved in the discussions.

3. Public Comment- None

Councilman Matney asked for a 5-minute recess.

Mayor Merritt reconvened the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

4. New Business

- a. Motion to enter into Executive Session to consider an economic development matter related to Bridgeway Station as allowed by State Statute Section 30-4-70 (a)(2)

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to enter executive session with Councilman Steenback seconding.

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

Mayor Merritt reconvened the meeting

Councilman Matney reported no decisions were made and no action taken in executive session.

- b. Possible action on items discussed in Executive Session- None

5. Council Requests- None

6. Adjournment- Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk