

**MINUTES  
CITY OF MAULDIN  
COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 5 E. BUTLER ROAD**

Members present were Mayor Terry Merritt, Council Members Taft Matney, Carol King, Jason Kraeling, Michael Reynolds, Frank Allgood and Mark Steenback.

Others present were City Attorney Daniel Hughes and City Administrator Seth Duncan

**1. Call to Order- Mayor Merritt**

- a. Welcome- Mayor Merritt
- b. Invocation- Councilman Kraeling
- c. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Kraeling

**2. Proclamations and Presentations**

- a. Constitution Week Proclamation- Mayor Merritt read the proclamation.
- b. Gene Smith Proclamation- Mayor Merritt read the proclamation.
- c. Fire Safe Award- The award was presented to the Mauldin Fire Department by the South Carolina State Office of the Fire Marshal.

**3. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

- a. City Council Meeting- August 19, 2024

**Motion:** Councilman Matney made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed with Councilman Reynolds seconding.

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

- b. Special Called City Council- September 4, 2024

**Motion:** Councilman Reynolds made a motion to approve the minutes as distributed with Councilman Kraeling seconding.

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

**4. Public Comment**

Noelle Dellala was present from Ripple Fiber. She assured Council that her company was not looking to go into areas that are already overserved. Ripple Fiber wants to go into communities that are underserved.

Councilman Allgood asked what would happen if Ripple decided to leave the City. Ms. Dellala answered they have no plans to leave. Ripple is working with neighboring cities to sign agreements with them as well. They already have an agreement with Simpsonville and are currently talking to Fountain Inn

## **5. Report from City Administrator**

Mr. Duncan reported the City's Sooie BBQ Festival was a huge success. Thousands of people from as far away as Texas joined in on the fun at the Mauldin Cultural Center.

The Mighty Kicks! – Friday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

In October, the Mauldin Cultural Center will host Friday Night Flicks at the Mauldin Outdoor Amphitheater.

- Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone – Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, sponsored by WOW! Fiber Internet
- Encanto – Oct 11<sup>th</sup>
- Barbie – Oct 18<sup>th</sup>
- Hocus Pocus – Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>. The Greater Mauldin Chamber of Commerce will host a trick-or-treat before the movie from 6-7:30pm.

The Mauldin Fire Department will be piloting a new fire prevention K9 program during Fire Prevention Month in October. Led by Fire Marshall John Centrone, the program utilizes a trained and certified 2.5 year old German Shepherd mix named Ember as an ambassador for the department, as well as a community outreach and education tool. She will serve as mental health and well-being support for on duty fire personnel.

Mauldin Fire will be the first fire department in the state to implement a program of this kind.

a. Fire Prevention Month- Fire Marshal John Centrone

Fire Marshal Centrone presented Ember and she demonstrated Stop, Drop and Roll, and how to crawl out of a burning building.

## **6. Report from Standing Committees**

- a. Economic Planning & Development (Chairperson Matney)- Chairman Matney reported SOOIE. went well and all departments worked together to make it a success.
- b. Public Safety (Chairperson King)- Chairwoman King thanked the police and fire departments for their help with SOOIE.
- c. Public Works (Chairperson Kraeling)- Chairman Kraeling said that Public Works did a great job helping at the SOOIE. festival.
- d. Finance and Policy (Chairperson Reynolds)- Chairman Reynolds said he knew Gene Smith from his term on Council and through the Greenville County Recreation District. He expressed his sympathy to the family on Gene's passing.

- e. Recreation (Chairperson Allgood)- No report
- f. Building Codes (Chairperson Steenback)- Chairman Steenback advised Council there will be a Planning Commission meeting on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

## 7. Unfinished Business-

Ordinances- 2nd Reading

- a. Ordinance 1044- Franchise Agreement with Ripple Fiber

**Motion:** Chairman Reynolds made a motion to accept this ordinance on second reading with Councilwoman King seconding.

Councilman Steenback said he did not have anything against any of these companies personally, but allowing them into the City feels like giving them a blank check to come in and go wherever they want.

**Vote:** The vote was (6-1) with Councilman Steenback dissenting.

## 8. New Business

Ordinances – 1st Reading

- a. Ordinance 1045- Franchise Agreement with Frontier Communications

Frontier Communications is an existing fiber and telecommunications company operating in the City, region and state for more than 50 years. It was discovered recently that the company did not have a franchise agreement with the City.

**Motion:** Chairman Reynolds made a motion to accept this ordinance on first reading with Councilwoman King seconding.

Councilman Allgood asked if this was fiber and other infrastructure. Mr. Duncan said it is fiber and there is some copper. Councilman Allgood said he wished there was a representative from Frontier present to answer questions.

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

Standing Committee Items

- b. FY 2024 Surplus Plan

The FY 2024 budget has a surplus this year. Staff is recommending \$500,000 added to General Fund fund balance, \$1,000,000 transferred to Capital Projects fund for future projects or equipment and to fund capital lease principal and interest payments and \$1,500,000 transferred to Capital Projects Transportation for streetscaping, sidewalks,

trails, and other transportation related improvements. If there is a larger surplus, the overage will be added to the capital projects fund.

**Motion:** Chairman Reynolds made a motion to accept staff's recommendation for allocation of the surplus. Councilman Steenback seconded.

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

Committee of the Whole- None

**9. Public Comment-** None

**10. Council Concerns-** None

**11. Call for Executive Session**

**Motion:** Councilman Matney made a motion to adjourn into executive session for discussion on the two items below. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

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

- a. Executive Session to consider discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements with the Mauldin Police Department as allowed by State Statute Section 30-4-70(a)(2)
- b. Executive Session to consider an economic development matter related to Bridgeway Station as allowed by State Statute Section 30-4-70(a)(2)

Mayor Merritt reconvened the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Councilman Matney reported no decisions and no votes were taken in executive session.

- c. Possible action on items discussed in Executive Sessions

**Motion:** Councilwoman King made a motion to authorize the Mauldin Police Department to participate in the Safe Streets Task Force. Councilman Matney seconded the motion.

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

**12. Adjournment-** Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Miller  
Municipal Clerk