

**MINUTES
CITY OF MAULDIN
COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 18, 2024
7:00 P.M.**

Members present were Mayor Terry Merritt, Council members Taft Matney, Carol King, Jason Kraeling, Frank Allgood, Michael Reynolds 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 Allgood
- c. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Allgood

2. Proclamations and Presentations-

- a. Kendall Jackson Golf Certificate Presentation- Mayor Merritt presented a certificate to Miss Jackson.

Mayor Merritt introduced the following four proclamations.

- b. American Indian Proclamation
- c. Red Ribbon Proclamation
- d. Small Business Week Proclamation
- e. Pancreatic Cancer Proclamation
- f. Audit Presentation- Michael Slapnick of Scott and Company presented the audit. The company issued the highest assurance they can give. The general fund reported \$30 million in assets and \$18 million in liabilities.

Chairman Reynolds asked if there was going to be any GASB changes for next year. Mr. Slapnick answered there would be a change in how compensated absences are reported, which is vacation and sick leave.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- a. City Council Meeting- October 21, 2024

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

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

- b. Special Called City Council- October 24, 2024 and November 4, 2024

The minutes were approved by affirmation.

4. Public Comment

- a. Michael Jones- 110 Bangor Street. Mr. Jones spoke on Hurricane Helene debris. He said the City's Facebook page mentioned debris pickup would be returning to the regularly scheduled pickup. He asked if that could be paused to allow the Public Works department to continue picking up larger storm debris. He says he has the same pile of debris in front of his driveway that he has had the entire time the City has been doing special pick-ups. His debris has not been cleared.
- b. Megan Brock- 311 Wild Rice Drive. She commented on the \$4 million dollars the City will be giving towards the stadium project. Ms. Brock strongly suggested the ordinance not pass tonight. The Council has not done due diligence in making sure the community is safe. The lease was discussed behind closed doors while the citizens were cleaning up from Hurricane Helene and distracted from what Council was doing. She looked at the 2020 traffic study, which was the last one conducted. The 2020 study was done with numbers from 2018 because of COVID. Traffic patterns have changed since 2018. It is in the interest of the community to do another evaluation.

There is no parking plan as of yet. Where are the cars going to park? 20 acres will be needed to fit all of the cars. How will that impact traffic or the surrounding neighborhoods? Pedestrian traffic will also increase, which could be unsafe.

The noise ordinance gives exemptions for stadiums. She says this is negligent to the surrounding communities. Stadiums increase petty crime and bring drunk drivers. She said all of these questions should be asked in a public setting and it is irresponsible for Council to have this vote tonight.

5. Report from City Administrator

Road Repaving

Greenville Legislative Delegation Transportation Committee's (GLDTC) contractor for the Municipal Match Resurfacing Program for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 recently completed the repaving of several streets within the City. Sections completed include approximately 1.27 miles of residential streets along Sweetland Court, Middleton Lane, New Commerce Court, Setters Court, Sickle Court, Ashwood Ave. and Mapleton Drive. As you may recall, FY 2023 funding was combined with FY2024 funding due to the rapid increase in paving prices over the last several years. The City continues to contribute more than \$300k in funding annually towards the C-Funds funded Resurfacing program, and have submitted 15 road segments (or just over 3 miles of roads) for funding consideration in FY2024-2025. We should learn in the coming months exactly how much will be allocated from the County and how far our resurfacing match will go.

Staff have begun exploring alternative methods for infrastructure improvements that are needed throughout our community since the penny sales tax initiative was defeated. The City does not receive federal or state gasoline tax revenue and therefore must cooperate with other partners or initiatives to see needed improvements. The primary sources of transportation improvements in our area are from SCDOT-directly funded projects, GLDTC C-Funds (\$100k annually), and Greenville-Pickens Area Transportation Study committee. Projects currently underway or under development include Building a Better Butler (E. Butler from 276 to Bridges Road), and HWY 276 repaving from City of Greenville to Forrester Drive. Staff will continue to work with county, state and regional partners to address our transportation needs.

Storm Debris Pick-up

Storm Debris Pick-up continues throughout the City. To date our crews have collected more than 2,000 tons of storm debris and are close to completing the first full-sweep of debris pick-up through all zones. To help our crews remove debris as quickly and efficiently as possible, we ask that residents cut their remaining storm debris to lengths and widths that we are more easily able to accommodate (roughly no larger than 6 feet in length and 6 inches round). Root balls will not be picked up by Public Works crews, and debris piles should be free from any building materials or other non-vegetative debris.

Also, if work is being done or has been done by a contractor, the property owner needs to ensure the contractor removes the debris. While we used external contractors initially for emergency right-of-way clearing, we only have our standard boom trucks and knuckle claws available for debris removal operations.

Also, we have received several inquiries regarding FEMA, FEMA contractors, or FEMA assistance. All debris pick-up within the City to-date has been at the expense of the City through hired contractors or Public Works staff directly. FEMA is not running or supporting a debris removal program in the City. The City has applied for a Public Assistance grant through FEMA to recover the cost associated with storm debris removal, but that application is still pending.

Upcoming Events

Lastly, there are a lot of holiday events throughout the City of Mauldin and at the Mauldin Cultural Center. For a complete list of upcoming events and activities be sure to follow on Facebook or visit mauldinculturalcenter.org.

6. Report from Standing Committees

- a. Economic Planning & Development (Chairperson Matney)- No report
- b. Public Safety (Chairperson King)- Chairwoman King mentioned Police Explorer post 2228 went to a competition this weekend in Georgia. The post won several awards and placed overall in 1st place.
- c. Public Works (Chairperson Kraeling)- Chairman Kraeling thanked PW for their hard work during the storm clean-up.

- d. Finance and Policy (Chairperson Reynolds)- Chairman Reynolds mentioned the good report on the audit.
- e. Recreation (Chairperson Allgood)- No report
- f. Building Codes (Chairperson Steenback)- Chairman Steenback thanked the BDS department inspectors for their work on helping contractors pass their inspections.

7. Unfinished Business-

Ordinances- 2nd Reading

- a. Ordinance 1046- Sewer Ordinance Revisions

Motion: Chairman Kraeling made a motion to accept the sewer ordinance revisions on second reading. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

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

8. New Business

Ordinances – 1st Reading

- a. Ordinance 1047-Accommodations Tax and Hospitality Tax Revenue bond

Motion: Chairman Kraeling made a motion to accept the ordinance on first reading. Councilman Matney seconded the motion.

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

- b. Ordinance 1048-Sale of Property on East Butler

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

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

Standing Committee Items- None

Committee of the Whole

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to consider the next two items informally. Councilman Steenback seconded the motion.

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

c. Helene Storm Debris Response

Council is requested to approve the authorization of \$250,000 in additional ARPA funds to aid the hurricane debris removal within the municipal boundaries of the City. This should pay for all of the subcontracted clean-up expenditures to date.

Motion: Councilman Kraeling made a motion to allocate \$250,000 in additional funds from ARPA monies. Councilwoman King seconded the motion.

Councilman Allgood asked if this takes into consideration everything spent to date. Mr. Duncan answered yes, the final bills from the cleaning sub-contractor are coming in and are figured in to this amount.

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

d. City Administrator's Evaluation

Motion: Councilman Reynolds made a motion to accept the City Administrator's contract and authorize the Mayor to sign the document. Councilman Matney seconded the motion.

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

9. Public Comment

- a. Phillip Cochrane- 435 Bishop Drive. Mr. Cochrane was present to remind Council that every time it rains, Bishop Heights suffers. He appreciates the hurricane response. The City has done a great job.

Megan Brock asked if she could make a follow-up comment. Mayor Merritt said that would be left up to the pleasure of Council.

Motion: Councilman Matney made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ms. Brock the opportunity to speak again. Councilman Kraeling seconded the motion.

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

- b. Megan Brock- Ms. Brock said the City is not doing its due diligence by moving forward with the stadium project. This project will bring approximately 3,000 cars to this area with no plan to address the traffic. No one knows where the money will come from to fix the existing problems there, let alone a new set of problems brought by bringing 10,000 more people in.

She is concerned about the noise with the exemption in the ordinance regarding stadium events. Companies looking to make a profit have a different set of rules from everyone else. She hopes Council will put the health and safety of the community over profits. She can't imagine 10,000 people coming to watch minor league soccer. Ms. Brock said she is concerned this will open the City up to litigation because the project was not made public with an opportunity to ask questions.

10. Council Concerns- Councilman Allgood mentioned the MHS marching band won 6th place at State out of 17 competitors.

11. Adjournment- Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk