MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2026
CITY HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5 EAST BUTLER ROAD, MAULDIN, SC 29662

Members present were Mayor Pro Tempore Taft Matney, Council members Carol King, Jason Kraeling, Michael Reynolds, Frank Allgood and Mark Steenback. Mayor Terry Merrritt was not present.

City Attorney Daniel Hughes, City Administrator Seth Duncan, and Assistant City Administrator Greg Saxton were also present.

1. **Call to Order-** Mayor Pro Tempore Matney
   a. Welcome- MPT Matney
   b. Invocation- Councilman Kraeling
   c. Pledge of Allegiance- Councilman Kraeling

2. **Proclamations and Presentations**
   a. Constitution Week Proclamation

   MPT Matney read and presented the proclamation

3. **Reading and Approval of Minutes**
   a. August 17, 2026

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

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

   b. Special Called City Council- September 8, 2026

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

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

4. **Public Comment (Agenda Items)-** None

5. Report from City Administrator

Mr. Duncan reported Building a Better Butler has been delayed due to SCDOT only receiving two bids for the work and the bids were over budget. The project will be put out to bid again in February, 2027.

The play **Our Town** will run this weekend at the Cultural Center.

SOOIE. BBQ Cookoff went well last week.

A community forum for the proposed penny sales tax will be held this Thursday at City Hall beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The Flock transparency portal is live and new items have been added.

6. Report from Standing Committees

a. Economic Planning and Development- No report
b. Public Safety- Chairwoman King reported on Law Enforcement Appreciation Day, which took place this past weekend at the Downtown Airport. It was a very well-attended event. Chairwoman King also said a Unified Police Academy will be held this Friday with intellectually disabled participants.
c. Public Works- Chairman Kraeling said leaf season would be starting soon.
d. Finance and Policy- No report
e. Recreation- No report
f. Business and Development Services- No report

7. Unfinished Business

Ordinances 2nd Reading

None

8. New Business

Ordinances 1st Reading

None

Standing Committee Items

Finance and Policy Committee (Reynolds)

a. Year End Financial Summary

The City concluded Fiscal Year 2026 in a strong financial position, with overall revenues exceeding expenditures. Preliminary financial analysis projects a General Fund surplus to exceed $2.9 million. Final figures will be confirmed upon completion of the annual external audit as outstanding revenues and expenditures are finalized.

Recommended Allocation of Projected Surplus will be:

- $1,500,000 transferred to the Capital Projects Fund (supporting capital leases, planned equipment/projects, and potential co-funding for a replacement fire truck alongside insurance and lease proceeds).
- $1,000,000 transferred to the Capital Projects Transportation Fund (allocated for streetscaping, sidewalks, trails, and network improvements).
- $400,000 for performance-based Merit Pool for staff.

Motion: Chairman Reynolds made a motion to approve the staff's recommendations for the surplus. Councilman Kraeling seconded the motion.

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

Public Safety Committee (King)

b. Public Safety Compensation

Staff is proposing a new compensation schedule for both the Police and Fire Departments that will ensure both departments remain competitive in the region and are able to retain top talent. The implementation cost of this new compensation plan would be approximately $20k for the Fire Department and $21k for the Police Department. Both can be incorporated into existing budgets due to turnover and vacancies.

Lastly, to ensure the City prevents wage compression of existing police officers and firefighters, staff will utilize the Merit Pool funds to augment compensation within the departments to account for the new pay bands.

Motion: Chairwoman King made a motion to approve the compensation schedule for the police and fire departments. Councilman Reynolds seconded the motion.

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

9. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

a. Jason Pleakis of 106 Saddlebrook Lane spoke on the Flock system**.** Mr. Pleakis advised that he submitted a FOIA request and did not receive what he requested. He received an internal log, but he requested the external network audit log. He believes that not receiving what he asked for could be a lack of proficiency and asked where the oversight is. Mr. Pleakis said it has been difficult to obtain information.

   Other cities and counties are starting to pause or ban Flock and Mr. Pleakis said it is time to stop ignoring the issue.

10. Council Concerns- None

11. Adjournment- Mayor Pro Tempore Matney adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk