

**Minutes
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 11, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the Mullins City Council was held Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. in the Raymond Pridgen Auditorium. The following were notified of the time, date, and place of the meeting: Mayor William L. "Bo" McMillan and Members of City Council, the City Staff, and the press. Present at the meeting were the following: Mayor William L. "Bo" McMillan, Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Phillips, Council Members: Carolyn Wilson, Terry Davis, Linda Schiavo, and Jo Sanders, Police Chief Mike Bethea, Fire Chief Robert Stetson, Willie McLain, Jerry Jacobs, Public Access TV, and many others.

1. Call Meeting To Order & Welcome: Mayor McMillan called the meeting to order and welcomed all present.

Fire Chief Robert Stetson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Council Member / Chaplin Carolyn Wilson.

2. Disclosure that local media has been informed of meeting pursuant to South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Mayor McMillan stated the local media had been contacted regarding the time, date, and place of the regular scheduled meeting for August 11, 2015.

3. Approval Of Agenda: Council Member Davis made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

4. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Approval of Minutes July 14, 2015 – City Council Meeting
- (b) Approval of Monthly Bills

5. Old Business: Mayor McMillan stated there was no old business.

6. New Business: Mayor McMillan state there was no new business.

7. Committee Reports: Mayor McMillan recognized City Administrator David Hudspeth. Hudspeth stated Shonda Griggs with the Police Department has started a newsletter for the department.

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Hudspeth stated there had been a few robberies in the City over the past month including Dollar General and the Post Office.

Hudspeth noted the Police Department is now at full staff, with the recent addition of Ethan Allen.

Several training sessions were hosted here in Mullins, including Active Shooter and Taser Training.

The department is actively pursuing body camera funding from the State.

Council Member Sanders stated she has had several Main Street merchants ask why police officers can't walk Main Street. Chief Bethea stated the department was short handed and since the department is at full staff now officers will start walking Main Street. Hudspeth stated the officers will also go to the Recreation Parks.

Council Member Davis asked what the procedure was for funerals. Chief Bethea stated officers have been instructed to go to calls before they direct funeral processions.

Fire

Hudspeth stated Station #2 is nearly complete. There was an issue with the HVAC that has now been resolved.

Hudspeth stated he had met with County Administrator Tim Harper concerning Station #3. Hudspeth asked that Council consider building the station. Hudspeth also noted the department could be located in conjunction with Nichols. The station could be built but may not be fully staffed. There is no funding available for staffing at this time. Council Member Davis noted she would like Council to have some involvement in the station. Hudspeth stated he would schedule a Fire Committee Meeting before the next Council Meeting.

Hudspeth stated new equipment will be purchased for the Stations.

Hudspeth stated there is a company that would like to work with the City to help recover money from insurance companies. An ordinance would need to

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be passed to approve this and that will be presented at the next Council Meeting.

Street

There was a meeting with the C-fund Committee. The state will do the projects that were approved for the City. The paving that was scheduled for the summer will be done this spring. The State has sent the Marion County C-fund committee some one time money and many of these streets will be completed by the State. Council Member Wilson asked how many streets would that include. Gilchrist stated it included North Mullins from Main to Front, Wayne George Avenue from Main to Gapway.

Hudspeth stated he had researched the Latson property and written a letter to the family. Hudspeth stated he spoke with Wayne George and money was received from C-funds for drainage issues in the area. C-funds are no longer used for drainage. Hudspeth stated there are some maintenance issues that will be fixed by the Street Department. The City is not required to pipe the ditch. Hudspeth stated there are no monies available to work on the property at this time. Council Member Davis stated the rainwater that comes through the property affects the whole neighborhood.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips asked how many inches high the grass had to be before a letter is sent to the property owner. Hudspeth stated he thought it was 18 inches. Council Member Davis stated a meeting had been held about weeds and vegetation and her concern was that many lots have still not been cut. Davis stated these properties are in horrible condition. Hudspeth stated a lot of money has been spent cutting the lots and there will always be lots that need to be maintained. Hudspeth stated there is a process that has to be done before they can be cut. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated when the lots are cut they are leaving the debris in the street. Hudspeth stated the ordinance says the debris may be put beside the road. Hudspeth also stated he would advertise for additional contractors that could meet the same requirements. Sanders stated there were many occupied houses that need their grass cut. Wilson stated a workshop should be held to assist some of these residents. Wilson noted that many people would be willing to help their neighbors.

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Recreation

Hudspeth stated the Dogwood bathroom is almost complete. There will be a meeting this week to finish the cameras. The lights have been installed. Davis asked what could be done so people won't plan events at the park on the same day. Hudspeth stated there was no way of doing that at Dogwood Park because that park is not rented like the others. This park is open as first come first serve. Davis asked who is responsible for cleaning the park. Hudspeth stated there hasn't been a problem with keeping the park clean.

Hudspeth stated sod was being put down today and the field should be ready in September. Registration is now being taken for football and soccer. Hudspeth stated the walking track has been sprayed.

Mayor McMillan stated a ribbon cutting was held at FDTA last week. FDTA should have around 1,800 students. Mayor McMillan also stated the Healthcare Foundation may donate \$50,000.00 to the renovations of the Library. There will be a BBQ cook-off included at the Golden Leaf Festival. This will be located here beside City Hall.

Council Member Wilson stated the Police Department has many good things going on including their newsletter. Wilson noted it would be good to have a City newsletter.

8. Comments: Mayor McMillan recognized Mary White. Ms. White noted she started noticing some strange items located near the park including a demon head. Ms. White stated the man that places the items near the park does not even live in that area. Ms. White commended the City for naming the park after Mrs. Mary Lois Rutland.

Mayor McMillan asked that everyone keep City Attorney Bob Corley in their prayers after the passing of his wife, Mary Ann.

9. Adjournment: Council Member Davis made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Schiavo seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Felicia S. Turner, Clerk

William L. McMillan
Mayor