

Minutes
City Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 8, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Mullins City Council was held Tuesday, September 8, 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, George Hardwick, Police Chief Mike Bethea, Fire Chief Robert Stetson, Captain Joe Graham, Street Supervisor Tarus Gilchrist, Willie McLain, Jerry Jacobs, Sandra Latson-Davis, Public Access TV, and many others.

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

Captain Joe Graham 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 September 8, 2015.

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

4. Consent Agenda:

- (a) Approval of Minutes August 11, 2015 – City Council Meeting
- (b) Approval of Minutes August 27, 2015 – Fire Committee Meeting
- (c) Approval of Monthly Bills

Council Member Wilson made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Davis seconded the motion.

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

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6. New Business:

(a) Re: Fire Station Location Study

City Administrator Hudspeth stated it was the recommendation of the Fire Committee to move forward with the Fire Station Location Study to be conducted by Eastern Engineering with a cost of \$2,500.00. Council Member Wilson made a motion to move forward with the Fire Station Location Study not to exceed \$2,500.00. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was passed.

(b) Ordinance #15-002 "An Ordinance Providing For The Recovery Of Costs By Fees From Users Of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services"

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion for the First Reading of Ordinance #15-002, "An Ordinance Providing For The Recovery Of Costs By Fees From Users Of Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services". Council Member Schiavo seconded the motion. The motion was passed for the First Reading.

7. Committee Reports: City Administrator David Hudspeth noted the following:

Recreation

Dogwood Park is nearly Finished. The bathrooms should be finished this week. The vendor ran into some issues with the cameras. The visibility could not reach the towers. It will take another month or so for those to be installed.

Fencing has not been installed at Gapway Park. Wilkes Robinson was the only one that bid on the project coming in at \$60,000.00. The bid was higher than anticipated.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips asked about the walking track at Dogwood Park. Hudspeth stated Council Member Davis noted she has seen people from the community cleaning that park and it is not their responsibility. Davis stated the Recreation Department should be responsible. Davis also stated Dogwood Park should be kept up just like Gapway Park. Davis stated the person over Gapway stated he didn't have to keep up Dogwood and if that is true the City doesn't need that person. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated there are several people that clean Dogwood Park.

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Library

Hudspeth stated the Library project is a 120 day contract and they are about 20-30 days into it. The City will be proud when the project is complete.

Fire

Hudspeth introduced Fire Chief Robert Stetson. Stetson stated flyers have been passed out pertaining to the dedication of Fire Station #2. ROTC will be included in the event. Stetson wanted to express his gratitude to the staff at the Fire Department for all they have done to get the station ready. Council Member Davis asked that something be said at the service to remember 9-11.

Police

Hudspeth introduced Captain Phil Mostowski. Mostowski stated the Police Department has purchased a Bullard Edge Thermal Camera. The camera was purchased from Wally's Fire & Safety through a donation from Anderson Brothers Bank. The camera will be used to track suspects, for example through wooded areas.

Mostowski also stated a lot of the old police cars have been sold for scrap.

Street

Council Member Davis asked about lawn maintenance. Hudspeth stated another contractor has been hired. Hudspeth stated anybody that can provide the proper insurance could be hired.

Davis stated many of the houses in her district are historical. In order to get those houses listed as historical the properties in the area should be cleaned up. Davis also stated the need for grants in that area. Hudspeth stated he would see what is available through CDBG.

Mayor McMillan stated the depot now belongs to the City of Mullins. RJ Corman Railroad is in the process of deeding the property to the City. Mayor McMillan stated the railroad would be fully operational by the end of the year.

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Mayor McMillan stated the Marion County Healthcare Foundation has given the City \$50,000.00 for Library Renovations.

Council Member Davis asked what the condition of the depot is. Mayor McMillan stated the depot is in good condition. Davis stated there is a grant available for railroad crossings.

Mayor McMillan stated the Golden Leaf Festival is only a few weeks away. There will be a BBQ cook off this year sponsored by the SC BBQ Association.

8. Comments:

(a) Sandra Latson-Davis – Latson Property

Mayor McMillan recognized Sandra Latson-Davis. Davis stated there was a letter written by her father on October 23, 1997 concerning the property in question. Davis asked if there was an easement for the property. Hudspeth stated he had researched the City's documents and has found no easements. Hudspeth stated he had been to the property. Davis stated nothing had been done at the property. Davis also stated Eddie Edwards had taken the beavers away. Davis stated Hudspeth told her that in order for a grant to be awarded the property would have to serve a public service. Davis also stated the property would serve a public service because the property ends on Hayes Street. Davis read the letter her father wrote in 1997. Davis noted the questions she has have not been answered. Mayor McMillan asked if Council was comfortable going to the property. Council Member Hardwick noted it was time to resolve this issue. Davis stated money was received for this project three times. Council agreed to meet on September 11th at 2:00. Hudspeth stated he had never spoken to Ms. Latson-Davis but he had responded to her letter. Hudspeth stated he has not found any evidence of grants relating to the property. The project was installed in the 90's and few people are still employed with the City that has any knowledge of the area. Hudspeth noted Mr. Edwards has stated he has never removed beavers from the property. Hudspeth stated he is not opposed to doing anything to the property but that decision would be left up to Council and money would have to be allocated. Street Supervisor Gilchrist stated he had been to the property several times and there is a big hole. Gilchrist stated it would be a very expensive project. Council Member Wilson made a recommendation that no promises or comments be made until after the property has been looked at by Council.

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

William L. McMillan
Mayor

Attest:

Felicia S. Turner
City Clerk