

Minutes

City Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

The regular monthly meeting of the Mullins City Council was held Tuesday, March 11, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. in the Miles Community Center. 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: Terry Davis, Carolyn Wilson, Jo Sanders, George Hardwick and Linda Schiavo; City Attorney Robert Corley, Police Chief Mike Bethea, Street Supervisor Tarus Gilchrist, Fire Chief Robert Stetson, Eddie Page, Joe Graham, Helen Gerald, Cynthia Williams, Annie Ruth Williams, John Turner, Public Access TV and many others.

1. Call Meeting to Order & Welcome: Mayor McMillan called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. McMillan asked Eddie Rodelsperger to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation:

Council Member Carolyn Wilson gave the invocation.

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 March 2014.

3. Approval of Agenda:

4. Consent Agenda:

Page Two
Minutes - City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

- (a) Approval of Minutes February 18, 2014 City Council Meeting
- (b) Approval of Minutes February 18, 2014 – Budget Workshop
- (c) Approval of Minutes March 4, 2014 – Budget Workshop
- (d) Approval of payment of monthly bills

Council Member Davis made a motion to accept item (a) Approval of Minutes February 18, 2014 City Council Meeting. Council Member Sanders seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Council Member Hardwick made a motion to accept item (b) Approval of Minutes February 18, 2014 Budget Workshop. Council Member Davis seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to accept item (c) Approval of Minutes March 4, 2014 Budget Workshop. Council Member Sanders seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Council Member Davis made a motion to accept item (d) Approval of monthly bills. Council Member Sanders seconded the motion to approve the monthly bills. The motion was approved.

5. Old Business:

6. New Business:

- (a) Presentation from Eddie Rodelsperger, PMH Architects – re: Proposed Mullins Fire Station

Page Three
Minutes - City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McMillan recognized Eddie Rodelsperger, PMH Architects. Rodelsperger stated Council could move forward with the Fire Station or opt out. Rodelsperger noted the proposed location of the Fire Station was 1855 Old Stage Road, the documentation presented for the Capital Sales Tax was approved by then City Administrator Kenneth Davis and Mayor Pro Tem Patricia Phillips. Council Member Davis stated the location by Mullins High School in addition to another site were all to be Fire Stations. Rodelsperger stated the site by Mullins High School has nothing to do with the Capital Sales Tax Project and that location was never mentioned. There was only one Fire Station presented to the Capital Sales Tax Commission. Rodelsperger stated he was present to discuss the Fire Station that was approved by the Capital Sales Tax Commission. Rodelsperger stated a recommendation could be presented to County Council to make a change in the location for the proposed Fire Station. Rodelsperger gave a brief description of the projects that are already in construction or in the bidding process. The proposed Fire Station was to reduce ISO ratings. The location has to meet many requirements including water and sewer. If the Department was located in Nichols it could serve many purposes for residents of Nichols and Mullins. There is a possibility more funds could be received from the County if the City works with another Municipality. Council Member Davis stated her concern was for the citizens on the west side of the tracks. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips noted the Fire Station on the west side is separate from the Capital Sales Tax Fire Station. Rodelsperger stated the Fire Station could be built on the west side if it is approved by County Council. Mayor McMillan stated Council will have a special meeting to discuss the Fire Department. Council Member Sanders noted there were prior conversations about the new Fire Station. Council Member Schiavo asked if the money could be used in connection with another project that is listed. Rodelsperger stated the money could not be used with another project. Rodelsperger also stated he heard about the location near the High School after the Capital Sales Tax was passed, but it was not

Page Four
Minutes - City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

presented to him before that. Mayor McMillan noted a special meeting will be held in the coming weeks.

- (b) Presentation from Dan Dodd, Dodd Studios – re: Mullins Park & Recreation Master Plan

Mayor McMillan recognized Dan Dodd, Dodd Studios. Dodd shared his ideas about the Recreation Master Plan including the gym on Park Street. Dodd noted the park on Dogwood Park is in much need of improvement. The plan for Dogwood Park includes basketball courts, parking, walking track, and a splash pad. Mayor McMillan asked if restroom facilities will be added at a later time. Dodds stated most towns add minimal restrooms and the cost of the restrooms will be around \$150,000.00. Council Member Davis asked why the restrooms were not listed in the plan because they will be needed. Dodd stated the bathrooms could be added. Dodd noted input from Council would be helpful.

Dodd stated the park on Gapway Street would include new soccer fields, tennis courts, football field, playground, splash pad, walking track, and a drop off area for the children. Most of the area would include new fencing. Mayor McMillan asked if he had ever designed a police subdivision in the middle of a recreation park. Dodd noted some places utilize a "Safety Village". It creates a great interaction between children and police. Council Member Davis noted there were no basketball courts listed on the plans and that needed to be added. City Administrator Hudspeth went over the costs for the Master Plan. The cost for Park Street gym is over \$100,000.00, Dogwood Park over \$200,000.00, and \$1,000,000.00 for Gapway Street Complex. The entire project would cost close to \$1,500,000.00. Hudspeth stated Hospitality Tax could be used to fund this project. The money could be borrowed from the bank and then paid with money set aside yearly from Hospitality. Hudspeth also noted the City will be pursuing a grant from the Land & Water

Page Five
Minutes - City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Conservation Fund. Mayor McMillan thanked Dan Dodd for his presentation.

7. Committee Reports:

Administrative – Mayor McMillan/City Administrator David Hudspeth
Street-Sanitation/Library – Mayor Pro Tem Phillips
Animal Control/Tree – Chairwoman Davis
Drainage – Chairwoman Wilson
Mayor's Report – Mayor McMillan
Finance/Fire/Insurance – Chairman Hardwick
Police – Chairwoman Schiavo
Recreation/Museum – Chairwoman Sanders

Mayor McMillan recognized City Administrator David Hudspeth. Hudspeth stated storm debris has been removed and there is still a lot of work that has to be completed. Progress is being made at City Hall. Mayor McMillan stated there were very few complaints during the cleanup after the ice storm. Mayor McMillan thanked Fire, Police, and Street Department employees. Mayor McMillan noted all the young people present and encouraged them to come back. Mayor McMillan stated the quarterly City lunch will be held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 19th and all First Responders will be recognized for all of their hard work. The City will also start a Wellness / Fitness program including a weight loss program.

Council Member Sanders asked for the status on the billboards. Mayor McMillan stated Adams Outdoor had not presented anything to the City but would be at the depot on Thursday to discuss details. Sanders also questioned the status of the depot. Mayor McMillan stated the Railroad Committee met last week and the City will be making an offer to purchase the building. Sanders questioned the old Police Department building.

Page Six
Minutes - City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Mayor McMillan stated the County would be willing to donate the building to the City.

Council Member Davis mentioned the drainage issue on East End Street. Mayor McMillan stated that Alliance Engineering had been hired by the County to pursue some drainage issues.

8. Executive Session – Re: Discussion of Contractual Negotiations related to the sale of land owned by the City of Mullins

Council Member Sanders made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the sale of land owned by the City of Mullins. Council Member Davis seconded the motion.

Council Member Davis made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Council Member Sanders seconded the motion.

Mayor McMillan stated no action was taken in Executive Session.

9. Comments:

(a) Helen Gerald – re: City Logo:

Mayor McMillan recognized Helen Gerald. Ms. Gerald expressed her concern for the City Logo. Gerald asked who designed the logo. Phillips stated Council was part of the design for the logo with input from the community. Gerald stated she was very offended by the white man/black man holding hands. Phillips stated the white man/black man signified unity. Gerald described the color of the black man on the logo and how it offended her. Phillips stated she is black and it doesn't offend her. Phillips also stated there was public participation with City Council and all involved agreed on the logo when it was designed. Gerald ask that

Page Seven
Minutes - City Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

Council change the logo. Gerald stated racism still continues in Mullins. Mayor McMillan stated Council would discuss the logo.

(b) Annie Ruth Williams – re: Young United Peace Day Parade:

Mayor McMillan recognized Annie Ruth Williams. Ms. Williams stated she put in an application for a parade permit. Ms. Williams stated this would be the third year. This is a chance for the community to bond over their losses and have closure for their loved ones that have been lost in tragic situations. Mayor McMillan asked Ms. Williams if she would like a day proclaiming this event each year. Ms. Williams stated a day set aside each year would be nice but she would also like to have a parade. Ms. Williams stated if the problem was the date of the parade it could be changed. The parade would start near the old commissary and end at Palmetto Junior High, beginning at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Williams asked that the event be held on May 26th of every year. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated Council would talk with the Police Chief. City Administrator Hudspeth ask that an application be filled out. Certain issues will have to be addressed before the permit can be issued. Hudspeth told Ms. Williams he would speak with her about the parade permit.

10. Adjournment: Council Member Sanders made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Davis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

William L. "Bo" McMillan
Mayor

ATTEST:

Felicia S. Turner, Interim City Clerk