

Minutes Special City Council Meeting Tuesday, January 28, 2015

A special meeting of the Mullins City Council was held Tuesday, January 28, 2015 at 4:00 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, Jo Sanders, Terry Davis, George Hardwick and Linda Schiavo; City Attorney Robert Corley, Police Chief Mike Bethea, Street Supervisor Tarus Gilchrist, Sandee Rogers, Jen Nall, Public Access TV and many others.

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

Ms. Sandee Rogers led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: The invocation was given by Council Member 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 special meeting for January 28, 2015.

3. Discussion: Animal Shelter – Paw To The Rescue: Mayor McMillan opened the floor for discussion. Council Member Davis noted she was a member of the Animal Control Committee and it is her understanding that the Ordinance does state the animal shelter can be located at the location on Sandy Bluff Road. Davis stated if she had known the Ordinance allowed an animal shelter she would have never signed off on it since it is located in a residential area.

Jenn Nall stated her organization is currently not running a shelter. They are leasing the building for 60 days. This will allow animals that were currently located at the County to be placed in homes. Ms. Nall stated Paws to the Rescue will not take any more animals. Ms. Nall noted Dr. Hooker and Dr. Cartis own the building on Sandy Bluff.

Davis stated an animal hospital is totally different from an animal shelter.

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Mayor McMillan recognized City Administrator David Hudspeth. Hudspeth stated he was under the impression that the shelter would take in strays not that it was just going to house the remaining animals. Hudspeth stated the Zoning was changed in 2011 and any use that is permitted under the code is allowed. Hudspeth stated Paws To The Rescue is a non-profit organization and they are not required to purchase a business license but they were required to comply with the inspection. Ms. Nall stated 60 days would be enough time to move the remaining animals. Ms. Nall also stated she had no intentions of being at that location after the 60 day lease ends.

Mayor McMillan asked what PTTR could do to prevent a nuisance to the people of that area. Ms. Nall stated PTTR would put up fencing outside and sound panels for the inside. Council Member Sanders noted there is no drainage for the outside pens. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips asked why you would invest money on a building if you are only going to be there for 2 months. Ms. Nall stated the fencing and panels could be moved to another location.

Council Member Davis stated an Animal Control Meeting should have been notified before PTTR moved in.

Council Member Sanders asked if the City could find a location to house PTTR for the next 2 months.

Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated the committee should have been notified concerning the move of PTTR. Hudspeth stated this business is just like any other business and Council has never been notified when a business moves into the City.

Mayor McMillan noted the City does not have active Zoning or Planning Committees. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated each district should have people in place to serve on these committees with the proper training.

Code Enforcement Eddie Edwards stated he would inspect the location daily. Edwards asked where the waste would be disposed. Ms. Nall stated there were several options available for disposing of the waste. Ms. Nall stated there are 10 dogs and 15-20 cats on site at this time. Ms. Sandee Rogers stated all those animals are a huge upkeep.

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Council Member Wilson asked if the business was private or owned by the County.

Ms. Sandee Rogers asked what the problems were with PTTR and the County. Mayor McMillan stated this is not the issue with PTTR. Ms. Rogers stated she had the right to know if the business is legitimate since it is going in her back yard. Hudspeth stated the City can't deny a permit or license because of past dealings. Ms. Nall stated PTTR has an attorney involved and a letter was sent to the County.

Mayor McMillan stated he and the City Administrator could look for a temporary home for PTTR. Council Member Wilson stated the Animal Control Committee should be involved.

Mayor McMillan recognized Mayor Pro Tem Phillips. She asked when Council had voted to change the City Seal. Hudspeth stated the official seal is still as it always was.

Council Member Davis asked what the process was for amending the Ordinance. Hudspeth stated the property could be re-zoned or the code could be amended to state what is allowed in that area. If you amend the code it will affect all that use that zone.

4. Adjournment: Council Member Wilson made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.

William L. McMillan
Mayor

Attest:

Felicia S. Turner
City Clerk