

## **Minutes**

### **Special City Council Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.**

The special monthly meeting of the Mullins City Council was held Tuesday, March 25, 2014 at 4:00 P.M. in the Miles Community Center on Gapway Street – City Hall. 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, Council Members: Jo Sanders, George Hardwick, Linda Schiavo and Carolyn Wilson, City Attorney Robert Corley, City Administrator David Hudspeth, Recreation Director Allen Floyd, Fire Chief Robert Stetson, Joe Graham, Eddie Rodelsperger-PMH, Willena Rembert, Bubba Hodges, George McMillan, Revel Rogers, Tarus Phillips (4:10), and Naeem McFadden (Star & Enterprise, and many others.

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

**Invocation:**

Council Member Carolyn Wilson gave the invocation.

Mr. Bubba Hodges led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**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 March 25, 2014.

**3. Approval of Agenda:** Council Member Davis made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Council Member Schiavo seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

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4. **New Business:**

(a) **Introduction Ordinance Number 14-003, "An Ordinance To Sell Real Property located at East McIntyre Street, Mullins, South Carolina 29574":** Council Member Sanders made a motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance Number 14-003, "An Ordinance To Sell Real Property located at East McIntyre Street, Mullins, South Carolina 29574". Council Member Davis seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

(b) **Introduction Ordinance Number 14-004, "An Ordinance To Sell Real Property located at North East Front Street, Mullins, South Carolina 29574":** Mayor Pro Tem Phillips made a motion to accept the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of Ordinance Number 14-004, "An Ordinance To Sell Real Property located at North East Front Street, Mullins, South Carolina 29574". Council Member Schiavo seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

(c) **Discussion: re - Fire Station:** Mayor McMillan recognized City Administrator David Hudspeth. Hudspeth stated there is \$900,000.00 allocated for a new Fire Station. The location for Fire Station was not listed on the ballot for the referendum for the Capital Sales Tax, therefore the Fire Station could possibly be located somewhere else. Hudspeth stated this would be something that City Council would have to decide. Council Member Davis questioned the Capital Sales Tax money and if the City would have to pay taxes on something that is put in the County. Davis

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expressed her concern for the citizens on the west side of town with no fire protection. Davis also requested minutes for the meetings that stated where the Fire Station would be built. Hudspeth stated the referendum was held by the County for money that could be allocated for the City of Mullins to build a Fire Station. Everyone in the County pays the sales tax. Hudspeth stated the City would have to pay to run the Fire Department with monies provided by annual property tax fees that are paid by the citizens of Mullins. Fire Chief Stetson stated the tax money totals around \$120,000.00. Hudspeth stated Mayor Pro Tem Phillips signed a document supporting the Capital Sales Tax projects. Hudspeth also noted the document didn't exactly say where the Fire Station was suppose to be built. Davis expressed the need for a Fire Station on the west side of town. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips stated there were two locations on the west side of town which included the old armory and the maintenance shop at the high school. Mayor McMillan stated both sides of town need fire protection. Hudspeth noted the former National Guard Armory Maintenance shop would be a good location for a Fire Sub-station. The problem with any of the sites will be equipment and employees. It would cost a minimum of \$100,000.0 a year to pay employees for each station plus expenses for additional equipment. Mayor McMillan noted his concerns for the citizens that voted for the Capital Sales Tax thinking the station would be located on Old Stage Road. City Attorney Bob Corley stated he would contact a Bond Attorney concerning the issue with the Fire Station. Mayor McMillan asked if it was feasible to man a Volunteer Fire Department at the Armory Maintenance Shop location. Fire Chief Stetson stated there were many volunteer departments in the area. Mayor McMillan asked

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Chief Stetson to look into the option of making the additional department a volunteer station. Council Member Wilson noted there was a previous discussion about making the Armory Maintenance Shop a Fire Station. Wilson asked that Council support the Fire Chief with the decision of where the department should be placed because safety should be first.

Council Member Davis made a motion to table the Discussion: re – Fire Station. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor McMillan thanked Eddie Rodelsperger for attending and offering his services. Chief Stetson asked permission for City employee Wayne Owens to accompany him because he has knowledge of the cost of construction and remodeling such buildings.

**(d) Recreation Master Plan:** Mayor McMillan recognized City Administrator David Hudspeth. Hudspeth stated a grant application will be submitted to the Land & Water Conservation Fund with hopes of partially funding the Master Plan. The deadline for applying for the grant will be May 30<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips expressed the need for bathrooms at Dogwood Park. Hudspeth stated the grant could only be used on the Gapway Street project and that project couldn't begin until after the grant has been awarded. However, the Dogwood Park plan could begin before then. Hudspeth noted the following needed to be done: Move forward with the construction drawings, commitment from Council to build project, and who would handle the project. Davis asked if

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Park Street gym would be included. Hudspeth stated the gym would be renovated with no major changes. Davis also expressed the need for a basketball court on Gapway Street. Recreation Director Allen Floyd stated it is not recommended by other Recreation Directors to include bathrooms in some parks. There is not enough staff to prevent vandalism or to keep the restrooms clean. Hudspeth stated bathrooms could be built at Dogwood Park in addition to a Basketball court built in the Gapway complex. Floyd stated the City has an advantage with the Land & Water Conservation grant because mostly everything in the Gapway complex was built with those grants.

Council Member Davis made a motion to move forward with construction drawings based on the Master Plan including bathrooms at Dogwood Park, Basketball Court at the Gapway Complex, and a commitment to move forward with the project as discussed by Council. Mayor Pro Tem Phillips seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Council Member Davis stated the Community Garden should be located at a different location. Davis stated the garden should not be named after James Armstrong, she had a different vision for Mr. Armstrong and it wasn't for a vegetable garden.

Mayor McMillan noted he would be in Washington D.C. next week with Legislators to discuss funding and if anyone had anything that should be discussed to please let him know in letter form.

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**5. Adjournment:** Council Member Davis made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Wilson seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 P.M.

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William L. "Bo" McMillan  
Mayor

ATTEST:

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Felicia S. Turner, Interim City Clerk