

Minutes
Special Called Council Meeting
Friday, June 26, 2020
5:00 p.m.

Members present were Mayor Terry Merritt, Councilmembers Taft Matney, Dale Black, Michael Reynolds, and Diane Kuzniar. Councilmember Carol King attended remotely. City Attorney Daniel Hughes and City Administrator Brandon Madden were also present.

1. Call to order-Mayor Terry Merritt
2. New Business

Executive Session

- a. Motion to enter into Executive Session as allowed by State Statute Section 30-4-70 (a)(1) and (a)(2)

Councilman Matney made a motion to go into executive session with Councilman Reynolds seconding. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

Mayor Merritt reconvened the meeting. Councilman Matney reported no decisions were made and no action was taken.

3. Council Requests-

Councilman Matney: I have a rather long statement and a request. It has been a rough couple of weeks. I do not think that any of us in this room can say it has not. There has been hurt and frustration. I have tried to look at this through a number of lenses. One lens has been my faith. If anyone was here during the budget meeting last week, and I had the invocation, one of the things I said in the invocation, I was taught at a young age that all of us are made in God's image, all of us. I have looked at it as a father who has heard his 16-year-old son ask Dad, why can't the world be more like our football locker room where no one sees these issues? I have looked at it as an elected official of this City who is here to serve all 25,000 people who reside here in the City of Mauldin. Not just the people served, but our employees who have been hurt by what has been said, done and posted. I look at it as Chair of Economic Planning and Development because I don't want the City to have a reputation that we are not welcoming or diverse and I don't want to see us turning away businesses that want to locate here.

I have tried to look at this through all of those lenses and it is very difficult. I do not support what Mr. Black has posted. We have had very serious and hard discussions upstairs. I believe racism is wrong. We cannot turn a blind eye and say that is being against racism. We have to be actively against it. That is what I need to say right now.

Not only do I not support what was posted, I have to condemn it. Otherwise, by my silence, I am supporting it. I do not have confidence in Mr. Black's ability to serve in a leadership role for the City. My request would be that he resign as a member of Council and as Mayor Pro Tempore.

I also have another request, and this goes to the general public. Mr. Black's family has taken a lot of unfair criticism, threats, the people that are elected to serve are up here. Our families are off-limits. Leave Mr. Black's family alone. Thank you, Mayor.

4. Adjournment- Mayor Merritt adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk