

Minutes
Planning and Economic Development Committee
March 1, 2016
6:00 PM
1st committee meeting

Members present were Chairman Taft Matney, Committee members Scott Crosby and Terry Merritt. Van Broad, Community Development Director and Trey Eubanks, City Administrator were also present.

1. Call to order- Chairman Matney
2. Public comment- None
3. Reading and approval of minutes- Councilman Merritt made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Crosby seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Presentation from Upstate Alliance- John Lummus

Upstate Alliance is a public/private economic development partnership made of all the counties in the Upstate. The partnership markets the Upstate for projects. The region is marketed to the world through the Internet and trade shows. The prospects are brought to the cities and then Upstate Alliance goes back to find more prospects. Research is available through the Alliance as well and collaboration between public and private entities is fostered.

9 Counties and six Cities are part of the Alliance. The Cities are Greenville, Clinton, Anderson, Greer, Union and Easley. There are 145 private sector investors.

The Upstate region was chosen as part of a new foreign investment strategy. Companies are looking for an office or flex space here in the United States. Cities can offer that better than larger counties. With Van and the partnership they have had, Upstate Alliance can help us with opportunities we normally wouldn't have.

Chairman Matney said Upstate Alliance has done some great things and will help bring more tax revenue. He thinks a partnership would be good. Van Broad said he has worked with Upstate Alliance in his previous job. They make contacts that Van would never be able to make. He thinks this would be another tool in

our economic development toolbox. Councilman Merritt said he likes the idea of small offices. He values Mauldin and the fact that we are a community anchored by four neighborhoods. Business does help keep the property taxes lower.

Councilman Crosby asked how much the investment would cost. 50 cents per capita is normally what cities invest. \$12,250 would give us a board seat, access to travel with Upstate Alliance, and the ability to potentially be on the executive level. Mr. Lummus said Upstate Alliance will do what is asked of them.

Trey said he concurs, that Upstate Alliance has been a benefit. John Lummus has done a great job since he took over. Trey said he would like to see us get in a little, then maybe all the way. We can try part of this and maybe do a full membership after a year. Chairman Matney asked what a reduced level would look like. Mr. Lummus said that there was some information in the packet. In the \$2500 or \$5000, the City could come to the meetings, see what it is about. Upstate Alliance would help Van at the reduced level as well. Chairman Matney said asked if we could budget for a full year in this next budget. Trey said we could. This would come through the Community Development budget as a general fund expense.

Chairman Matney said he would like to see this go to council as a committee of the whole item.

5. Reports or communications from city officers
 - a. Community Development- Van Broad reported that in the short time he has been here, he is excited about the opportunities available. A lot of areas are ripe for development and re-development. Next Monday, Van is going to a conference with a lot of national retail companies attending. This will be an opportunity to get in front of people and show them what we offer.

Trey thanked council for approving the community development department and for approving the hiring of Van. There are some exciting things that will be coming.

There are a few items for PW, even though there was no Public Works Committee meeting tonight. The storm drain project in Forrester Woods is being worked on it. The survey is due to the City this week. The monthly sewer bond project status meeting is tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m. at PW. The contractor is ahead of schedule. Currently, we are a little under cost, but we are early on in the work.

The City has three sewer lift stations and just approved one more. Clearwater Group is no longer going to maintain them. The Public Works Department can do a lot in-house. ReWa is working on an intergovernmental agreement for us to consider supporting these stations.

The Public Works Director appointment will be considered on March 21st at the council meeting.

Safety training is underway. Cleaning and clearing is being done on 276. Ballfields are prepped. Mulch will be installed at the cultural center cabin and Hwy 276 next month. These events are happening March 19th- Peacock Road Race, Easter Egg Hunt, and the Mauldin High School Booster Club oyster roast. Public Works is preparing for each of these events.

Pratt Industries has told us we have to eliminate glass from recycling. Trey thanked Larry for the contact at Republic which has allowed us to evaluate options for our community. A memo will come out on recycling and we will start reaching out to our citizens regarding eliminating recycling glass. This will eliminate some of our costs per ton.

Councilman Crosby asked what the circuit time is to get branches and leaves. Trey said it is still two weeks. Trey said we are tracking where leaves and brush are and we do a constant route to give citizens a time frame of when we might be able to do a pick up.

6. Unfinished business
7. New business

8. Public comment- Leo Joyce suggested putting tags on recycling bins saying no glass.

9. Committee concerns

10. Adjournment- Chairman Matney adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller

Municipal Clerk

NOTICE: A majority or quorum of City Council may attend a committee meeting.