MINUTES OF MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF PEACHTREE CITY
SEPTEMBER 1, 1994
7:00 P.M.

The Mayor and City Council of Peachtree city met in regular session on Thursday September 1, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Lenox led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. Present were Mayor Robert Lenox, Councilmembers Annie McMenamin, Edward Bradford, Robert Brooks and Caroline Price.

No items were added to the agenda.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognitions

Mayor Lenox announced that the Kedron Fire Station dedication/open house would be held on Saturday September 3, 1994 at 9:00 a.m.

Mayor Lenox announced that the Fireworks Display that was postponed due to rain on the Fourth of July, would be held on Saturday September 3, 1994 at dark over Lake Peachtree.

Mayor Lenox presented a ten year service pin to Captain Mike Dupree of the Police Department.

Department Reports

Mayor Lenox announced that Department Reports would be available at the next scheduled meeting.

Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of August 18, 1994 were not available and will be ready for review at the next meeting.

Old Agenda Items

8-94-4 <u>Consider Alternate Bids-Field House/Aquatic Center</u>

Mayor Lenox stated that at the Council meeting of August 18, 1994, Council had awarded the bid for construction of the Field House/Aquatics Center and that tonight they would be considering pool covers for year round usage.

Mayor Lenox stated that in the eighteen months since the passage of the recreation bond referendum, construction prices had escalated due to the upcoming 1996 Olympics. Mayor Lenox stated that there was no competition between the different sporting groups for dollars, that all bond referendum projects had been taken into consideration.

City Manager Jim Basinger stated that Council had asked staff to look at the operation costs for a year round covered pool and a heated uncovered pool not used all year. Basinger stated that the bid price for the small instructional pool cover was given in error and would cost $62,000 instead of $37,000. Basinger stated that the contractor had omitted the cost of the mechanical equipment. Basinger stated that the analysis of operation costs of the pool showed that it appeared the annual operating deficit would be substantially greater for the uncovered pools than for covered pools, which was due to revenues obtained from year round usage. Basinger stated that members of both the expense core committee and the revenue core committee as well as staff members were present to answer questions from Council.

Mayor Lenox asked aquatic architect David Markey if the price would be $131,000 for both pools and Mr. Markey stated that it would be due to the fact the one mechanical systems could be used. Lenox asked Mr. Markey if the price would remain the same if the pools were covered at a later time and Mr. Markey stated that the price on the covers would most likely be higher.

Mayor Lenox asked for comments from the residents in attendance and many came forward in support of the covers for the pools.

Ms. Sallie MacGregor, Recreation Commission member and member of the core committee, came forward and stated that the need for an indoor pool and gymnasium was identified several years ago and that in the 1990 comprehensive recreation plan, it was identified as a need. MacGregor stated that in 1992 a committee was formed to study the needs and in 1993 when the Master Recreation Plan was done, a need for a gymnasium and indoor pool was identified. MacGregor stated that when the Recreation Bond Referendum was passed in 1993, it called for a heated pool that could be covered when funds became available. MacGregor stated that the inflatable bubble was the most cost effective way in which to enclose the pools. MacGregor stated that all sports groups were provided for in the bond referendum and stated that swimming was not only for the competitive swimmer, but for the recreational swimmer, and for those needing therapeutic care. MacGregor asked that Council approve the funding for the pool covers.

Ms. Karen Betts, Pacer Swim Coach, came forward and asked that Council approve the pool covers so that a year round program could be implemented. Ms. Betts stated that she felt the revenues from the pool would be higher than expected.

Mr. John MacGregor, 602 Haddington Lane, came forward and stated that the cost to cover both pools would be in the best financial interest of the City. Mr. MacGregor stated that the City would actually see an increase instead of a deficit in operating costs due to the amount of revenue generated from the pools year round. Mr. MacGregor stated that the pool covers would pay for themselves in thirty-six months and he felt that the programming benefit would exceed expectations. Mr. MacGregor asked that Council use their contingency fund and approve the covers for the pools.

Other residents speaking in favor of the pool covers were Ms. Linda Wilson, Alice Egan, Elaina Strickland, and Ron Kissel.

Other sports groups were also in attendance with concerns that if the pools were covered dollars would be taken from other sports groups.

Mr. Butch Camp, Basketball Association, came forward and stated that 700 children were served last year in the basketball program and that children had to be turned away due to a lack of facilities. Mr. Camp stated that the only facilities the association had to use were the elementary school gyms. Mr. Camp stated that he was concerned that one gym was eliminated from the plan for the field house. Mr. Camp stated that he was also concerned that items that had been omitted to save dollars were safety equipment items which should not be omitted such as padding for the walls behind the goals, netting between courts and the flooring change. Mr. Camp stated that the change in the flooring was not adequate or safe and stated his wish that a sports doctor could have been present to comment on what the transition of flooring could do to a persons feet. Mr. Camp stated that the netting between the courts was necessary for safety during basketball or volleyball games. Mr. Camp stated that the basketball organization was not present to compete with the swimming organization, but would like to see the funds used for the right reasons. Mr. Camp stated that if there were dollars to cover the pools, dollars needed to be found to add items back in to the field house, that two or three gym floors would not be adequate for the number of children in the organization.

Mr. Rich Madrid also came forward and stated his concern that safety items were eliminated in an effort to cut costs and that if the pools were going to be covered he would like to see the items for the field house added back in.

Mayor Lenox stated that additional funds were being provided and that nothing was being taken from the dollars allotted from the bond referendum.

Several representatives from Little League were present to voice their concerns.

Mr. Eric Trout came forward and stated that little league needed quality fields, that they were now playing on second rate facilities. Mr. Trout stated that once games began, there were no fields for team practices.

Ms. Linda North, Little League President, came forward and stated that she understood there was a need for an indoor pool and that she would like to see the swimming community get what they wanted, but she wanted to make certain that the little league did not get overlooked because of the pool. Ms. North stated that there were over 1200 children in little league this year and that they did not have adequate space.

Ms. Jan Zinck, Soccer Association President, came forward and stated that there were over 1300 children participating in soccer and that this year children had to be denied due to a lack of fields. Ms. Zinck stated that she would like to see the pool covered but wanted to ensure that nothing was taken away from the soccer program.

Several other residents came forward to ask that nothing be taken from the soccer program in order to cover the pool.

Mayor Lenox thanked all the residents for their comments and stated that it was Councils desire to get the most they could for the dollars used. Mayor Lenox stated that the City did not want to cut corners, but that all programs needed to be kept in balance and that not all that was needed could be done in one year. Mayor Lenox stated that Council now needed to decide about the pool covers, but emphasized that the pool covers would not hurt other bond projects. Mayor Lenox stated that two weeks ago, Council approved the construction of a small instructional pool and spent $94,000 out of the Contingency Fund. Lenox stated that he came to the meeting tonight leaning against covering the pools, but now felt it was a valid investment which the City would gain a return on and would be in support of the pool covers.

McMenamin asked if there would be year round competition if the pool was covered and was told there would be. McMenamin stated that she had always been in favor of having an indoor pool, gave staff credit for saving dollars, and stated that she would be in support.

Bradford stated that he felt Council should go the extra mile and cover both pools.

Price stated that she felt the children of the community were fortunate that the City was able to cover the pool and stated that it would be a wonderful center for the youth swim team and for all other citizens. Price stated that she would strongly support the item and would commit the funds to do so.

Brooks stated that the financial standpoint of the issue needed to be addressed. Brooks stated that projects on the bond referendum had become tight due to rising construction costs, but that the bond referendum was designed to get items in place that the budget did not allow for. Brooks stated that he did not want the residents to think that Council wanted to accomplish one project at the expense of another. Brooks stated that a cover for the pool was not in the five year plan for the City, ball fields were. Brooks stated that this year the City would be going to a cash base budget, due to the increase of the economy. Brooks stated that Council usually had a reserve fund of $100,000 but that this year, they had $500,000. Brooks stated that the safety items mentioned would be followed up on. Brooks went on to say residents have wanted an indoor pool for many years and that the City was too close now not to take advantage of the opportunity.

Bradford made a motion to enclose both the competition pool and the instructional pool in the amount of $131,000.00 with the funds to come from the Council Contingency Fund. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

New Agenda Items

9-94-1 Public Hearing - 1995 Budget

City Manager Jim Basinger gave an overview of the budget preparation for the benefit of the public. Basinger stated that the Directors and Chiefs began working on Budget I early in 1994 and that the Council held a workshop meeting with the Directors and Chiefs in July on the final budget before Council.

Basinger stated that the total budget for Fiscal Year 1995 totaled $14,722,939 with a carryover of $2,679,000 in bond projects. Basinger stated that there was an 8% increase in the operating budget. Basinger discussed, for the benefit of the public, the 1995 Revenue Chart totaling $14,722,939 in all funds, the 1995 General Fund Revenues totaling $8,892,740, the 1995 Expenses totaling $14,722,939, and the 1995 Departmental Services, totaling $6,595,999. Basinger stated that for the first time Public Services was above Public Safety in operating expenses due the new recreation projects.

Basinger stated that staff recommended Council approval of the Fiscal Year 1995 Budget and thanked the Directors and Chiefs along with Computer Analyst Jill Daughtry for their work on the budget.

Mr. Melvin Ewing, Member of the Water and Sewerage Authority, came forward and presented a request in writing to ensure that dollars were budgeted for the acquisition of Georgia Utilities. Mayor Lenox stated that while the dollars were not spelled out in the budget, Council was committed and assured Mr. Ewing that the dollars would be available.

Brooks made a motion to approve the 1995 Budget. McMenamin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9-94-2 Consider Contract - Property Insurance - Airport Authority

City Manger Jim Basinger stated that the Airport Authority had recently bid for property insurance coverage and that the City's carrier had provided a quote of $2,549 based on adding the Airport property to the City's property insurance policy. Basinger stated that would save the Airport Authority $2,479. Basinger stated that the City Attorney stated that only legal way to allow the Airport Authority to piggy-back on the City's policy would be by contract with the City. Basinger stated that Council had before them a contract which Council could execute to add the airport property to the City's property insurance policy.

Brooks made a motion to enter into a contract with the Airport Authority which would add them to the City's property insurance policy. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9-94-3 Consider contract - Rent for Battered Women Office

City Manager Jim Basinger stated that Council had before them a request from Ms. Linda Wells, Executive Director of the Fayette County Council of Battered Women, asking that Peachtree City contribute $3000 toward the annual rent expense for the office in Fayetteville. Basinger stated that the City Attorney had advised that the City could not donate money, but could contract for services. Basinger stated that 43% of the calls received by the battered women office were from Peachtree City residents.

Brooks stated he wished this service did not have to be provided, but that Peachtree City did contribute 43% of the calls. McMenamin stated that the service assisted not only battered women but children and stated that Ms. Wells was very active in working with our police department in assisting Peachtree City residents. McMenamin made a motion to enter into a contract with the Fayette County Council on Battered Women, in the amount of $3,000 with funding from the Council Contingency Fund, for services provided to Peachtree City. Price seconded the motion. Brooks asked that the press do a story on the issue with the statistics given to Council. Motion carried unanimously.

9-94-4 Authorize sale of Wometco Cable T.V. Franchise to US West

City Manager Jim Basinger stated that Council had before them a letter from Mr. Chris Cofty, General Manager of Wometco Cable T.V., requesting that Council authorize the transfer of the franchise to US West, the company which is purchasing Wometco Cable. Basinger stated that Wometco had about 50 customers in Peachtree City and provided service to the new Kedron Fire Station. Basinger stated that Wometco operated at 450 mhz and would be upgrading to 750 mhz in the near future. Price made a motion to authorize the transfer of the franchise between the City and Wometco Cable to US West. Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9-94-5 Planning Commission Appointment

City Manager Jim Basinger stated that a selection committee composed of Mayor Lenox, Councilman Ed Bradford and himself had interviewed nine applicants for the vacancy on the Planning Commission. Basinger stated that it was the recommendation of the committee that Mr. David Piet be reappointed to serve a term from 10/1/94 through 9/31/97 and that Mr. Craig Conwell be appointed as an alternate to fill any vacancies that might occur before 9/31/95. Mayor Lenox stated that all of the applicants interviewed were very qualified. McMenamin made a motion that Mr. David Piet be reappointed to serve a term from 10/1/94 through 9/31/97 and that Mr. Craig Conwell be appointed as an alternate to fill any vacancies that might occur before 9/31/95. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to come before Council, Mayor Lenox made a motion that the meeting be recessed to be reconvened in executive session. McMenamin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session

No action was taken in executive session and Mayor Lenox made a motion that the meeting be adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Angie Stevens

Angie Stevens, Asst. City Clerk

Robert L. Lenox

Mayor

Attest: