City Council of Peachtree City
Minutes of Meeting
August 18, 2005
7:00 p.m.

The City Council of Peachtree City met Thursday, August 18, 2005, in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7·00 p.m. Other Council Members present were: Steve Rapson, Judi Rutherford, and Murray Weed. Stuart Kourajian arrived at 8·00 p.m.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition
Art Sivertsen of Leisure Services was recognized as the Employee of the Month for July Mayor Brown recognized the students who served as City Hall interns during the summer –Alison Morrell from Starr's Mill, Ashley Holley from Fayette County High School, and McIntosh High School students Mia Riccio, Erin Milani, and Evan Roth.

Minutes
Rutherford moved to approve the August 1, 2005, budget workshop minutes as written. Rapson seconded. The motion carried 3-0-1 (Weed).

Rutherford moved to approve the August 4, 2005, 7 a.m., special called meeting minutes as written. Rapson seconded. The motion carried 4-0

Rutherford moved to approve the August 4, 2005, 6.30 p.m., special called meeting minutes as amended. Rapson seconded. The motion carried 4-0

Rapson moved to approve the August 12, 2005, special called meeting minutes as written. Weed seconded. The motion carried 3-0-1 (Rutherford).

Consent Agenda

1. **Consider Appointment to Development Authority – Paul Schwinne**
2. **Consider Agreement for Fayette County to Conduct City Election**
3. **Consider Appointment of Deputy Registrars**

Rutherford moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Weed seconded. The motion carried 4-0

Old Agenda Items
07-05-08 Consider Modification to Motorized Play Vehicle Ordinance
Rapson noted that Council Member Kourajian had a special interest in this agenda item. Rapson moved to move the item to the end of the agenda. Rutherford seconded. The motion carried 4-0

New Agenda Items
08-05-08 Consider Alcohol License – NEW – Kedron Kafé
George Miller, applicant for License Representative, appeared before Council. He said the restaurant was on Georgian Park, near the Holiday Inn.

Weed moved to approve the license. Rutherford seconded. The motion carried 4-0

08-05-09 Public Hearing – Consider FY2006 Budget
Brown noted there was an additional document on the dais – an e-mail from the City Manager to Mayor and Council dated August 18, 2005, with the subject, "Questions from the Citizen News."

Finance Director Paul Salvatore gave a brief overview of the budget (a copy of the PowerPoint presentation is included in the official meeting file). The general fund total was $25,827,389 The millage rate would remain the same. The cash reserves appropriation was $1 1 million. Expenditures had increased three percent. Three new full-time and two new part-time positions were included. Three million dollars was included for debt service. Council Contingency was $100,000.

Salvatore continued that the estimated SPLOST fund revenue for FY 2006 was $2,082,553 The projects included $653,335 for street resurfacing and $133,900 to upgrade the cart path system. The Public Improvement Program (PIP) total was $2,874,352. Projects included rescue pumper/patrol vehicle replacement, GA 54 multi-use paths and landscaping, Picnic Park restrooms, miscellaneous equipment and building improvements, and $2.3 million financing for capital improvements.

Funding for Special Purpose/Authorities included estimated revenue of $999,413 from the hotel/motel tax. According to state law, the Peachtree City Tourism Association would receive two-thirds of the hotel/motel tax, with the remaining one-third going to the general fund. An estimated $40,000 would be used for athletic associations, and a $35,000 appropriation would go to the Development Authority of Peachtree City

Salvatore summarized that the combined budget total was $31,592.143 with $25.3 million for general fund expenses, $2.6 million for SPLOST projects, $2.8 million for capital projects in the PIP, and $706,275 for special purposes. The FY 2006 budget was scheduled for adoption at the September 1 Council meeting.

Mark Murphy said there had been no mention of things he had read in the newspaper, such as $650,000 for a senior center He continued that the County Commission had lowered the millage rate to compensate for the reassessment. Council Member Rutherford had proposed the City do the same due to the projected surplus, but other Council Members said that would make future millage increases too much. Murphy said he would like to have the money back if the City did not need it. He asked where the money to widen MacDuff Parkway was going since the recommendation had been not to widen the parkway Murphy also was concerned about the renewal of golf cart registrations and that those fees would fund the Wi-Fi pilot program. Rutherford said the golf cart registration fees would go to pay for the decals and the staff time. Any leftover money would go to path maintenance. Rutherford said Council had directed that the registration cost be lowered from the recommended $15 to $12. Murphy said he never felt the need to take his computer to the ballfield. He noted that the score boxes did not work, which he felt was a bigger priority at a ballfield than Wi-Fi. He said the budget included a lot of nice things, but he would rather have more fiscal responsibility

City Manager Bernard McMullen explained that the MacDuff Parkway widening had been included in the SPLOST projects. The SPLOST list was a specific list of projects that had been approved. If the City decided to spend less on a project, or to delete a project, then that money became available for the remaining projects on the list. A good portion of the SPLOST money would be spent on street resurfacing. The price of crude oil would affect the cost for resurfacing. Any money saved on one project would probably be spent on street resurfacing. Rutherford pointed out that the SPLOST project list would outlast the money McMullen said that was the expectation. He added that 60% of the SPLOST money could be spent on just one project, which was widening and resurfacing the path system. Rapson noted that SPLOST funds had to be spent on the project list and nothing could be added to the list.

Brown explained that the City had planned Wi-Fi access for City employees to use anyway The cost to extend the program to the public was an additional $8,000 Rapson said the cost was a one-time add-on. Rutherford noted that if the City found the public was not using the Wi-Fi access, then the City could move the equipment to other locations for City staff access.

Salvatore noted that the City was using $1 1 million of cash reserves to balance the revenue side of the budget. He said the City could not do that every year or the cash reserves would completely go away

Rapson said there had been a lot in the papers regarding the 22% increase over the last four years. He said he wanted to give a bird's eye view There was not a cash surplus. It was a cash contingency that enabled the City to stay solvent and pay bills on a monthly basis. It also enabled the City to keep the millage rate fairly constant. The increase over the last four years had been about 22%, or about $1.6 million. There were three primary drivers for the increase – the $500,000 loss based on the LOST negotiations with Fayette County, radical increases in pension costs and healthcare (approximately $500,000), and the hiring of additional public safety personnel (approximately $400,000). Those factors accounted for 83% of the 22% increase. The City's four-year average increase had been about 5.5% per year When the three items were taken out, the increase was roughly 3.9% over the last four years. Rapson said it was tough to figure out the other 17%. There was a hiring freeze in 2003 and 2004, but the City still gave cost of living allowances and merit raises, which was unheard of in the corporate or governmental worlds. Others were laying people off or cutting services, but the City had maintained employees and service levels. Fees had been reviewed. Early retirement had been implemented for public safety employees. Healthcare and pension plans had been re-bid. Council had been proactive by evaluating the revenue stream, looking at revenue enhancements, looking at budget to actuals, reducing the capital plan, ratcheting down expenditures, and doing debt-financing options. Rapson pointed out that was one reason the City was one of three communities in the state with a AA bond rating. He added that one of the reasons the City was one of the Top 10 Best Places to Live was because the City had maintained services during all those trying times. The County actually got more money from a City resident's tax bill than the City did. Rapson said people had to put the increases into perspective.

Brown said there was a glaring disparity in the newspapers, which was legitimate. He continued that one thing had not come out. The County tax rate had gone up more than 65% during Greg Dunn's first three years in office. The current Board of Commissioners had been left in a bad position, as was the Council. There were no apologies for grappling with the problems. City residents paid County taxes for EMS and recreation. City residents got nothing out of the County EMS. The County paid the City $150,000 a year for recreation, which was a deficit of $450,000 whether based on population or valuation of the property The County and the municipalities were working on their Comprehensive Plans, which was one of the times the state allowed the entities to discuss such issues. Brown continued that the residents mandated the library renovation, and the City had to carry $500,000 a year debt service. The City took $340,000 of the reassessments and paid for the library

Rapson added that the City should have had a tax increase of six percent last year to make up for the library debt service and the staff increases. He said Council was fiscally responsible. He said it was easy to know that, but not as easy to explain it so it was easy to understand.

Weed asked McMullen to clarify the funds going to the PCTA. Weed explained that the PCTA had been formed so the City could continue to collect the hotel/motel tax. The PCTA was a pass-through agency The Peachtree City Airport Authority (PCAA) also received a lion's share of those funds. McMullen said the PCAA received 20%, or $120,000, of the hotel/motel tax funds. The City was required to spend the money on tourism and tourism-related events. The PCTA reimbursed the City for expenses for the triathlon, the July 4th activities and fireworks, and other events.

Brown noted that the City had not been a good position for the LOST negotiations because the cash reserves had been depleted. The County amassed a reserve because of the increase in taxes. - Brown said there had been no contest in making the decision to sacrifice $400,000 to save $6 million in LOST funds. Hopefully, the City would have the reserves needed for the next LOST negotiation.

Rutherford pointed out that the only money in the FY 2006 budget for the senior center was $50,000 for design. Salvatore said the budget would be available on the website.

Rapson pointed out that property was going up in value. The budget originally presented to Council had proposed a 16% millage increase. Council had kept the millage rate flat.

No action was required until the September 1 meeting.

08-05-10 Consider Amendments to Smoking Ordinance

Brown noted that the state had followed the City's lead when the statewide ban was approved. The legislation almost mirrored the City's ordinance. The amendments were minor adjustments and included making the definitions closer to those used by the state. The state fines also superseded the City fines. Another amendment addressed signage. The City required facilities that did not allow smoking to have signage, while the state required only those establishments where smoking was allowed to have signage. The

City could still require non-smoking establishments to have signs, but it was not relevant based on state law

Weed moved to approve agenda item 08-05-10 Rutherford seconded. The motion carried 4-0

08-05-11 Consider Intergovernmental Agreement with Fayette County on SPLOST Funding

McMullen told Council that the agreement allowed for the distribution of the SPLOST funds directly to the City, rather than the City spending the money out of the general fund and waiting for reimbursement from the County The County had already begun collecting the SPLOST money from the state and would distribute the funds each month based on the guidelines. Thirty percent of the SPLOST funds were to be distributed to the municipalities based on population. The City would receive approximately 34.5% of those funds.

Rutherford moved to approve the intergovernmental agreement with Fayette County on SPLOST funding. Rapson seconded. Rapson pointed out that Exhibit A of the agreement was just a comprehensive list, not a prioritization of the projects. The motion carried 4-0.

08-05-12 Consider Sewer Maintenance Agreement

Developmental Services Director Clyde Stricklin addressed Council. He noted that this was one of a series of sewer maintenance agreements the City had entered with private property owners after home septic systems failed. This agreement was for Mary Delores Morgan, 112 Pebblestump Point. The only option the homeowner had was to hook into the sewer system. A pump system would be used. The homeowner had agreed to take care of any maintenance problems. The City Attorney had approved the format.

Brown pointed out that at least four septic systems in that area had failed recently He asked if there was a plan to take care of the problems in the areas of the City on septic, or if it would continue to be piecemeal. Stricklin said his department was working with the Water and Sewerage Authority on the issue. Weed said there had been a protocol in Lowndes County that required homes within 500 feet of an active sewer line to connect to the sewer He asked if there was something in the City code regarding aging septic systems. Stricklin said there were three areas in the City that were of concern, and they were working on a standard approach, rather than an interim fix. In the meantime, this was an interim method. Weed asked when the plan would be ready Stricklin said it should be ready later this summer

Rapson asked who actually paid to put the pipe in the ground. Stricklin said the homeowner paid. Rapson noted that the homeowner lived at the end of her street. He asked if the homes the line passed on the way would be able to stub into the system if their septic system failed. Stricklin said the other homes could not, but one of the issues was who owned the pipe and how big the pipe had to be. The fix worked fine for one home for years, but it was not designed for multiple homes to tap into the system.

Rutherford moved to authorize the Mayor to sign the sewer maintenance agreement. Rapson seconded. The motion carried 4-0

08-05-14 Consider Amendment to Burn Ordinance
Fire Marshal John Dailey addressed Council. Dailey explained that the amendment would eliminate the permits granted for burning on properties under development, such as subdivisions or shopping centers where land was cleared. The method of burning was cleaner and safer, but the smoke had become troublesome for surrounding neighborhoods. Dailey said he spent several hours on complaints during the clearing of land for the Target shopping center.

Weed said it was a good idea, but asked what the builders would do instead. Dailey said many of the builders were already chipping. The chips could then be used for erosion control. Weed asked Dailey if he had spoken with any of the developers, noting he did not mind the changes from a public safety perspective. Dailey said he had not spoken to any developers. Brown said equipment was now very sophisticated and could grind the debris into pea-sized pieces.

McMullen said he had asked Building Official Tom Carty to talk to developers about the proposed amendment. Most of them were already chipping the wood and using it on site for landscaping and mulch. Carty reported only one negative response. Brown said it was common practice in the City for developers to have the commercial shredders on site.

Rutherford moved to approve the amendments to the ordinance to prohibit burns on developing commercial properties and new subdivisions. Weed seconded. The motion carried 4-0

08-05-14 Discuss Public Safety Contingency Fund
Brown noted there was an additional document on the dais – a memo to Mayor and Council from the City Manager dated August 17, 2005, with the subject, "Discuss Public Safety Contingency Fund, August 18, 2005, Council Agenda."

Rapson pointed out there had been a lot in the newspapers with questions about staffing and resources for the fire and police departments. After discussions with the City Manager, Rapson said it would be prudent to add additional money to Council Contingency for the purpose of addressing those issues in the future. The money could be used for a third-party evaluation contract or additional staffing if deemed necessary There was a Public Safety Committee comprised of Brown, Rutherford, Salvatore, and McMullen. He encouraged the committee to evaluate all areas of public safety He explained that he did not want to re-do the budget process if there was a recommendation to add funding. He wanted to be proactive and have a mechanism set up to react to any concerns.

Kourajian arrived at 8:00 p.m.

Rutherford asked how much money Rapson was proposing and where would it come from. Rapson said it would be an additional hit to cash reserves of $200,000 He anticipated most of the funds would rollover into the subsequent year unless action was taken. He wanted a funding source available to address concerns that were in the forefront. The budget had to be approved, and Rapson wanted to ensure there was adequate funding. Rutherford clarified that $200,000 would be moved from cash reserves to Council Contingency and earmarked only for public safety

Weed asked McMullen when the budget process began. McMullen said it began in April. Weed noted there had been several workshops. He said McMullen and the department heads had discussed the budget, and McMullen had made the determination and had used his best judgment to make the recommendation to Council. McMullen said that was correct. Weed said nothing had changed. All of the department heads had gone through the system.

Weed asked McMullen if he felt there had been a thorough examination of the needs for the budget. McMullen said there had not been a thorough examination of the public safety issues yet. One of the issues concerning the Fire Department was the number and locations of stations. There were long-term decisions still to be made. Rutherford said the issues were discussed at Retreat. Chief Murray and Chief Lohr had included new staff in their requests. McMullen said that was correct. Rutherford continued that McMullen had made the same statements at the first budget workshop. She continued that Rapson's suggestion was to put the money aside so the City would not have to wait a year to put more personnel in the budget once all the information was available. If the chiefs did not need the personnel, they would not have asked for them. McMullen was also correct in that they needed to look at the matter more closely

Weed said he did not see the difference from any other budget year He questioned why there was a lack of information. There had been enough time to get the information to Council to make a decision. He asked if there was a breakdown in communication. McMullen said they were not able to conclude the discussions before the budget process had ended. He had not wanted to come forward to Council with a recommendation he was not comfortable with. Rutherford said there would also be a discussion with the County, and the City might get money back from the County McMullen said that was correct. Rutherford said there were multiple issues, including insufficient information and dealing with the County on double taxation. She said McMullen made a prudent decision.

Weed asked if there were other departments with the same issues. He did not want another surprise. McMullen said no. He continued that they had initially looked only at the Fire Department, but a decision was made to look at the total public safety program. Weed said he was still not convinced this budget was any different from any other budget year Council had never created a slush fund.

Rapson said the money would not be a slush fund. The money would be designated for public safety needs. He said they were sugarcoating the problem. The City Manager required certain information. Rapson continued that, in McMullen's professional judgment, more information was needed. McMullen was asking for time. When McMullen had all the information, the situation would be evaluated. Designating the funds would allow Council to react. More than $200,000 could be needed. There was not enough data to arrive at a decision at this time. Public safety was different than recreation issues, and there would be critical problems to address. Some of those problems might not need funding. The City might not have enough money, but setting aside money in Council Contingency would mean Council would not have to go through the budget process and advertising to fund the recommendations. Using the funds would have to be approved by Council after the City Manager and the Public Safety Committee had reviewed the data.

Weed asked McMullen how much time was needed. McMullen said he had two meetings scheduled with the Fire Department in the next week, to be followed by a meeting of the Public Safety Committee. He anticipated he would have all the information in October or November Rutherford said the City would then have to deal with the County

Kourajian noted that the reason Council had not rolled back the millage rate was to build up the cash reserves. Now Rapson wanted to pull money out of the cash reserve when he told the other Council Members it was important to keep the cash reserves high. Rapson said there might be needs that had to be funded. The Finance Director and City Manager could come to Council in October or November to tell Council that the budget had to be re-advertised and re-approved because of unexpected needs. Rapson said he wanted to avoid doing that. Weed said he did not see the need to create a fund. Council could do what needed to be done when, or if, the need arose. Kourajian agreed that Council could deal with matter for the appropriate amount at the appropriate time. Kourajian did not like pulling the money out of cash reserves. Brown added that there were many issues, and they could not fund them all in the short term. There had been a 120% increase in the Fire Department budget over the last five years, but the increase had been needed. Council would have to set priorities. He agreed with Weed and Kourajian. He said they could go to the people with any burning issues.

Weed said there had been a failure of the budget process, which concerned him. He was not debating the importance of public safety Council needed to know about these things so they could adequately plan, or what was the point of a budget. The budget should be done once.

Rapson moved to add $200,000 from cash reserves into Council Contingency for the purpose of funding public safety-related items should they be necessary Rutherford seconded.

Bill Westbrook addressed Council. He said he had been asking Council to appropriate more funds for public safety for several years. There were not enough police to patrol the streets, and someone was needed full-time to police the carts and cart paths. Westbrook said he had been asking for patrols on the cart paths for 15 years. Council passed laws with no way to enforce them. Brown said the City was going to re-register carts and use different color decals. People on the paths with the old decals would be stopped. Officers could see the carts from the streets. Weed repeatedthat he was not saying he did not support additional funding for public safety He had never voted against public safety Brown agreed that no one had said Council would not fund the priorities; the question was how to fund it.

The motion failed 1 (Rapson)-3-1 (Rutherford).

Weed clarified that he held McMullen in the highest esteem, but there had been a communications breakdown, and he wanted to find out what happened.

Old Agenda Items

07-05-08 Consider Modification to Motorized Play Vehicle Ordinance

McMullen said additional language had been added to the ordinance, which had been approved at the July 21 meeting, to clarify the difference between private property and public property The ordinance that was originally approved dealt primarily with use of the vehicles on public property The changes addressed the use of the vehicles on private property, such as commercial and industrial sites. Brown said the changes were right on target. Kourajian agreed. McMullen pointed out that vehicles were permitted on private residential property with the permission of the property owner They were permitted on commercial and industrial properties only in areas that were not open to vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Rutherford moved to approve the amendments to the motorized play vehicle ordinance adopted on July 21, 2005, on residential, commercial, and industrial property Rapson seconded. The motion carried unanimously

Council/Staff Topics

Presentation by QK4 on MacDuff Parkway Traffic Analysis

Matt Howser of QK4 introduced Jeffrey Dyer, author of the analysis. Dyer gave a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is included in the official meeting file) on the traffic analysis. The purpose was to analyze the traffic impacts of proposed future land uses in or near the City limits, and what to do about MacDuff Parkway Everyone knew how difficult it was for MacDuff Parkway traffic to make a left turn onto GA 54 They also looked at how far MacDuff Parkway should be extended and whether the extension would accommodate the growth along the parkway and provide relief at GA 54/GA 74

The north boundary of the study was approximately North Kedron Drive, and the south boundary was GA 54 The east boundary was GA 74, the west boundary was approximately at the City limits, and immediately west of the City The key roadways were GA 54, GA 74, Kedron Drive, North Kedron Drive, existing MacDuff Parkway, and the proposed MacDuff Parkway extension.

The study alternates included no-build, Alternate 1, to build MacDuff extension to GA 74/South Kedron Drive (3,200 feet); Alternate 2, to build MacDuff extension to North Kedron Drive (8,000 feet); and Alternate 3, to build both Alternates 1 and 2. The scenarios analyzed and the alternates for each scenario included 2007 scenario, no-build, Alternate 1, Alternate 2, 2010 scenario, no-build, Alternate 1, Alternate 2, and 2015 scenario, no-build, Alternate 1, Alternate 2, and Alternate 3 Key intersections included GA 74/North Kedron Drive, GA 74/South Kedron Drive, GA 74/GA 54, GA 54/MacDuff Parkway, and MacDuff Parkway/Centennial Drive. The assumed future land uses included completion of the Centennial development, future residential development north of Centennial (assumed to be 300 homes), and the future MacDuff Elementary School, which could have approximately 800 students. Growth of the overall area was included by applying the compounded annual growth percentage of five percent to existing traffic counts.

Dyer continued that the basis of the analysis was the intersections' level of service. He explained that level of service was a qualitative measure of the effective of the intersection to move traffic and was defined as A, B, C, D, E, or F A was the best (free flow, little delay) and F was the worst (very poor flow, long delays, intersection over capacity). Kourajian asked how the levels of service were determined. Dyer said the level of service methodology was based on numbers. Kourajian said he thought 15 seconds was a long time to wait at a light. Dyer said there were actual defining numbers.

Weed asked why 2007 was selected as the trigger date. Dyer explained that 2007 was selected as the earliest possible date an extension could be completed. Weed clarified that included property acquisition. Dyer said the school was scheduled for completion after 2007, as was the buildout for the area. Brown asked if the figures included the buildout for Cedarcroft. Dyer said it included anything he could find. The five percent addition for growth would take care of anything Dyer had not known about.

Dyer went over the various scenarios and the projection for 2007, 2010, and 2015 The levels of service varied from Fs to Bs (good flow, still little noticeable delay), but by 2015 the highest level of service for Alternate 3 was a C (fair flow, but more vehicles experience delay). Alternate 3 put all the scenarios into play, with the levels of service mostly at E (poor flow, all cars experience delay, intersection at capacity) and F

Rapson asked Dyer to clarify the drive times. Dyer said the timeframes were approximately 7.30-8.30 a.m. and 5.30-6.30 p.m. Rapson asked difference in the delay between levels of service C and D Dyer said the delay for C was 20-25 seconds and D was 45-46 seconds, but both were well below one minute.

Kourajian noted that the alternates included putting a signal at the South Kedron/GA 74 intersection and a bridge over North Kedron/GA 74 Dyer said the signal at the South Kedron/GA 74 intersection was necessary because the MacDuff extension would be the fourth leg of the intersection. The level of service at GA 54/GA 74 would remain an F, because the continued growth would offset any benefits from the alternates. The same was true for MacDuff Parkway/GA 54

Recommendations for 2007 and 2010 were to construct MacDuff Parkway either to South Kedron Drive or North Kedron Drive, depending on availability of funding; secure right-of-way for future construction of the alternate not constructed during the time period, signalize the intersection at Kedron Drive, if that alternate had been constructed, construct grade separation over CSX Railroad if the parkway were extended to North Kedron Drive; and construct the MacDuff Parkway extension as a two-lane facility with left-turn lanes at all intersections and sufficient right-of-way so the parkway could be widened to a four-lane facility in the future.

Recommendations for 2015 included constructing the second MacDuff Parkway extension to complete Alternate 3, adding southbound and eastbound dual left-turn lanes at GA 74 at North Kedron Drive, adding an eastbound through lane along North Kedron Drive leaving the intersection to accommodate the extra left-turn lane; and to add eastbound dual left-turn lanes on GA 54 at MacDuff Parkway and add a northbound through lane along MacDuff Parkway leaving the intersection to accommodate the extra left-turn lane.

Weed said the most important thing was that doing nothing was not an option. Dyer said it would not be bad until 2007 and probably would not be built until then anyway Rapson noted that the area residents would disagree.

Dana Kinser asked how many cars were on MacDuff Parkway at peak times. Dyer said it depended on the section of MacDuff. Dyer said there were over 400 going north and 100 going south. Dyer said if GA 54/MacDuff Parkway was an isolated intersection it would work well, but the problem was the gridlock on GA 54, which should improve once it was four-laned. Dyer said they used today's traffic patterns with two years of growth.

Brown noted that another reason to build senior housing in the area was that seniors did not drive during the peak hours or to school. Seniors would be a good market to help reduce traffic numbers. Dyer agreed. Brown said the study would be put on the website.

Phyllis Aguayo asked how the traffic would be affected if John Wieland cut his proposed subdivision to 130 homes. Dyer said that fewer homes would help, but would not make a great deal of difference. Aguayo asked how much through traffic would be generated. Dyer said the extension of MacDuff Parkway could attract 25% of the turning movements from GA 54/GA 74 A lot of local people would know the parkway bypassed the GA 54/GA 74 intersection.

Phil Boswell asked Dyer if the GA 54/GA 74 figures included the widening of GA 74 south of GA 54, or if the time delays were based on any trains. Dyer said the modeling would have to be more sophisticated to include the trains. There might be one train an hour Most of the signal cycles would not have a train. A train going through would mess up the light up for two or three cycles. He continued that they were aware of the road-widening on GA 74, but it was south of the intersection. There were already two southbound lanes on GA 74

Rapson said everyone wanted to know if extending MacDuff Parkway would help the residents in that area. Rapson said the study validated his belief that the through traffic was bogging down GA 54/GA 74 He did not see MacDuff Parkway as a throughway for those people, but more as a residential collector Rapson said he would put in traffic-calming measures to ensure its use as a residential collector Brown said the future school was a built-in traffic-calming device. Dyer said the residents who lived off MacDuff Parkway could not get out. The extension of the parkway would provide another outlet for the residents.

Weed asked Dyer if he had any information from the DOT on the traffic signal for Ardenlee/GA 74 Dyer said he had spoken to someone at the district office, and the intersection met some warrants, but DOT required the intersection to meet a lot of warrants. The request had been sent to Atlanta and had included information on the traffic counts from the shopping center to help meet the warrants. The state did not want to have to pay for the traffic light as a safety project, so they sounded amenable to the application.

Discuss Kudzu Eradication Program Status

Public Services Director Tom Corbett addressed Council. Weed said he was not sure kudzu eradication was something the City should do something about. Brown asked Weed if he was talking about private property or government property Weed said they were realistically considering contracting a goatherder and goats or getting their own goats to get rid of kudzu. Weed said he needed to be convinced this was a problem the City had to do something about. Corbett said he could not answer that. He had been directed to look into the matter He was just providing some answers.

Brown said kudzu was a noxious weed that grew beyond belief. Kudzu caused the depletion of the tree canopy and brought trees down. Now was the time to act to curb the kudzu. Brown said Tallahassee had done a similar project. Tallahassee had almost 800 acres of vine. Using goats was the only way to get rid of the kudzu safely Brown said he did not want to lose the tree canopy Corbett said they had tried using chemicals and hand-cutting, both of which were very expensive. He said he was willing to spend a few dollars to try goats. Some goals needed to be identified. Brown said a lot of residents were calling about kudzu, especially kudzu growing from City-owned property onto private property Corbett said the grazing option was less expensive and safer Rapson said he had the same concerns as Weed. He told Corbett he should do it. Weed said no one had said it had to be done to save the City's greenbelt. The consensus from Council was for Corbett to move ahead with the pilot program.

Rutherford moved to convene in executive session for pending litigation and a personnel matter Kourajian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

Rutherford moved to reconvene in regular session. Kourajian seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

Rutherford moved to deny the claim. Brown seconded. The motion carried unanimously

There being no further business to discuss, Rutherford moved to adjourn. Rapson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Jane S Miller

Jane Miller, City Clerk

Stephen D. Brown, Mayor

Pamela Dufresne

Pamela Dufresne, Recording Secretary