

**MINUTES OF MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF PEACHTREE CITY
August 17, 1995
7:00 p.m.**

The Mayor and City Council of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, August 17, 1995 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, Robert Brooks, Ed Bradford and Caroline Price.

Addition of Agenda Items

None.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognitions

The Veterans of Foreign War presented a flag to the City for the new Field House. A certificate from Mac Collins was also presented with the flag stating the flag was flown over the capitol on July 19th.

Department Reports

Lenox announced that the departmental reports for the month of July were available for review at City Hall.

Minutes

McMenamin moved to approve the minutes of August 3, 1995 as presented. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Agenda Items

None.

New Agenda Items

8-95-6 Variance - Mowell Funeral Home

Lenox said Council had received a variance request to allow Mowell Funeral Home access to Robinson Road. Lenox read the rules of a Public Hearing and gave each side fifteen minutes to speak in favor or opposition to the variance.

Lenox asked first to hear from the applicant. Mr. Ron Horton, Attorney for C.J. Mowell Funeral Home addressed Council and stated when the property was rezoned to its current classification, one of the conditions was that there should be no commercial access directly to Robinson Road. He stated that it had created a hardship on the business as well as traffic problems because people trying to get to the funeral home do not notice that it does not access Robinson Road until they pass the home. He said they then they have to turn around and find the entrance.

Lenox asked to hear from anyone else in favor of the variance. Jim Williams, Director of Developmental Services, came forward to speak in favor of the variance. Williams stated that in 1990 the property was zoned R-43 Residential. The owner, Mr. Davis initiated a request to rezone the property to OI Office/Institutional as a part of the overall rezoning of what is now Shakerag Hill. On September 20, 1990, City Council rezoned the Davis property as requested. Williams said the rezoning of the Davis property included several conditions, one of which was there would be no access from Robinson Road to the commercial area other than the frontage road.

Williams said at the time of the rezoning there was no knowledge of what use would eventually occupy the Davis tract. Both the staff and the Planning Commission felt there was a strong potential that a future commercial use could adversely impact Robinson Road if there was direct access to and from the property.

Williams said following a brief period of operation for the funeral home, Mr. Mowell concluded that traffic circulation was a major problem for his business and a source of inconvenience and irritation for his customers and their visitors. Williams said staff recommended that the variance be approved because when the condition was imposed there was no intended use, and caution with regard to Robinson Road access was necessary and appropriate. He said that several on-site observations by the staff have indicated that traffic circulation during funerals is indeed a problem and that staff felt that direct access to Robinson Road would not adversely affect the operation of Robinson Road, but would substantially improve the situation.

Williams said if Council decided to approve the requested variance, he recommended that the variance be strictly for the funeral home and not for any other future use of the property. Also, the variance should be granted with the understanding that the access drive would include an appropriate deceleration lane on Robinson Road, and would be designed and built in conjunction with the overall Robinson Road improvement program that is currently underway as a joint city/county project.

Lenox asked to hear from anyone else in favor of the variance. Hearing none, he asked to hear from anyone who wished to speak opposing the variance. Hearing none, he called the hearing to a close for council debate.

Price said she was in favor of the variance and that it should be tied to the current use of the property. Bradford asked the City Attorney if the variance could be granted for a particular use and not just the building. Lindsey responded that it could be and asked Mr. Mowell if he would agree to that condition. Mowell responded that he did.

Price made a motion to grant a variance for a curb cut onto Robinson Road with appropriate deceleration lanes and that the access could only be used for the current use of a funeral home. McMenamin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

8-95-7 Report - Solid Waste Update

Dennis Chase, representative from the Solid Waste Management Group (SWAG) presented a report to Council on the status of solid waste reduction. Chase said that Council had taken a big step by passing an ordinance concerning the disposal of yard waste. Chase said that a builder, Bob Adams, had taken a positive step in the reduction of yard waste by using a tub grinder at his construction sites instead of burning the debris. He said Adams would be stock piling the mulch to be used in landscaping his lots. Chase also recommended the City hire a full-time employee to implement the solid waste management plan that was adopted in 1993. He said it was an outstanding plan but needed financial support.

Lenox surprised Chase and his wife, Nell, with awards of appreciation for their volunteer efforts with the City. Lenox said over the past several years, Dennis Chase had contributed more than a thousand hours of his time to various community projects, and his wife had recently contributed hundreds of hours to the Planning and Engineering Department establishing a development information system. Lenox thanked them for their commitment and service to the City and presented them with plaques and a gift certificate.

8-95-8 Report from ARC - Fayette County Transportation Study

David Kirk from the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) addressed Council and presented them with a packet of information which included the ARC annual report. Kirk said Fayette County residents, Mike Wheat, Doug Mitchell, and Rick Price were on a board of 38 people who set policies for ARC. Kirk said the Association of Fayette County Governments had asked ARC for assistance in designing a County-wide Transportation Plan. Kirk said that a unified plan would be essential in competing for funds. Most governmental entities in Fayette County had individual plans but some were out of date. Kirk said they planned to take the best parts of the existing plans and update them into a consolidated plan. A draft plan should be ready for review in May of 1996. ARC also sent out a questionnaire to obtain citizen opinion to help prioritize projects.

Price said transportation problems did not have boundaries and asked if the ARC would be negotiating with other counties concerning problems that overlapped into other counties. Kirk said Chris Venice, from Fayette County, had been keeping in touch with surrounding counties.

Larry Dell, from the Association of Fayette County Governments, addressed Council and said the funding for transportation issues would still come from the same source, but that he felt a unified plan would make them more competitive in receiving funds.

Lenox thanked ARC for their guidance and assistance and said he was fully supportive of a County-wide plan.

8-95-9 Consider Bids - Library Computer System

Basinger said that the Library Enhancement Committee had briefed Council recently on the proposed enhancements to library services. The Committee recommended the purchase of the following:

AS400 IBM Computer System	\$ 75,000
CD-ROM Local Area Network	\$172,851
Collection Development	\$ 37,973

Basinger said the computer purchases would be off of state contract and the collection development items would be purchased through the Flint River Regional Library System. Basinger said that if Council would approve the purchases, it would leave \$126,605 that had been set aside as a construction contingency pending the completion of the library expansion.

McMenamin made a motion to approve the purchases for the Library. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8-95-10 Amendment - Land Development Ordinance - Overhead Lines in Industrial Park

Basinger said the Land Development Ordinance required that all new electric distribution power lines be placed underground. He said in many areas of the industrial park the lines are above ground and had been for many years prior to May 21 1987, the date of the new ordinance requiring underground lines. Basinger said it was difficult to justify why new industry owners must go to the expense of burying new lines when there are already existing above ground lines either right next door or across the street. Therefore, Basinger said staff recommended that the ordinance be amended to provide an exception to requiring lines to be placed underground when an electric distribution line already exists overhead on, adjacent to, or across the street from a piece of property zoned for industrial use, provided the overhead line extension is placed underground at the closest feasible point to the property line and does not attach directly to any structure on the property.

Bradford made a motion to approve the amendment to the ordinance as presented by staff. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8-95-11 Amendment - Election Resolution - Voter Registration Deadline

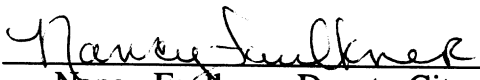
Basinger said Council had passed a resolution to call for the November 7 election and set October 9 as the deadline for voter registration. He said the City had been advised that they must change the deadline to Tuesday, October 10 because October 9 is Columbus Day, which was a State Holiday.

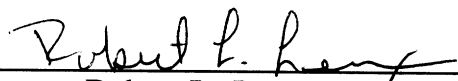
Bradford made a motion to amend the resolution and change the deadline for voter registration for the November 7 election to October 10. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Lenox made a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss a legal matter. Price seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action was taken in Executive Session. McMenamin moved to adjourn the meeting. Lenox seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.


Nancy Faulkner, Deputy City Clerk

Attest: 
Robert L. Lenox, Mayor