

City Council of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 1, 2019
6:30 p.m.

The Mayor and Council of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, August 1, 2019. Mayor Vanessa Fleisch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Others attending: Terry Ernst, Mike King, Kevin Madden, and Phil Prebor.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition

Police Sgt. Chris Hyatt presented the Saved by the Belt Award to Daniel Handley and daughters Christina, Rachel, and Sarah, who had walked away with only bumps and bruises following a rollover accident on Braelinn Road in May after their vehicle was t-boned by another vehicle exiting one of the side roads. Handley and his daughters were correctly wearing their vehicle's restraint devices, including the youngest daughter who was strapped into her booster seat correctly, Hyatt noted.

Fleisch honored Fire Chief Joe O'Connor for completing the four years of study required in the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program.

Public Comment

Norman Moore said an event in June prompted him to take a look at liability insurance requirements for golf carts and also the requirements for decals. He posted some comments on the Next Door website and had received a variety of responses. He said he extracted some comments and created a document with points he wanted Council to consider, such as requiring liability insurance for golf carts and why cart roll-overs were not uncommon.

Minutes

King moved to approve the July 18, 2019, regular meeting minutes as written. Ernst seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Consider FY 2019 Budget Adjustment – Grinding Contract/Landscaping Supplies**
- 2. Consider Amendment to Motorized Carts Ordinance – Sec. 78-93-Operations regulations and Sec.78-96- Hazardous activities and special rules**
- 3. Consider FY 2019 Budget Adjustment – Park Enhancements**

Ernst moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1, 2, and 3. King seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Agenda Items

07-19-05 Consider Adoption of FY 2020 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Finance Director Paul Salvatore recalled that the budget process took about five months, beginning in March and continuing through several Retreat sessions and a budget workshop. The City Manager introduced his proposed budget in June, and Council held the public hearing required by law at its July 18 meeting. They were now at the point where Council should consider adoption of the budget resolution.

There had been no changes to the proposed budget since the public hearing, Salvatore pointed out. Council had the resolution and all the supporting documents in their meeting packet, which included the revised fee schedules discussed at the workshop meetings. Those fees would go into effect October 1, the start of the fiscal year.

Unless there was further discussion, staff recommended Council adopt the FY 2020 budget resolution.

King moved to approve Old Agenda item 07-19-05, adoption of FY 2020 Operating Budget and CIP. Prebor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Council/Staff Topics

Millage Rate Public Hearing Schedule

City Manager Jon Rorie pointed out that they had just adopted a budget, but had not received the tax digest. State law mandated Council hold millage rate hearings in regard to the tax digest. Council had adopted a balanced budget that included the use of about \$490,000 in cash reserves and was based on growth of 5% in the tax digest. They were hearing from the County, however, that growth in the tax digest could come in at about 8% or a little higher. The budget was adopted with a projected millage rate of 6.232 and an assumed growth in the tax digest of 5%. Growth in the tax digest of anything greater than 5% could represent a rollback in the millage rate, Rorie stated.

They needed to make a couple of assumptions, Rorie remarked, as they looked ahead to receiving the tax digest. The growth percentage would go down as people went through the appeals process, but it was still likely that they would wind up with an amount over the 5% they used to calculate the budget, resulting in a slight rollback in the millage rate. Rorie said this budget reflected the strongest financial position the City had been in for many years. It used cash purchases instead of relying on debt. It maintained a pocket to fund projects instead of kicking them down the road, even in recessionary cycles. There might be, however, a recommendation for a slight rollback in the millage rate to accommodate for the gain in the tax digest.

The first millage rate hearing would be at 7:30 a.m. on the same day as the next Council meeting, which would be August 15, with another scheduled at the Council meeting that evening, Salvatore reported. There would be a called meeting at 9:00 a.m. on August 22 for a third public hearing and the adoption of the millage rate. There would be more information on the digest and its makeup, including how much of the increase was due to new growth and reassessments.

Rorie said they would advertise for three public hearings, adding he did not believe a full rollback would be required.

Multi-use Path System Rules & Regulations

Rorie recalled that at the last meeting or two, a citizen spoke about safety, and, another citizen had come before them at this meeting with issues about golf carts. There had been changes over the years, he noted, referring to a leaflet the City had produced asking "Do you know the rules to the golf cart system?" He noted it was no longer referred to as a golf cart path system; it was truly a multi-use path network. The front of the leaflet boasted of 100 miles of path and 10,000 golf carts, but Rorie stated the actual number was around 11,700.

The brochure went on to outline what was allowed, including pedestrians, golf carts, wheelchairs, bicycles. The three main users of the path system were walkers, cyclists, and golf carts, with the occasional skateboard, but there were other things happening. Rorie said he was on the path system almost every night. There had been discussions regarding Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access to the path system. He noted there was a path being reconstructed as part of a development, not by the City, but they left a big bump where the path met the road, cutting off access for wheelchairs. Public Works Superintendent Scott Hicks met with the developer, and the City worked with the builder to get it fixed. There were several places like this throughout the City. They were trying to address this as the paths were resurfaced.

Traditional and electric bicycles were listed as allowed. Mopeds were not allowed, and Rorie pointed out inconsistencies in the language that defined motorized play vehicles. Vehicles could not be altered to travel in excess of 20 miles per hour, but Rorie said he was sure there were some that had been.

Other rules called for trash to be put in designated receptacles, but many people violated that rule. Cyclists 16 years of age and younger were required to wear helmets. The leaflet reminded cart drivers to yield to motor vehicles on roadways. Rorie recalled that they had just had to create language in the Code of Ordinances to require cart operators to stop before crossing a road.

The back of the leaflet reminded people that most homeowner insurance policies did not cover golf carts and told them to immediately obtain insurance. There were people who drove too fast and hit someone, leaving the victims with the bill, Rorie noted.

Many people complained that teenagers drove too fast, but Rorie said it was adults, too. Bicyclists could be a hazard as well.

There were about 1,005 stop signs in Peachtree City, Rorie said. Police officers often cited people for ignoring these signs, so more signs were not the answer. Creating a rule was not the issue, getting people to comply with it was.

Staff had recently evaluated a request for a motorized, assistive device that went up to 15 miles per hour for use on the path. The City said it would be legal. It had stirred up conversation about the definitions and whether they meant the same thing as they had 15 years ago.

Police Chief Janet Moon said street bicycles could go up to 40 miles per hour, and Rorie pointed out they could be a hazard. Also, he said, electric scooters were an issue. Many cities had banned them, usually because of the litter they created when they were abandoned by riders. Nashville was banning them because someone was hit by a vehicle. At what point did the City say "no" to something because of an accident or an injury, Rorie asked. The City had been asked about having rental scooters and bicycles on the path system. Rorie said he would not be against that as a customer, but could not support it as City Manager. It did not make sense to say electric scooters were not allowed on the path system, but a bicycle going 40 miles per hour was allowed. It was happening right now on the path system. He said he passed two this week. It was a violation, but Rorie said the question was whether it was enforceable.

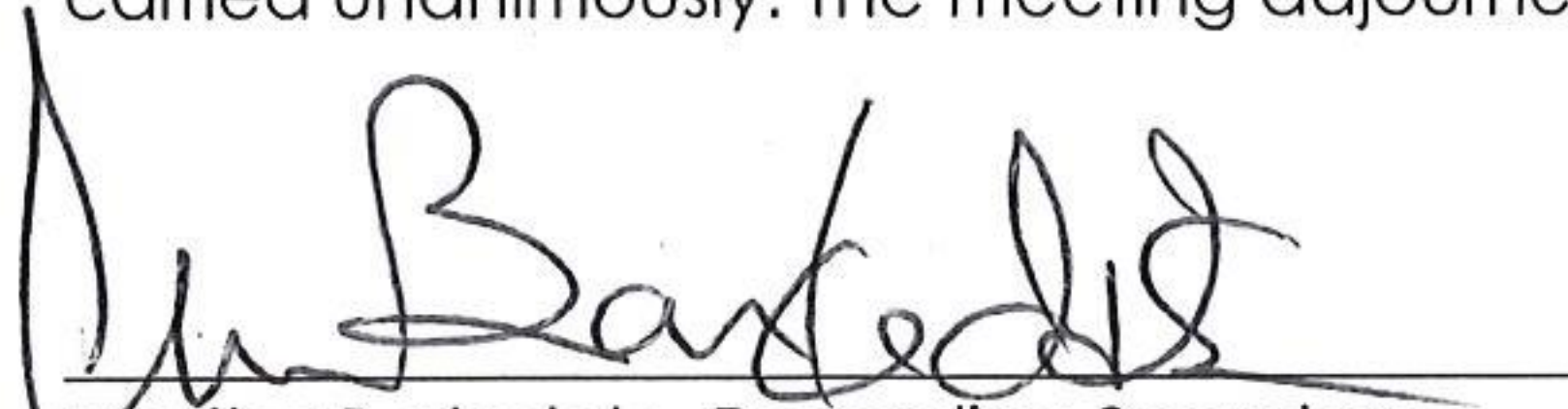
Two people had come before Council about cart path safety, and they had all gotten emails about safety, Rorie noted. In the end, it came down to personal responsibility and accountability, but he suggested there should be a thought process or workshop with the community that looked at things that could be done to enhance safety. They could not create a risk-free environment, but they could look at ADA access, liability insurance, and things of that nature. He recalled that Moore mentioned requiring decals on the front and back of the carts, but Rorie said if he had one on the back of his cart, it would be covered all winter.

Those were conversations they needed to have with the community. At the end of the day, Rorie commented, the community was part of the problem, and they needed an engagement strategy to find a solution when changing the requirements for 11,700 golf carts. Passing regulations would not mean that people would follow them. They needed to schedule a workshop to discuss this.

King moved to convene in executive session to discuss the acquisition, lease, or sale of real estate at 7:05 pm. Prebor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Prebor moved to reconvene in regular session at 7:45 p.m. Madden seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Ernst moved to adjourn. Madden seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.



Martha Barksdale, Recording Secretary



Vanessa Fleisch, Mayor