City Council of Peachtree City
Minutes of Meeting
July 23, 1998
6:00 p.m.

The City Council of Peachtree City met in a special workshop session Thursday, July 23, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Basinger explained that staff would be presenting the proposed draft of the 1999 Budget. He said, over the past several months, there have been many hours of time and effort put forth in preparing the budget. He said he and the Assistant City Manager held two budget sessions with the directors and chiefs. He said Mayor Lenox also had an extensive budget session with each Director and Chief.

Staff reviewed a draft of the Fiscal Year (FY) 1999 Budget that included the Operating Budget and Public Improvement Program. He said Council's comments from the Retreat meeting had been incorporated into the budget. He said the projected budget came to a total of $20,385,106, compared to a 1998 budget of $18,189,768. He said the 1999 budget included significant carryover funds from the 1998 budget from the Public Improvement Program and Self Insurance. He noted that the city continued to meet its of goal of maintaining at least one million dollars in the Self Insurance fund with a projected reserve fund of $1,178,198. He also said the city had over $700,000 cash on hand to meet cash flow requirements throughout the year, and there was $500,000 budgeted for the Council Contingency Fund.

Basinger reviewed the projected General Fund revenues, which totaled $13,800,135. He said this compared to $13,105,654 last year, an increase of $700,000, or 5.30 percent. He said the city's major sources of revenue continued to be Local Option Sales Taxes (LOST), which represented 32 percent of revenue, and Ad Valorem Property Taxes, which represented 26 percent of revenues. He said staff projected a 4 percent increase in LOST and an 11 percent increase in Ad Valorem Taxes. He said that permits related to license fees were projected to decrease by 16.5 percent based on the decrease in new home construction. Other revenue sources included utility franchise taxes, court fines, and insurance premium tax.

Basinger discussed the area of personnel. He said the budget included three firefighter/paramedic positions, a library technology manager, a librarian position, a police department secretary, and two part-time maintenance workers. Also included, were five police officer positions that were funded by the Federal Government FAST COPS program which would fund approximately 75% of the costs for these positions for three years.

Basinger also explained that the budget included funding for revisions to the city's Employee Pay Plan which would keep salaries competitive with Fayette County and surrounding agencies. He said ARC had completed a salary survey and pay plan amendment for Fayette County, which was approved by the County Commission and was effective July 1. He explained that, rather than requesting ARC to complete a redundant pay study for Peachtree City, staff elected to use the ARC data generated for Fayette County. He said the latest update of the City's Pay Plan was done by ARC in 1991, and in an effort to keep the Pay Plan current and competitive, Council had included an annual 2% standard salary adjustment since that time. He said that action had been instrumental in minimizing the costs of the proposed revision to the City's Pay Plan.

Basinger said some of the city's positions would be reclassified; such as firefighter/paramedics, police officers, and maintenance workers. He said under the proposed pay plan, all employees would receive the annual 2% standard salary adjustment as they had in past years. In addition, all employees would receive a 2% pay plan adjustment to minimize salary compression that results any time entry level salaries are adjusted. He said the total estimated financial impact of the new plan would be $165,500.

Joe Morton give an overview of the Operating Budget. He said the Operating Budgets had increased by 6.05% and that the Pay Plan changes impacted the budget by $165,500, or 3.08%. Morton said the City had received another FAST COPS Grant in the amount of $351,274 for 5 new Police Officers. He said that would bring the total grant awarded for this program to $905,000. He said funds were also included to begin the National Accreditation process for the Fire Department and for 11 new full-time positions and 2 temporary positions.

Morton used a graph to compare the Divisional Operating Budgets by dollar amount, which showed the importance that the Council placed on public safety, leisure services and public services. He used a pie chart to demonstrate how tax dollars were being spent. He said over $.78 of each dollar was spent on public safety, leisure services and public services, and only $.16 of each dollar was spent on the administrative and financial operations of city government.

Morton gave an overview of the Operating budget and each Director and Chief gave a brief overview of their respective budgets. Basinger reviewed the Public Improvement Program. He said Council had several concerns at Retreat concerning the proposed reduced funding for the street and cart path resurfacing programs, which had been restored. He said further changes had also been made to the 1999 and 2000 Public Improvement Programs since the City Council retreat.

He said staff was proposing major changes to the reconstruction of Leach Fire Station in order to add a third bay, an 80-seat training room with state-of-the-art audio and video equipment, and a larger day room and living quarters. He said the project would also include a smoke/burn building. He explained that in order to fund these changes in 1999, staff was proposing to delay several equipment purchases and to fund the $264,000 option on 22 acres of recreation land over a 2-year period instead of the entire $264,000 in 1999.

Morton briefly reviewed some of the projects for future Public Improvement Programs:

FY 2000: one football sports field/track at Riley Field, a new fire engine and Phase II of the police vehicle lease program

FY 2001: three Softball Sports Fields - phase I, replace a 1995 Medic/Ambulance, and Phase III of the police vehicle lease program

FY 2002: compost shredder, the completion of the three softball sports fields, Glenloch Activity Center expansion, Library Expansion - Phase I, and Phase IV of the police vehicle lease program. The Glenloch Activity Center Expansion will also be evaluated as part of the Recreation Master Plan process. The Library Expansion will be funded in FY 2002 and FY 2003 as our local share will not be needed until the completion of the project.

FY 2002: Public Works three bay facility, Phase II funding of the Library Expansion, the Fire Training Tower to be located at the Leach Training Facility, an ambulance, a fire ladder truck and Phase V of the police vehicle lease program.

Upon conclusion of staff's presentation, Lenox made a motion to adjourn the meeting for a brief recess and then to reconvene into executive session to discuss law suits. Pace seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Executive Session

The meeting reconvened in executive session at 6:55 p.m. No action was taken in executive session. Lenox made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fritz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Nancy Faulkner

Nancy Faulkner, City Clerk

Attest: Robert L. [illegible]
Mayor