City Council of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
June 18, 2009
7:00 p.m.

The Mayor and Council of the City of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, June 18, 2009. Mayor Logsdon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council Members in attendance were Steve Boone, Don Haddix, Cyndi Plunkett, and Doug Sturbaum.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition
Logsdon issued a Proclamation of Congratulations to MA Industries in recognition of the firm's 40th anniversary. Logsdon recognized Fire Marshal John Dailey for 20 years of service.

Public Comment
Al Yougel of Keep Peachtree City Beautiful (KPTCB) announced that Partners II Pizza was selling 4th of July T-shirts with the profits to be donated to KPTCB.

Richard Spain addressed Council about developers stalling, noting that residents should be given notice of a time to voice their opinion and, if the developer wished to delay, the public hearing should still continue and Council should consider the request on its merits.

Agenda Changes
There were none.

Monthly Reports
Sturbaum asked why Workers Comp claims and City Vehicle Accidents had increased. Administrative Services Director Nikki Vrana indicated that there had been cases of exposure, muscle strain, and a back sprain, with all but one employee released back to work. Vrana said four of the accidents were considered not-at-fault, one was unavoidable, and a couple related to poor judgment on the clearance of the vehicle. Sturbaum said he just wanted to know if there were other issues impacting the claims.

Plunkett noted that the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) revenue was budgeted for $6 million, and only $3.5 million had been collected. She pointed out that this was the huge deficit they were dealing with in the upcoming budget.

Minutes
Sturbaum moved to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2009, regular meeting and the June 8, 2009, workshop. Plunkett seconded. Motion to approve the May 21 minutes carried unanimously, and motion to approve the June 8 minutes carried 4-0-1 (Boone).

Consent Agenda
1. **Consider Amendment to Automatic Fire Sprinkler System Ordinance**
2. **Consider Surplus of 1994 Ford, Communications Vehicle #8**
3. **Consider Amendment to Alcohol Ordinance – partially consumed bottles of wine**
4. **Consider Alcohol Qualifying Location Permit - City Hall Plaza/Drake Field**
5. **Consider Acceptance of Drainage Easements**
6. **Consider Budget Amendments**
7. **Consider Additional P/T Firefighter Headcount**

Boone moved to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Haddix seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Agenda Items

06-08-08 Public Hearing – Consider Amendments, Specific Permitted Uses in Multiple Zoning Districts

City Planner David Rast said the proposed amendments were the result of numerous Planning Commission meetings and workshops. The proposal specifically listed uses permitted in the GC General Commercial zoning district and identified specific uses that would not be permitted. All the other verbiage within the ordinance remained the same.

Plunkett asked if this tied up the loophole of putting a big box in the industrial park. Rast said this ordinance only related to GC, but that issue had already been addressed in the revisions to GI General Industrial. Rast added that, at the workshop, Council and staff had discussed potential overlay districts for the village centers, and that would be the next step in the process.

No one from the public spoke, and Logsdon closed the hearing.

City Attorney Ted Meeker asked to add some language to Paragraphs A-D, a comma and the words "as follows" before the lists of specific uses.

Plunkett said GC currently allowed up to 32,000 square feet and asked what the 10,000 square-foot limitation meant. Rast said that wording was verbatim from the current ordinance, and the increase up to 32,000 was included under the conditional uses. Anything above that would have to fall under the Special Use Permit. The proposed changes identified the specific uses allowed in the permitted uses.

Sturbaum moved to approve the Ordinance Amendment with the changes recommended by the City Attorney. Boone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

03-09-01 Public Hearing – Consider Rezoning, 37.001 acres, GI to LUR, Southpark International Industrial Park

Rast indicated that the applicant had requested this item be continued indefinitely. Boone moved to continue the item indefinitely. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Plunkett asked Meeker to clarify the issue of proceeding with a public hearing after an applicant had requested the item be pulled. Meeker said he had seen both sides of this issue, but he was hesitant about moving forward with an issue when it might deny the applicant due process.

Jim Savage felt there should be some provision in the ordinance that a zoning application could not be postponed forever. Robert Brown suggested having applicants request continuances in person at the meeting. Plunkett noted there had been extenuating cases in the past, including deaths in the family, and the City had allowed requests to postpone in writing. Logsdon said the City had been very open, both in allowing the requestor to pull the item and in allowing the public to speak about it.

Bob Walsh said he had come to talk about the development and was disappointed it had been pulled. He said there should be a time limit before the applicant had to go back to the Planning Commission and start the process again.

Plunkett asked how long the Planning Commission recommendation lasted. Meeker said that there was no time limit for rezoning requests, but when the request came back to Council, there would have to be a legal ad and public notice. Walsh and Savage felt there should be some requirement for Council action within a certain amount of time.

Haddix said his concern was a developer who submitted a substandard project knowing that an ordinance revision was pending. He agreed that some type of time limit on the Planning Commission recommendation would help prevent that. Meeker said that had been written into some of the site plan submittals, and they would look at it for rezoning applications as well.

<u>New Agenda Items</u>

06-09-01 Public Hearing – Consider Variance to Setback, 100 Hermitage Place

Rast noted that the applicant had requested that this item be continued to the July 16 meeting. Haddix moved to continue the request to the July 16 agenda. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

06-09-02 Final Discussion on Hip Pocket Sewer/Consider Standards Application Process

City Engineer Dave Borkowski addressed Council, saying the City had explored the costs of providing sewer service to the entire Hip Pocket area (approximately 71 lots currently served by septic). The final cost of the project would have been approximately $100/month/lot for up to 15 years, depending on the financing option chosen. The residents were overwhelmingly opposed due to the cost, and no grant funding was available. Staff recommended Council adopt the policy on dealing with septic tank failures, and that there be no further pursuit of connecting the area to the sewer system.

Plunkett asked how many septic systems were currently in danger of failing. Health Department Representative Robert Kurbes said there was no real way to tell because problems that occurred tended to be fairly immediate. For the one failure identified since the workshops, he was awaiting a proposal to address the challenges with the soil conditions. Plunkett noted the Health Department had encountered problems with the proper removal of septic systems in the past, and Kurbes confirmed that. He said that, if a septic system failed and could not be repaired or connected to sewer, the house would have to be vacated. Logsdon felt it was short-sighted of the residents to take no action in planning for that eventuality, but he said Council was not a dictatorship. He added that there would be a negative impact on the neighborhood when systems failed and houses had to be vacated.

Boone asked, if a house vacated, there was any provision for condemnation. Meeker said revoking the Certificate of Occupancy under the policy was saying the house was uninhabitable, which was essentially the same as condemning it. The City would not have to purchase the house.

Ellen McCallum of Robinson Road said she had septic systems in many of the cities she lived in, and there were many options to change septic systems. Some were expensive, but replacement could be done. Phyllis Aguayo said her mother lived in Florida, and her city was in the process of removing septic systems and installing sewer in her neighborhood. The result was an aesthetic, environmental, and financial nightmare for the city.

City Manager Bernard McMullen thanked Kurbes for his assistance in developing the policy. Haddix said there was a group of neighbors in the area looking at going to the sewer system themselves to jointly connect to the service.

Plunkett moved to approve the policy on the sewer connection process. Haddix seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

06-09-03 Consider Cancellation of Tinsley Mill Stormwater Grant
This item was moved to July 16, 2009, prior to the meeting.

06-09-04 Consider RFP – Tennis Center Management Services
Leisure Services Director Randy Gaddo presented staff's recommendation for management services for the Tennis Center – Sequoia Golf Holdings LLC (Canongate) to take effect July 1. Gaddo said staff had issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) in March, and had 16 responders attend one of the two mandatory pre-proposal meetings. Ultimately, seven proposals had been submitted. A panel of five had reviewed the applications and interviewed the top three firms.

Gaddo said the panel's goals included retaining the center under City ownership, minimizing the City's operational and financial burden, keeping a patron friendly environment, attracting more tournaments, minimizing the City's financial risk, and retaining the Visitors' Center under Peachtree City Tourism Association (PCTA) management. Gaddo said Canongate met the goals better than any of the other proposals. They would give existing staff the opportunity to transition to the new management, honor existing memberships, maintain affordable access for the community, reduce the cost to city, provide a revenue stream from the facility, absorb operations, management and maintenance; provide full range of services (pro shop and restaurant); and keep the PCTA Visitors Center.

Gaddo said the company had a proven record in Fayette and Coweta Counties, Macon, and Texas, with a total of 57 tennis courts, 14 locally. They had a strong balance sheet and could seamlessly transition the management with minimal disruption in services. Canongate also had a metro Atlanta customer base of 14,000 families and could offer members benefits at other clubs. The other local courts could be leveraged to help draw larger tournaments. Gaddo said Canongate was also planning some improvements, pending City review, to the facility. The agreement was proposed to start July 1, paying the City $250 per month through December 31, 2009, followed by the greatest of 3% or $2,000 per month. The City would retain some capital improvement responsibility. Gaddo introduced Sequoia's President and Chief Executive Officer, Joe Guerra, Chief Operating Officer Tim Dunlap, and Chief Financial Officer Kipp Orme.

Guerra said they were very excited about the opportunity and felt like they were already an integral part of the community through the local golf courses. He said Sequoia took its responsibility very seriously when it acquired the golf courses in 2002. The Tennis Center was a tremendous asset to the community, and he felt Sequoia could add value through marketing and sales, programming, and driving participation in a way that emphasized the quality of life in the City, as well as help to drive local businesses that relied on the facility and tournaments. Guerra said Canongate brought to the table experts at both tennis and golf. Although the City had mainly focused on golf to date, the organization operated two major tennis operations in Macon and in The Woodlands, Texas, that were full service operations.

Plunkett noted that Sequoia's tennis-only memberships were priced lower than the golf memberships, but they were also less expensive than current Tennis Center memberships. She asked how that would be balanced. Guerra said it made sense to pay more at the Tennis Center because it was a full service tennis operation versus a couple of tennis courts at a golf course. Pricing would stay where it was for the time being. Guerra continued that he saw no reason to make major changes to any of the pricing policies. The first step would be to develop a full understanding of the culture of the Center and how the current membership felt. He said they should not increase pricing without increasing value, and added that they had not increased prices at the golf clubs due to the recession.

Plunkett asked about recreational tennis, noting that it had been moved from the other City courts to the Tennis Center and that she hoped they would continue that, maybe by charging less to those groups. Dunlap said that fell in with Sequoia's goal of giving back to community.

Plunkett asked about the existing employees of the Tennis Center. Guerra said he looked forward to working with the existing employees. Sequoia hired employees based on attitude, good judgment, and discipline. He felt that a small percentage of existing employees would leave because they did not like new managers or changes, but Sequoia would provide clear expectations and communicate to develop the employees. He said Sequoia employees were happy and did not just view their jobs as a paycheck. He said they would approach the transition with the assumption that all the existing employees would stay based on merit, with his only caveat being if funds were over-allocated in a certain area. He said they had not yet looked at the operation in that level of detail, which would take a few months. He assured Council that Sequoia did not have a crop of employees lined up to move into the Tennis Center. He felt it made more sense to collaborate with the existing staff and provide them with the resources to do the best job possible.

Haddix moved to approve the agreement with the change noted on page 3, adding "capital improvements and" under the Capital Improvements and Repairs section, and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. Boone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

06-09-05 Consider Resolution for Land Swap with Fayette County

Gaddo explained that the proposal was to swap the City-owned property located by the Animal Shelter with the County for the County-owned property on Kelly Drive (former water system plant). The County would grant an easement for the proposed multi-use path to support the tunnel on SR 74 South. If approved, the Kelly Drive property was earmarked for a remote control car course.

Council asked if the proposed course might cause problems with the surrounding residences. Gaddo said he had met with neighbors and tested the site for noise. Bob Walsh said it sounded like a good opportunity, and asked if there would be any interference to mobile phones. Gaddo said there did not appear to be an interference issue, but staff would continue to look at that.

Phyllis Aguayo asked if the City had looked at other ways to acquire the property other than giving up City-owned land. Council indicated that purchasing the property was not feasible. Aguayo asked if the City knew what the County would do with the property on SR 74 South. Gaddo said the County had no immediate plans, but the septic drain field for the Animal Shelter was already on the City tract.

Richard Spain said that he thought the trade was a positive for both the City and the County.

Haddix moved to approve the resolution. Boone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

06-09-06 Request from Cheers to Address Council for Fee Reduction

Cheers Bottle Shop manager Afzal Virani addressed Council, saying the agenda heading was somewhat misleading. They were not asking for a reduction in fees, only for Council to extend their license, which would begin July 1, a few days into June so they could have supplies delivered to be open by the July 1 date of their license. They were willing to pay a prorated amount for the entire month of June, even though they would not be open during that month.

Public Information Officer/City Clerk Betsy Tyler addressed Council, saying that the request was essentially for a fee reduction. Council had approved the license. The applicant had requested the July 1 start date to take advantage of the mid-year break in the license cost. The City and State code only provide for halving the fee for licenses issued July 1 or later. Meeker confirmed this.

Haddix said approving the request would put the City in danger of setting a precedent for other licenses. Logsdon questioned the rule, noting the applicant was not asking to open early, only to have the license in hand to accept deliveries.

Meeker said that, short of amending the Alcohol License Ordinance, which was based on state law, he did not see where Council had the latitude to grant the request.

Kim Hartigan, former owner of the location, addressed Council and said the City received payment for the full year from her business, which had closed earlier in the year. Tyler said the business had been closed for too long to transfer that license, and it was a matter of what the law said the City could do relating to the fee, which was reduce it in half for licenses issued July 1 or later.

Plunkett moved to deny the request for a fee reduction for Cheers Bottle Shop. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

06-09-07 Consider Keep Peachtree City Beautiful FY 2010 Budget
06-09-08 Consider Agreement with Keep Peachtree City Beautiful
06-09-09 Consider Amendment to Solid Waste Ordinance – Franchise Fee

Logsdon said the three items would be discussed together, and Council would then vote separately on the items.

Tyler addressed Council and said Council amended the solid waste ordinance in April of that year, requiring a franchise agreement from all residential curbside service providers and adding recycling as part of the base price. Tyler said, at that time, staff had proposed the franchise fee, which Keep Peachtree City Beautiful, Inc. (KPTCB), had requested to supplement the organization's ongoing efforts to promote recycling through education and to address the growing litter problem. Council had asked staff to bring back the ordinance amendment implementing the franchise fee when KPTCB had a budget in place and the City had a service agreement with the organization for the funding.

Al Yougel, KPTCB executive director, presented the proposed FY 2010 budget, which covered the projected $40,000 annual fee. Their efforts would include increasing curbside recycling through educating residents about the new service available to them, increasing recycling in the community by having recycling bins available at public buildings and gatherings, implementing 3rd and 4th grade recycling education programs, continuing to operate the recycling drop-off stations (possibly through adding cardboard and plastic balers), increasing trash receptacles on the path system, supervising those assigned community service through the City's Municipal Court, and funding beautification projects identified with the Garden Club. The budget also included saving money to purchase a golf cart to assist with emptying the trash cans on the paths, a truck to haul the items picked up, and a recycling trailer (currently the group borrowed Newnan's trailer).

Plunkett asked if the City had sold the surplus vehicles currently being auctioned online. McMullen said some of those items had not yet closed. Plunkett asked that staff look at what was available to donate to KPTCB.

Logsdon asked if there were any questions, and there were none. Tyler noted that the agreement with KPTCB provided for the City holding the franchise funding under a separate account and paying invoices submitted by KPTCB.

Tyler then presented the final element, which established the $1.00 per customer per quarter franchise fee for the garbage companies to pay to the City. Haddix asked if the City could have the garbage companies show that franchise fee as a separate line item, noting that it would highlight the costs of littering, and if things improved, that cost could ultimately go away.

Plunkett asked about the terms of the agreement, and Meeker said it expired and automatically renewed each year, but the City could end the agreement with 60 days notice.

Brad Nielsen addressed Council and was very supportive of the program to increase recycling. He had been donating cans to the Fire Department for the burn fund, and they indicated they had an income of $118,000 for aluminum cans. Currently, citizens were paying their garbage companies to take away recyclables, and the City was losing a lot of money. He continued that many countries in Europe had recycling containers on all the street corners for people to use, and the City could improve on that. He had seen many residents drive their SUVs to the Recycling Center to recycle beer and soda cans. The recycling bins needed to be at the stores where the cans were purchased. Nielsen suggested reducing the amount of truck traffic in neighborhoods by having a contract with a single garbage company, which would conserve fuel and hopefully reduce costs. He also suggested participating in the Recycling Bank as outlined on the Internet, through which individuals received credit for recycling.

Robert Brown recommended that Nielsen and his neighbors get together to contract with a single company. He also noted that, if people increased recycling from their homes, groups that collected recyclables as a fundraiser might see a reduction in revenue. He said that curbside recycling might have an unintended consequence of reducing the support for these organizations.

Haddix noted that the recycling and single provider were older debates. Logsdon agreed and he entertained motions on the items before them that evening.

Sturbaum moved to approve the FY 2010 KPTC budget. Haddix seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Boone moved to approve the agreement with KPTCB. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sturbaum moved to approve the ordinance amendment implementing the franchise fee. Boone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

06-09-10 Consider FY 2010 Funding Request - Promise Place

Plunkett moved to approve the funding request ($7,500) for Promise Place. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Plunkett noted that Promise Place had their fundraising run on September 25.

06-09-11 Consider FY 2010 Funding Request – Fayette Senior Services

Haddix moved to approve the funding request ($15,630) for Fayette Senior Services. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

06-09-12 Consider Proposed 2009 Budget Amendments, and Additions to Bricks & Mortar Loan

Financial Services Director Paul Salvatore noted that changes to the Bricks & Mortar Loan had been discussed at the June 8 budget workshop. Staff was asking to add several projects to the Bricks & Mortar Loan. Those additional projects included resurfacing the City Hall parking lot; driveway and parking lot repairs for Fire Stations 81, 82, and 83; HVAC redesign; exterior painting, roof remodeling and replacement for Station 82; sewer connections for Stations 83 and 84; and remodeling and expansion for Station 84. The original loan amount was for $1,300,000, and the additional projects would add $1,080,294. The budget amendment would allow staff to move forward with the projects.

Sturbaum moved to approve the 2009 budget amendments and additions to the Bricks & Mortar Loan. Boone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Council/Staff Topics

Results of Library Survey

Library Administrator Jill Prouty updated Council on the survey on the hours of operation for the Library. She said the Library had about 34,500 active card holders, 26,000 of whom lived in the city limits. Another 5,000 cardholders were from Fayette County outside Peachtree City, and 4,000 were out-of-county (majority Coweta County, but included Fulton, DeKalb, Spalding, and Meriwether Counties).

The survey was conducted between June 3 and June 17, and patrons could fill out the survey at the Library and online. The three choices were: keep the current reduced hours; close on Wednesday but open additional hours on other days; or implement seasonal hours. The majority of respondents (45%) preferred instituting seasonal hours, with closing on Wednesdays garnering the least support (21.4%).

Staff's recommendation was to begin the seasonal hours on August 10, having the facility open from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and keeping the 1 – 5 p.m. hours on Sunday. Summer hours would go into effect on June 1, 2010, after school was out, and would be 9 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and keep the 1 – 5 p.m. hours on Sunday.

Prouty said respondents preferred that the Library had consistent hours. The proposed hours were workable from a staff standpoint, although the summer hours would be slightly more difficult. Logsdon asked if the item would require a vote. McMullen said the budget would include appropriate hours to cover the proposed schedule. Council supported the change.

Discussion of Proposed 2009-2010 Budget
Salvatore reviewed the proposed budget discussed at the June 8 workshop. The changes from that time were the addition of a police officer position for six months, with funding to come from three part-time positions that would remain but not be filled in FY 2010. McMullen noted that the Administrative Services part-time position could be assisted by using Amphitheater staff during the off season. The Library position was currently covered by changes in the hours of the existing staff, and the parks monitor position was the second such position, so that did not leave the City without a parks monitor.

Salvatore then showed the originally proposed 0.244 millage rate increase with no use of reserves for FY 2010, with a projected 0.245 increase and about $350,000 use of reserves in FY 2011.

Logsdon asked what the percentage the reserves would drop to if the 0.244 millage was not implemented, and Salvatore said it would reduce the reserves from 35% to 33%. Boone noted that it would also double the projected millage for 2011, and Logsdon added that was assuming the economy did not improve.

Boone asked staff to reiterate what a 0.244 millage rate increase would be on a $250,000 home. McMullen said $24.40. Logsdon noted that would be on top of the average $240 increase due to the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant (HTRG) being eliminated from the state budget. Plunkett said the increase would help to cover the 20 public safety officers that had been added over the years without a corresponding millage rate increase, the fact that those positions had to be paid for each year, and the serious probability that Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) would not pass and the City would have to return to funding road and path improvements. Logsdon said his primary point was whether the City should take $450,000 out of reserves that were at 35% or implement a 0.25 mill tax increase. He said that, as long as the City had over 30% in reserves, he did not feel an additional tax burden should be placed on the citizens. The proposed budget could be implemented without a millage increase and keep the City in good financial standing with over 30% cash reserves. He would not support a millage increase.

Richard Spain asked if the projected revenues held property values flat. Salvatore said yes for 2010, but a modest increase was projected in 2011 and beyond. Spain noted that the local papers were reporting values going down with the expectation that trend would continue. Salvatore said the Tax Assessor said the City should remain level for 2010.

Logsdon asked about a state law that had recently passed capping property assessments, recalling that they might not be able to reassess for two years. Meeker said the projected increase not only reflected reassessments but also new buildings added to the digest.

Darlene Gulli said that $24.40 was not unreasonable, and the employees deserved the pay increases that had been eliminated from the budget. Logsdon pointed out that the millage increase did not cover reinstating the salary increases.

Phyllis Aguayo said no one wanted to see taxes go up, especially when everyone was seeing financial losses from several sources. However, residents cared about the City and how the City took care of the things residents moved here for. She felt the $24 increase meant more for the City to work with cumulatively that it would to the individuals, and most people would be willing to give up a lunch out so the City would have the funds to do more in taking care of the community.

Bob Walsh said he supported the Mayor's position. The $24 would not break the bank for anyone, but the other increases imposed a difficult burden. He also felt Salvatore was projecting too conservatively on sales taxes. The Federal Reserve projection of a 3.8% increase would negate the need for a millage increase.

Salvatore reiterated that the current budget still left nearly $800,000 in 2011 that would need to be funded through a combination of millage increase and use of cash reserves. A positive year in 2010 would help address that.

Logsdon commended staff for their conservative approach, but felt that the millage rate increase was not warranted this year. He agreed that employees could not go multiple years without raises. The Fire Chief had noted that employees had born the brunt of the FY 2009 budge cuts, but the citizens had also had raises eliminated, salaries cut, and undergone other similar situations at their own jobs.

Plunkett said the budget also included delays in projects and maintenance. She asked at what level the reserves became more of a liability than an asset when maintenance was being delayed. Salvatore said that looking at a percentage was one thing, but having less than $10 million if faced with a major disaster was an uncomfortable idea.

McMullen said that the reserve level influenced the City's bond rating. Peachtree City was currently at the highest rating. Plunkett asked how low the City could go on reserves and stay at that rating. McMullen speculated that going significantly below the 35% reserves, which is what the City was at when it achieved that rate, would influence it. Logsdon asked what was significant, and McMullen said he could not say. Plunkett said citizens needed to know Council was not just frivolously spending money; but had spent money on what the citizens had asked for, like public safety employees.

Sturbaum said the 0.244 millage increase ensured the City's future and could be stepped back later. Haddix agreed, saying the City could not "take back" the negative impact if the millage was not raised and the economy worsened. He also felt the employees had been hit hard, and many projects had been postponed, which only increased the final cost of the projects.

Logsdon asked what restoring the merit raises would cost. McMullen said the merit adjustment was $489,000, and a quarter mill was $450,000. The Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) was about 0.15 mills. To restore both would require a .45 mill increase in addition to the 0.244 proposed.

Richard Spain asked about the significant jump in projected revenues between 2011 and 2012. Salvatore noted that the numbers included projected millage rate increases, and that the actual projected revenue increase was only about 2%. McMullen said that five years ago, staff had projected much higher millage rates for the current time, and the five-year model was just a model, being most accurate for the immediate next year.

Council asked staff to bring back the budget showing a stepped increase model (no millage increase, 0.122 millage increase, and 0.244 millage increase) for the July 16 public hearing.

Briefing on Developmental Services Re-organization
Rast provided a 90-day update on the reduction in force in Developmental Services, saying the change had not impacted service. They had relocated some offices, consolidated files, and made some other changes that had improved operations.

Rast said the division was also seeing a lot of changes in Code Enforcement, and he was proposing to move the Senior Code Enforcement Officer, re-designating that position as Housing Code Official to get out and follow through on the neighborhood assessments and rehabs. That position would stay under the Building Official.

The other two existing Code Enforcement Officers would be classified as Municipal Code Officers, moving under the Planning Department, who would administer the land development ordinances, zoning ordinances, and other ordinances outside the building code.

Another position proposed for reclassification was the Planning Assistant, and Rast said he would like to change that to a Planner and Economic Development Coordinator. He said the current employee worked with applicants, but he also wanted him to be more involved with the tenants and shopping center managers. Rast said staff had also started working more closely with the Development Authority of Peachtree City (DAPC).

Rast then presented some tentative ideas for branding the villages, with images under development by a summer intern being funded by the DAPC. Finally, Rast said he was hoping to change the division name from Developmental Services to Community Development

Council said they liked the idea.

McMullen said he had been remiss in pointing out that the FY 2010 budget put the Planning Assistant as a full-time position, rather than the contracted position it has been in last year's budget. Plunkett clarified that there was no cost associated to the changes Rast proposed, and Rast said that was correct.

SR 74 North/Wisdom Road Traffic Signal
Borkowski then reported on the verbal approval from CSX for the easements to install the traffic signal at Highway 74 North and Wisdom Road., contingent on DOT accepting the easement. Borkowski was trying to get that approval finalized, and would then move forward with the traffic signal.

Federal Stimulus Funding

McMullen said at the last meeting staff had briefed Council on the methodology of the distribution for the federal stimulus money. The Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) reported that the suggested methodology had been approved. McMullen noted some projects the ARC had recommended were eligible, but the projects would have to be "shovel-ready" by year end to get the funding.

Executive Session

Plunkett moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Boone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Haddix moved to adjourn from Executive Session at 10:12 p.m. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Sturbaum moved to adjourn the meeting. Boone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

B Tyler
Betsy Tyler
Public Information Officer/City Clerk

Harold Logsdon
Harold Logsdon
Mayor