

**City Council of Peachtree City**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 21, 2011**  
**7:00 p.m.**

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, April 21, 2011. Mayor Haddix called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Other Council Members in attendance were: Vanessa Fleisch, Doug Sturbaum, Kim Learnard, and Eric Imker.

**Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition**

Mayor Haddix proclaimed May as Red Cross Month, proclaimed an official welcome for the Georgia Chapter of the American Planning Association for their Spring Conference in Peachtree City, and proclaimed April 30 and May 1 as World War II Heritage Days. Haddix recognized Assistant Fire Marshal John Dunlap for fifteen years of service, the March Employee of the Month, Elda Pope, and Supervisor of the Quarter, Nikki Vrana.

**Citizen Comment**

There was none.

**Agenda Changes**

There were none.

**Minutes**

Imker moved to approve the minutes of the 2011 City Council Retreat and the minutes of the April 7, 2011, regular meeting as presented. Fleisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Monthly Reports**

Public Information Officer/City Clerk Betsy Tyler noted an error in the events calendar for the date of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life, which would begin on the evening of Friday, April 29.

Al Yougel, Executive Director of Keep Peachtree City Beautiful (KPTCB), reported that the organization was now three years old, incorporated in April of 2008. The agency contracted in March 2009 with Jennings Trashcan to allow the City to continue operating the recycling center despite the drop in the recycling commodities market. Peachtree City now contracted with KPTCB to operate the City's two recycling centers, and Yougel reviewed the range of recyclables. The group had also placed recycling bins at McIntosh High School, J.C. Booth Middle School, and at City offices. These efforts redirected waste that was previously going into the landfill.

Litter was another problem KPTCB addressed. The agency was increasing the number of trashcans along Peachtree City's 90-mile network of paths because using their KPTC golf cart would allow them to reach cans not readily accessible by City trucks. Court mandated community service workers supervised by KPTCB had resulted in over 8,000 hours of service for the City.

Yougel ended by reporting on the recyclables collected, noting that KPTCB collected half of the recyclables in town in the last quarter of 2010, compared to what was being collected curbside by the garbage companies. Yougel also noted that, combining the reported tonnages from garbage companies with what KPTCB had collected, Peachtree City was diverting more than 25% of the waste stream from landfills through recycling.

Learnard asked about the Code Enforcement monthly report and the difference between reactive and proactive actions. Police Chief H.C. "Skip" Clark said the report differentiated between complaints from the public and issues found by the officers while patrolling.

### **Consent Agenda**

**1. Alcohol License – NEW – Flying Biscuit, 2874 Highway 54 West**

**2. Appoint Alternate to the Planning Commission – Frank Destadio**

Fleisch moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Learnard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Agenda Items**

There were none.

### **New Agenda Items**

#### **04-11-04 Consider Police False Alarm Ordinance**

City Manager Jim Pennington asked Council to continue the item to the second meeting in May, saying he had obtained some new information that staff needed to review prior to having Council consider the ordinance. Sturbaum moved to continue discussion of the Police False Alarm Ordinance to the May 19, 2011, agenda. Learnard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **04-11-05 Consider Addendum to TruGreen Contract**

Public Services Director Mark Caspar said staff was following up on an item discussed at the Retreat, when Council suggested bringing forward costs to modify the contract in the current and future year. Caspar also reported on the 2011 and previous citizen surveys and the changes in satisfaction levels with mowing.

Caspar noted that citizen satisfaction was highest in early 2009 (with grass cutting in 2008). Numbers decreased significantly in 2010, in assessment of 2009. However, in 2010, staff improved the external contract that had been implemented in 2009, and citizen satisfaction came back up somewhat in 2011.

Caspar then reviewed the potential costs for adding several services to the current year's contract. The options included one additional service of subdivision landscape areas, enhancing subdivision entrances, landscaping maintenance and/or new landscaping installation at the Police Station, seasonal color (flowers) at City Hall in the spring and fall, two additional trimmings along primary roads, two additional trimmings along secondary roads, trimming along the 93-mile path system, curb and gutter spraying, and landscaping and mowing at the four fire stations. The cost for the entire package would be an estimated \$98,209.46.

Caspar said staff felt trimming along cart paths (\$11,500) could be handled internally, but asked for Council direction on the other services.

Fleisch asked, if approved, whether the seasonal color at City Hall could be installed prior to the May 12 Georgia Planning Association conference. Caspar thought that was feasible. Fleisch asked what curb and gutter spraying entailed, and Caspar explained that it helped to prevent weeds from growing between the curb and pavement, which adversely affected the City's stormwater program in addition to being unattractive.

Fleisch clarified that Council could choose "a la carte" at this meeting from the list of items to implement in FY 2011, and Caspar confirmed this.

Haddix asked, with the reductions in the tax digest, how Council envisioned paying for any changes in the current year. Caspar said his understanding was that any changes would come out of reserves. Imker asked when the TruGreen contract ended, and Caspar said the contract was in its third year and would be rebid at the end of the year.

Learnard asked if the complaints coming in to the City about landscape maintenance and mowing compared to what the Citizen survey seemed to indicate. Caspar said he felt it was fairly close, adding that, toward the end of the 2010 mowing season, after the City increased the mowing cycle, the complaint calls went down. Changes now could be evaluated in terms of complaint calls to see how the improvements were working before finalizing the 2012 contract.

Sturbaum asked which two items on the list were most important to Caspar. Caspar said the curb and gutter spraying was important. Imker asked what items would have the most impact on decreasing complaint calls, and Caspar responded that the majority of citizen calls related to mowing and subdivision entrances. Those two items were totaled \$41,000.

Fleisch asked that any items not selected that night be included in the 2012 bid. She felt mowing was the priority, and asked if any pre-emergent's had been put down. Caspar said they did not do pre-emergents for weeds.

Fleisch favored implementing the increased mowing, curb and gutter spraying, and City Hall seasonal color, and Imker asked what the cost would be for just those items. The estimated total was \$44,674.00.

Haddix said his concern remained that they were increasing spending at this time for anything other than a necessity such as the curb and gutter spraying, and using the City's reserves to pay for the increased service. He said could not support the other items.

Sturbaum said he saw the point that the increased effort to market the City meant having a nice appearance at City Hall was important, and the curb and gutter spraying was a need. He was willing to give it a chance over the next six months to see what happened.

Learnard asked who would maintain the seasonal color at City Hall, and Caspar said that was part of the contract.

Vrana noted that there was approximately \$4,500 of Council Training money that could be utilized if Council so desired. Sturbaum felt reallocating the money would help reduce the use of reserves and asked for the appropriate budget adjustment at the next meeting.

Haddix asked Pennington for input regarding the outlook and options for the year's revenues. Pennington said staff was working on some concepts to create additional revenue that was already in the budget, with the goal of presenting those concepts to Council in June.

Fleisch moved to approve the contract addendum with TruGreen for additional mowing services, City Hall seasonal flowers, and the curb and gutter spraying in an amount not to exceed \$45,000. Sturbaum seconded. Haddix reiterated that he was uncomfortable until he saw more budget numbers. Motion carried 4-1 (Haddix).

**04-11-06      Reclassification of Position at Amphitheater/CVB**

Staff was requesting that Council reclassify the Box Office Supervisor/Staff Assistant position (Grade 76) to Events Services Coordinator (Grade 77). Imker moved to approve the reclassification. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**04-11-07      Consider Special Encroachment Permit and Mowing & Maintenance Agreement for SR 74 S Landscape Enhancement Project**

Staff was requesting approval for the Mayor to sign the Special Encroachment Permit and Mowing and Maintenance Agreement with the Georgia Department of Transportation as part of the process for the GATEway grant landscape enhancements on SR 74 South. Imker moved to approve the permit and agreements and authorize the Mayor to sign. Fleisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**04-11-08      Consider Resolution Requesting the Governor to Veto HB179**

Haddix said House Bill 179, passed in the 2011 legislative session, allowed for clear cutting in front of billboards. He said the legislation was a win for the billboard companies and a loss for the citizens of Georgia. Learnard noted that Sandy Springs had passed a similar resolution asking the governor to veto the legislation, and she felt Peachtree City should also make the formal request for a veto. Sturbaum also expressed his support for the resolution.

Fleisch moved to adopt the resolution. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**Council/Staff Topics**

**Hot Topics** – Pennington reported that staff was ready to present two concepts for the MacDuff Tunnel at the May 3 meeting. Public Works was reconstructing the path in front of City Hall, and had been working to keep access available during construction. The project was moving forward, but might generate complaints.

Staff was also concerned about the lower level entrance of the library. A crack developed in the stairwell tower wall, and following an assessment, the entrance has been closed for safety until it could be restabilized. Pennington said having the entrance closed was certainly an inconvenience, but safety was paramount.

Learnard reported that the Master Gardeners of Fayette County had sent a letter to Council thanking Nikki Vrana and Mark Caspar for their assistance with getting water to maintain one of the beds by the Amphitheater.

Imker asked if there was an update on Lake McIntosh burning. Pennington confirmed burning had been ongoing for a month, and would end due to the burn ban on May 1. Burning would resume on October 1.

Imker addressed the Hotel/Motel Tax Increase Resolution that the City sent to the Legislature this session. The bill had passed in the House but had died in the Senate. This was going to leave the City short an estimated \$130,000 in the upcoming year. He said he had emailed Senator Chance to get a definitive answer on why the legislation had not moved forward but had not received a reply.

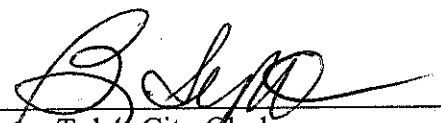
Fleisch said the City had been getting great response to the May 7 Great Peachtree City Path Cleanup, and encouraged everyone to participate.

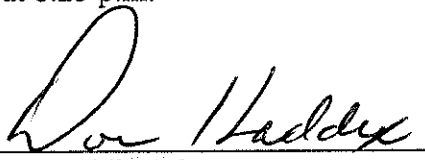
#### **Executive Session**

Sturbaum moved to enter into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss pending or threatened litigation. Learnard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Imker moved to reconvene in regular session at 8:25 p.m. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Imker moved to adjourn the meeting. Sturbaum seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

  
Betsy Tyler, City Clerk

  
Don Haddix, Mayor