

**City Council of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 17, 2022
6:30 p.m.**

The Mayor and Council of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, February 17, 2022. Mayor Kim Learnard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Others attending: Gretchen Caola, Frank Destadio, Mike King, and Phil Prebor.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition

None

Public Comment

Bill Ross stated he believed in God and the Ten Commandments, and that we were "One Nation Under God." He said a recent survey showed 80% of Fayette County did, as well. He said he believed God always answered prayers for wisdom. Council was constantly in need of wisdom, and, therefore, in constant need of prayer.

Agenda Changes

None

Minutes

King moved to approve the February 1, 2022, Council Workshop minutes, February 3, 2022, Council Meeting minutes, and February 5, 2022, Town Hall Meeting minutes. Prebor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

1. Purchase Five Zero-Turn Mowers from Fayette Mower

2. 2022 Walmart Local Community Grant

3. Revision of Defined Benefits Pension Plan Document for Police Shift (2184 hrs) Employees

Destadio moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1-3. Caola seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Agenda items

None

New Agenda items

02-22-06 Citizen request to reinstate prayer at the opening of each meeting

Destadio moved they accept the citizen request to reinstate prayer with the stipulation that it not be a formal prayer, but a moment of silence. Caola seconded.

Destadio stated that he had given this considerable thought and wanted to make some comments to the people who brought this up. He said he had been a devout Catholic all his life. Prior to retiring, he worked for several engineering firms in the Atlanta area, the final one being CH2M Hill, and was the engineer of record for the Fayette County Water Department. In this position, he often attended Fayette County Commission meetings.

Destadio recalled that the Commissioners instituted a prayer at the beginning of their meetings. He thought that was interesting and a progressive move. The first meeting started with a Christian prayer, while the second began with a prayer from a Jewish rabbi. The variety of prayers went on from there, Destadio related, saying they got "strange and different." Some were in different languages; some

were very emotional. He said he began to wonder what they were saying and who they were praying to? His wife asked him if he was sure they were praying to God and not to some kind of Satanic being? Eventually, he said, the County Commissioners stopped the practice.

Yes, he acknowledged, Congress began their sessions with prayer, but both chambers had chaplains who controlled what was said and not said. Council did not have that and had no way to guarantee a prayer's content. Because of his experience and concerns with opening the prayer opportunity to someone without Council's knowledge of what they were going to say, Destadio said he believed the best compromise would be a one-minute moment of silence.

Motion carried 4-1, with Learnard voting in opposition.

Public Hearing

02-22-07 New Alcohol License—Board and Brush—277 N. Highway 74, Suite 204

City Clerk Yasmin Julio explained that Board and Brush opened in 2017. They did not renew their 2022 alcohol license due to a change of ownership. The State instituted a new centralized licensing system that did not allow any new businesses to register for a license towards the end of December, 2021. The new owner was asking now for a license approval. She said they met all requirements.

Was there an applicant who wished to speak? Learnard asked. Julio said the applicant was not required to attend.

Learnard opened the public hearing, asking if anyone wished to speak in favor of the request? Richard Hlozek, the husband of the owner, said they would be serving only to people were attending classes there. People could not just walk in and order a drink; they had to be registered for a class.

No one else wished to speak in favor or in opposition, and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Caola asked if this was only for the sale of alcohol, or could guests bring their own? No, Julio said, it was for sale only.

Destadio wanted to know what kind of classes they offered? Hlozek said they were craft classes where people had fun while painting decorative wooden signs.

Destadio moved to approve New Agenda item, 02-22-07, New Alcohol License—Board and Brush—277 N. Highway 74, Suite 204. Prebor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Council/Staff Topics

None

King moved to adjourn to executive session at 6:41 p.m. to discuss pending or threatened litigation. Prebor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

King moved to reconvene in regular session at 6:49 p.m. Caola seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.


Martha Barksdale, Recording Secretary


Kim Learnard, Mayor