

City Council of Peachtree City
Minutes of Meeting
January 6, 2000
7:00 p.m.

The City Council of Peachtree City met in a regular session, Thursday, January 6, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Robert L. Lenox led those attending in the pledge of allegiance. Other Council members present were: Annie McMenamin, Carol Fritz, Bob Brooks, and Dan Tennant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Lenox recognized the following:

- ◆ Employee of the Year – Jesse Brooks
- ◆ Supervisor of the Year – Wayne O’Neal
- ◆ Robert B. Patterson for his service on the Airport Authority
- ◆ Ray Helton for service on the Water and Sewerage Authority

Mayor Lenox read a Proclamation for Kiwanis Week.

Mayor Lenox read a Proclamation for Martin Luther King Day.

Mayor Lenox read a Proclamation for Arbor Day.

Kroger presented funding for Bullet Proof Vests for the Police Department.

Mayor Lenox presented the Award of Financial Reporting Achievement to Assistant City Manager Joe Morton and members of the Financial Services staff.

Acting City Clerk Gloria Reid read a complimentary letter to the Fire Department and the Police Department from Carl Evans, Village Pharmacy.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Lenox announced that the monthly reports for November were available for review.

MINUTES

The December 16, 1999, City Council Minutes will be made available at the January 20, 2000, Council meeting.

Oaths of Office and Election of Mayor Protem

Mayor Lenox administered the Oath of Office to Annie McMenamin.

Pastor Chuck Hodges administered the Oath of Office to Dan Tennant.

Brooks made a motion to appoint Annie McMenamin as Mayor Protem for the year 2000. Fritz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Lenox administered the Oath of Office to Annie McMenamin.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Lenox reminded Council that they had adopted an amendment to the Code of Ordinances last October dealing with Council meeting procedures. As a part of the amendment, a process to have consent agenda items was adopted. The consent agenda was intended to handle routine, non-controversial items, which might be considered and approved with one motion. Action on consent agenda items was explained in Section 2-36 (f) as follows:

...the consent agenda shall be considered in bulk and voted upon with a single motion. At the time of consideration of the consent agenda, a Council member or the Mayor may announce items they wish to speak about or vote against. The presiding officer shall also ask if any person in attendance wishes to speak on any item. Such items shall be considered separately and not as a portion of any motion to call for action on the remainder of the consent agenda.

Lenox said that, while staff believed that placing routine matters on a consent agenda would streamline Council meetings, Council would always have the ability to remove an item from the consent agenda and handle it as a separate, regular agenda item.

- a) Designation of Persons Authorized to Sign Checks by Title - Mayor, Mayor Protem, City Manager, Assistant City Manager, Director of Developmental Services, and Director of Administrative Services.
- b) Annual Indemnification Resolution
- c) Consider Alcohol License Change – Kroger – Kedron
- d) Consider Alcohol License Change – Kroger – Braelinn

McMenamin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items (a) through (d). Fritz seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no old agenda items.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

01-00-01 Authorization and Appointment of City Officials and Positions

Lenox explained that Council would vote on each of the following appointments of City Officials and Positions separately.

- City Auditor - Geeslin, Cordle, Johnson & Wetherington

McMenamin made a motion to approve Geeslin, Cordle, Johnson & Wetherington as City Auditor. Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

➤ City Clerk - Nancy Faulkner

Brooks made a motion to approve Nancy Faulkner as City Clerk. McMenamin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

➤ City Depository - Peachtree National Bank

Brooks made a motion to approve Peachtree National Bank as the City Depository. McMenamin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

➤ Legal Organ - Today in Peachtree City newspaper

Fritz made a motion to approve Today in Peachtree City newspaper as the Legal Organ. Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

01-00-02 Request for Funding - Fayette Senior Services

Jim Steinbach, spokesman for the Fayette Senior Services (FSS), addressed Council and requested that Council continue to provide financial support as they had in previous years. Steinbach explained that FSS provided transportation, delivered meals, and provided many other services to over 375 senior citizens in Fayette County and Peachtree City last year.

Brooks stated that the City had supported Fayette Senior Services as well as Battered Women for a number of years, and although he felt Council should honor their request, the amount of money contributed to FSS as well as Battered Women had increased 200 to 300% over the past years. Brooks suggested that perhaps this matter should be discussed at the 2000 Retreat. Further, due to the fact that Peachtree City residents pay both County and City taxes for these services as well as recreational benefits and a number of other services, he felt there should be better funding from the County level.

Lenox commented that because the City contributed to the vital services, which FSS and Battered Women provided on a regular basis, perhaps the City should make this a budgetary item instead of funding from the Council Contingency Fund each year.

Tennant asked for clarification that, although FSS was a United Way Agency, FSS actually received the money directly. Steinbach confirmed same. Tennant stated he felt there was a need to be met, but felt this was not the fundamental role of government. Tennant agreed with Lenox that this should be made a budgetary item.

Webb addressed Council and reiterated that this \$8,500 was being paid to FSS for services rendered to Peachtree City residents because the Council would be prohibited from giving funds without some service being provided.

Brooks made a motion to provide \$8,500 to Fayette Senior Services from the Council Contingency Fund. Fritz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

01-00-03 Consider Ordinance Amendment – Organization of Commission on Children and Youth

Lenox explained that the Chairman of the Commission on Children and Youth was unable to be present as planned and made a motion to table this agenda item until the January 20th Council meeting. Brooks seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

01-00-04 Discuss Police Salaries

Basinger addressed Council and requested that they refer to the memos provided from Chief Murray, Director of Administrative Services Jane Miller, and Assistant City Manager Joe Morton concerning the difficulties the Police Department had experienced in recruiting qualified applicants. Basinger emphasized that staff felt this was a recruitment problem - not a retention problem. In fact, with the recent changes in the vesting program to five years and the matching 457 program, the City should not have any major problems retaining Police Officers. Further, while staff would normally address this type of personnel problem at Retreat, due to the urgency of the situation, staff felt compelled to deal with the situation now.

Basinger said Chief Murray had high personnel standards in the department with a preference for college graduates or at least two years of college. With the level of service provided our citizens by the Police Department, the City could appreciate the Chief's strong desire not to lower his personnel standards.

Currently, the starting salary for a certified police officer is \$26,989. Staff proposed raising the starting salary to \$29,970 for a new position (Certified/Advanced Officer), which would require at least an Associate Degree, plus State Certification, plus one year of experience. Or, an applicant with a four-year college degree, plus State Certification, would also qualify to start at \$29,970 as a Certified/Advanced Officer. By adding these additional educational, training and experience requirements, staff felt the Certified/Advanced Officer's starting salary merited being at the same starting salary as that of a paramedic, which was \$29,970.

Basinger asked Council to refer to the survey of police officer salaries in the Metro Atlanta area, and pointed out that Peachtree City's starting salary, for the most part, appeared to be competitive. However, the City was not receiving quality applicants, and this was the reason for the recommended increase. Additionally, in conducting the survey, staff learned that several cities were considering increases not only in the Police Department, but in other departments as well. Basinger pointed out that, in fact, Fayette County was currently conducting a salary survey due to recruitment difficulties.

Basinger advised Council that staff recommended setting the starting salary for a Certified/Advanced Police Officer at \$29,970, and that staff would be prepared to report on the impact of this increase, and provide a report on the salary situation for all City positions to Council at the 2000 Retreat.

In conclusion, Jane Miller and Joe Morton had worked very closely with Chief Murray on the details of this recommendation, and were prepared to answer any questions.

Lenox said he thought approval of the increase in police officer's salaries would be an appropriate response because of the wage pressure all over the state and felt that it was very much needed at this particular time.

Brooks advised that a review of the current salary structure in the Metro Atlanta area led him to believe that the request was reasonable even though Peachtree City officers were paid a little better; however, he noted that the City did require higher standards for applicants.

McMenamin stated that she was the mother of a police officer in Alabama as well as the mother-in-law of a police officer in the Peachtree City Police Department. Due to the relationship with her son-in-law, she would abstain from voting on this item.

Brooks made a motion to approve the change in starting salaries with an annual cost of \$93,057, with funding required for the remaining FY2000 budget in the amount of \$46,529 to be funded from the Council Contingency Fund. Fritz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

COUNCIL/STAFF TOPICS

Basinger addressed Council and stated that two positions on the Commission on Children and Youth were currently being advertised and requested that two Council members volunteer to serve on the selection committee. Tennant and Fritz volunteered to serve on the selection committee.

Basinger announced that the 2000 Retreat was scheduled for Friday, April 7th, from 1:00 p.m. to approximately 5:00 or 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, April 8th, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The Retreat would be held at the Aberdeen Woods Conference Center.

McMenamin requested that City staff advertise the details of the Retreat to inform residents who might wish to attend.

Lenox made a motion to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. Fritz seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No action taken in executive session. Lenox made a motion to adjourn. McMenamin seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.


Acting City Clerk, Gloria Reid

Attest: 
Mayor