

City Council of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 20, 2024
9:30 AM

Call to Order

The Mayor and Council of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, June 20, 2024. Mayor Kim Learnard called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Council members attending: Laura Johnson, Suzanne Brown, Clinton Holland, and Frank Destadio.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Awards and Recognitions

A. Cardiac Save Awards

Fire Chief Clint Murphy presented SAVE awards to firefighters/EMTs/paramedics and police officers, as well as several citizens, who administered lifesaving care to patients in two separate cardiac arrest situations. Those recognized were Lt. James Chester, FF/AEMT Jacob Todd, FF/P John Nevil, FF/P Chris Suescun, FF/AEMT Jennifer Griffin, Acting B/C Dwayne Gowen, Ofc. Brad Chambers, Sgt. Keith Issac, FF/AEMT Michael Uehling, FF/P CJ Purdy, FF/P Josh White, FF/AEMT Emily Thorton, Lt. Blake Chisolm, FF/EMT Mitchell Willis. Cpl. Noah Wooten, Sgt. Brian Eden, and Ofc. Colby McBride, along with citizens Josh Shelton, Matt Tuff, and Rob Thomas.

Presentation

A. Retail Strategies Update

Mill Graves of the Atlanta office of Retail Strategies updated Council on his company's work since partnering with the City in November in an effort to attract and retain retailers. He said they had been gathering data from communities in the 20-mile radius from which Peachtree City drew customers. Retail Strategies had already attended several conferences to network with retail decision-makers and would be attending more. He told Council to expect quarterly updates.

B. Presentation of Peachtree City's 2024 Summer Interns

Director of Human Resources and Risk Management Dr. Teaa Allston-Bing introduced the interns who were working with the City this summer. Out of more than 130 applicants, these 10 were selected: Brady Dunn, Lydia Golley, Ivonne Hernandez, Natalie Lockwood, Freddie Lawrence, Jada Mitchum, Katerina Soroka, Molly Stinson, Taylor Brannon, and Oluwadolapo Thomas. Each intern told Council a little about themselves and what they were doing at work this summer.

Public Comment

John Riley, who lived near the Braelinn pickleball courts, spoke about studies showing the negative health effects from pickleball court noise. He mentioned that high quality paddles could lower the volume, but said the study also said that courts should be

farther than 500 feet from homes, which would bring about 14 homes in his area into consideration. Riley asked Council to consider this information when making decisions.

John Cheatham asked Council to review the closing of Crabapple Lane, saying that many decisions were made with good intentions but had unintended consequences. He added that people would want to come from Tyrone on golf carts to shopping areas.

Cindy Fallon suggested that Crabapple Lane be opened to golf carts and suggested speed bumps be considered on Loring Lane.

Cresswind resident Skip Schaper said he and his wife would like the Crabapple Lane connection re-opened because it made it easier for them to visit their daughter's family in Tyrone. He mentioned the \$1.7 million in transportation funds Peachtree City had lost due to the closing.

Jeff Angelo also asked that Crabapple Lane be opened to golf cart traffic and mentioned a young woman with autism who had used the connection to get to her job in Peachtree City. He said closing the road reeked of "exclusivity" and pointed out that Starr's Mill High was outside the city limits but was accessible by cart path.

Evan Huefler, a Tyrone resident, asked the Council to reconsider the closure. He said they should look at the facts about traffic and not rumors of potential future development.

Blake Hayes said some residents had been ticketed for crossing Robinson Road in their carts in order to get to the existing path network. He said it was not correct that the ordinance banned carts from public roads due to their low speeds. There was a list of specific roads that carts could not be operated on, but Robinson Road was not one of those.

Danielle Kononen of Tyrone said she taught at Kedron Elementary and had enjoyed being able to golf cart to school. She asked Council to re-open the connection.

Agenda Changes

Holland moved to move Consent Agenda items A and B as item 3 on the meeting agenda. Destadio seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

Brown moved to approve the May 16, 2024, Executive Session Minutes, June 4, 2024, Special Called Meeting Minutes, and the June 4, 2024, City Council Workshop Minutes. Holland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A. May 16, 2024 Executive Session Minutes

APPROVED 5-0

B. June 4, 2024 Special Called Meeting Minutes

APPROVED 5-0

C. June 4, 2024 City Council Workshop Minutes
APPROVED 5-0

Consent Agenda

Holland moved to approve Consent Agenda items A and B. Destadio seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Mayor noted that they accepted a \$1,439 grant from the Rotary Club of Peachtree City to erect signage designating the Frances Meaders City Council Chambers. Ms. Meaders, who was celebrating her 95th birthday and was present, served as City Clerk for many years.

A. FY2024 Budget Amendment - Frances Meaders Council Chambers Signage
APPROVED 5-0

B. FY2024 Budget Amendment for Axon Agreement
APPROVED 5-0

Old Agenda Items

None

New Agenda Items

A. 06-24-03 First Reading of Ordinance 1220 Alcohol Broker License

Interim City Clerk Stacey Collins recalled that Flare Bourbon, an alcohol broker, came before Council on May 2. They wanted to get an occupational tax certificate, but the City was also requiring them to get an alcohol license as well, because they did sell alcohol. However, Peachtree City had no specific license for an alcohol broker. Council asked staff to create a provision for alcohol brokers in the ordinance.

She was presenting this revision to the ordinance for a first read. Broker was defined as "any person who purchases or obtains an Alcoholic Beverage from an Importer, distillery, brewery, or winery and sells the Alcoholic Beverage to another Broker, Importer, or Wholesaler without having custody or possession of the Alcoholic Beverage or maintaining a stock of the Alcoholic Beverage." She said this addressed the applicant's point, that they did not keep the alcohol at their location.

Council could pass this on first read if they did not want any changes. Holland asked City Attorney Ted Meeker his opinion, and Meeker said it was a fix to add something they did not know about previously. The language was copied from a State regulation.

Brown moved to approve New Agenda item 06-24-03, First Reading of Ordinance 1220 Alcohol Broker License. Destadio seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 06-24-04 First Reading of Ordinance 1221- Transportation Advisory Group

Council had advised staff of an interest in forming new citizen groups, and this was the first, Interim Assistant City Manager Yasmin Julio reported. This would be added to the ordinances in the same section as other commissions and authorities.

Holland said he hoped this would be first of many such advisory groups. However, he wanted more than a once-a-year report from the group and suggested they

change the requirement to at least twice a year. Learnard said it should be up to the group if they wanted to make more frequent reports, and Brown agreed. Brown said her only concern had been addressed by stating there would be three-year staggered terms.

Destadio moved to approve New Agenda item 06-24-04, First Reading of Ordinance 1221- Transportation Advisory Group. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 06-24-05 ADA Transition Plan and Policies

City Engineer Dave Borkowski said he was asking Council to approve the submission of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Transition plan to the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Revisions to two CARS and CAMS were included. The first part of the plan looked at crosswalk curb ramps and public input. He said this was a living document, so Council could expect to see it again as it evolved.

Meeker said he understood that streets were not facilities under the ADA. He wanted to clarify that they were not making every street ADA-compliant, and Borkowski said they were not, just the crosswalks and sidewalks.

Holland asked how long it would take to become fully compliant with the ADA, and Borkowski said it would be years, considering the hundreds of miles of sidewalks and paths. They would make complaints the first priority. Interim City Manager Justin Strickland said the IMS road survey would provide them with slopes for the paths, but Meeker noted that they would have to provide alternatives in some instances. Some could be repaved at a different slope, but it would come down to costs, said Strickland.

Would they have to post signs saying a path was not compliant, Brown wondered. Borkowski said he did not know but would find out from GDOT.

Brown moved to approve the attached ADA Transition plan, the proposed revisions to CAR 6-2 and CAR 6-4 and authorize staff to submit the transition plan to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Destadio seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. 06-24-06 Adoption of the Annual Capital Improvement Plan Update

Assistant Finance Director Kelly Bush reminded Council that they voted in May to transmit the draft 2024 Capital Improvements Element (CIE) Annual Update to the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review and approval. This was a requirement due to their collection of impact fees. The CIE was approved, and now Council needed to adopt the 2024 CIE Annual Update in order for the City to maintain its status as a Qualified Local Government (QLG).

Johnson moved to approve New Agenda item 06-24-06, Adoption of the Annual Capital Improvement Plan Update. Holland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

E. 06-24-07 Library HVAC replacement and MRR Grant for 50% Match

Library Director Jill Prouty asked Council to approve submission of an application for a Major Repair and Renovation (MRR) grant through Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) in the amount of \$474,306.80. The City would have to match this amount at 50%. The HVAC system was 20 years old, and they planned on replacing it in 2026, and Strickland said the City's portion was budgeted for fiscal year 2026.

Destadio moved to approve New Agenda item 06-24-07, Library HVAC replacement and MRR Grant for 50% Match. Holland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

None

Council/Staff Topics

A. Council Meeting Time Change Ordinance for 2nd Meeting of the month

There had been discussions about changing meeting times, and Council decided to hold the second meeting of the month in the mornings as a trial in April, May, and June. There were 21 members of the public in attendance in April and 26 in May. Julio asked Council if they wanted to make the change permanent?

Johnson said she felt like this allowed more citizens the opportunity to attend meetings, but Brown said she was not a morning person and preferred to have meetings in the evening.

Destadio said he thought morning meetings were a good idea. He asked Julio how many citizens normally attended the night meetings, and she said six to 12, unless there was a controversial issue on the agenda. These were usually the same residents, and the morning meetings seemed to attract a different group.

Holland said he did not mind the earlier meetings but felt more comfortable with the evening meetings. He suggested having one or two morning meetings a quarter, but Learnard said she thought that would be too confusing. If they made the alternating times their pattern, word would get out, and attendance might improve. The Mayor said she believed the morning meetings were better for staff, as well.

Holland then said maybe they should look at it until the end of the year before making the change permanent. Learnard said that was reasonable, and the rest of Council agreed. Johnson noted they had heard only positive comments about this, and Holland agreed.

Julio said they would need a motion to adjust the times at the next meeting, and Meeker said it could be added to the Consent Agenda.

Julio noted there were changes to the Fourth of July parade to improve safety. Nothing could be thrown from a float or golf cart. The length of a float could be no more than 40 feet. The parade would be limited to 115 registrants. Julio said the limit on the number of participants would shorten the amount of time the road was closed, which usually was from about 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and lessen the amount of staff time involved. There was a wait list for participants, but there were also some cancelations, so they should not have to turn down many groups that wanted to march.

B. Little League 9u State Champions

Learnard mentioned that the Peachtree City All Stars took the state championship for 9U Little League after a rousing send-off from the city.

C. Staff Appreciation

The Mayor also thanked staff for a wonderful reception for Frances Meaders that morning.

Executive Session

Holland moved to adjourn to executive session at 11:24 a.m. to discuss personnel, sale, purchase, or lease of real estate, and pending or threatened litigation. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson moved to reconvene in regular session at 11:55 a.m. Holland seconded. motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.


Martha Barksdale, Recording Secretary


Kim Learnard, Mayor