City Council of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 20, 2025
6:30 PM

Call to Order

The Mayor and Council of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, November 20, 2025. Mayor Kim Learnard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Council members attending: Laura Johnson, Suzanne Brown, and Clinton Holland.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition

None

Public Comment

Brown moved to expand the time limit to allow three minutes for each speaker. Holland seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Blake Hayes, a member of the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG), spoke on the micromobility legislation that Council was being asked to support. He noted the legislation proposed a change in width to the carts that were allowed on paths, but it would not apply to carts authorized by a local authority prior to January 1, 2012, which would be the case in Peachtree City. He remarked that the City already had the authority to establish speed limits on the paths but were limited to 25 mph, like they were on the roads. The bill did not mention insurance, and Hayes thought the City should push for insurance to be required. He concluded by saying that even if the General Assembly passed this bill, it would all come down to enforcement.

Jim Forestal said reckless drivers had made the cart paths dangerous, and he supported legislation that might make them safer. He also mentioned more police presence was needed.

Bill Macke, owner of an e-bike store, said he only sold e-bikes that met the standards stated in the shared-use path rules. They had a limit of 20 mph with electric pedal assist or throttle use and a maximum of a 750 watt electric motor. He said he regularly saw young teens driving bikes with more powerful motors that could go up to 60 mph. When those high-speed bikes met up with a golf cart going 25 mph, it could be disastrous, he remarked, and urged Council to support this proposed legislation as a way to manage speeds and prevent injuries.

Claudia Eisenburg also said the speeding e-bikes on the paths made her afraid as a walker. Other jurisdictions had plans to connect their paths to Peachtree City's, so there was a need to address this issue, now, she stated.

Lisa Macke remarked that State laws had not kept pace with new electric devices and vehicles. Local shops sold vehicles that complied with Georgia Code, but online sellers did not. These businesses could be used to inspect devices before they could be used

on the paths. She also asked Council to pass a resolution to support updates to Georgia Code to enhance safety measures.

Cary Cook also supported more regulations on the paths, asking Council to back the micromobility legislation. He also thought all cart drivers should have to watch a training video on cart safety. Cook said he did not support expanding the paths to other areas outside of the city because more carts on the paths would increase maintenance costs.

Bicycle advocate Keith Larson requested that the Council pass a resolution of support for the Micromobility Traffic Safety Act, which he drafted and is being submitted to the 2026 session of the Georgia legislature. He said there were many newer types of personal electric vehicles that were not defined and had no safety equipment requirements. This bill would modernize the code and give Peachtree City the authority to establish a 20 mph speed limit.

Diana Callen said she had believed the Planterra gate from Kelly Drive was closed only during rush hours, but she found it closed on a recent weekend morning. Planterra should either declare itself a gated community and take on responsibility for maintaining its roads or open the gates to allow Peachtree City residents to pass through, since City taxes paid for road maintenance. Callen also urged Council to support the micromobility resolution, saying regulations were needed.

Bob Callen wondered how it was legal for Council to sell a portion of a City road in Planterra. He said he had used that road in the past and seldom saw more than one or two cars. If they blocked the entry, the Planterra residents should be responsible for maintenance. He also agreed that something needed to be done to regulate speeds from e-vehicles on the paths. He mentioned McIntosh students were using dirt bikes, and he feared there would be an accident.

Christine Lewis thanked Council for re-opening the gate to carts at Crabapple Lane. Danielle Kononen also expressed appreciation for the access and said she hoped Council would vote to keep the gate open.

Joan Brennan, however, wanted the gate closed permanently, noting that Tyrone had been given an opportunity to come up with a plan to build a path along Dogwood Trail and had not. She mentioned future development in Tyrone that would increase cart traffic and noted that City ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan prohibited routing traffic through neighborhoods.

TAG Chairman Paul Schultz told Council that Peachtree City's government did not want volunteers and referred the public to the September 18 Council meeting for details. Schultz said the micromobility bill resolution on the agenda was acceptable, but why was it so urgent that it could not be reviewed by the TAG. That sent the message that Council wanted resident input only when it was convenient.

Schultz also recounted that when terms were expiring for some TAG members, an interview committee met according to City ordinance. When those nominations came before Council, some Council members who were not part of the interview process disagreed because the committee did not re-appoint the transportation expert. Rather than asking questions in private, it was taken as a fact in public that the interview committee made a bad decision, Schultz stated. He regarded this as a significant affront to the appointees, as well.

He mentioned that he took time off from his job to participate in the interview process, only to be told that his efforts did not matter. Other volunteers had their politics questioned, Schultz went on, and he said Council was sending the message that volunteers should not bother because they would be subjected to capricious and arbitrary decisions and partisan hackery.

Rosemary Tennant said Peachtree City was known as a golf cart paradise and needed to uphold that reputation by keeping the paths in good repair. Safety was also a concern, she said, mentioning teenagers with electric vehicles, and urged Council to pass the resolution to support the micromobility legislation.

Fozia Khan Eskew said she thought young drivers should have to earn their privilege to drive golf carts. She also mentioned that safety rules would support higher property values.

Evan Huelfer thanked Council for opening up the gate on Crabapple Lane. He said the previous Council had been bullied to close it with emotion and rumor, and he thanked this Council for gathering data in order to make a decision.

Agenda Changes

None

Minutes

Holland moved to approve the October 16, 2025 City Council meeting minutes and the November 6, 2025 City Council work session minutes. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A. October 16, 2025 City Council Meeting Minutes
APPROVED 4-0

B. November 6, 2025 City Council Work Session Minutes
APPROVED 4-0

Consent Agenda

Holland moved to approve Consent Agenda items A-F. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A. PAC Baseball Safety Netting Project
APPROVED 4-0

B. FY26 Budget Amendment and Acceptance of Donation for Employee Holiday

Luncheon
APPROVED 4-0

C. **FY25 Budget Amendment — Housekeeping**
APPROVED 4-0

D. **FY26 Budget Amendment - Carry Forward**
APPROVED 4-0

E. **Public Works CAT 953D Track Loader Repair**
APPROVED 4-0

F. **2026 Capital Improvement Vehicle & Equipment Purchases**
APPROVED 4-0

Old Agenda Items

A. **12-24-02 Crabapple Gate Counts**

City Manager Justin Strickland presented the same information that he had at the previous meeting and explained that cameras had been placed at three entry points to the path network to monitor cart traffic for eight months. Crabapple averaged 162 carts per week; Ashcot had 283, which was 69% more volume than Crabapple, and The Preserve averaged 358, or 121% more than Crabapple.

The Mayor said the motion would be to open the Crabapple gate to golf cart traffic indefinitely, and Brown made that motion, with Holland seconding.

This was a tough vote, Hollland said, because it was in his neighborhood, but he wanted to be a good citizen of Fayette County. He mentioned many carts that passed by his house did not have registration decals from Peachtree City and hoped the Tryone residents present would get the word out that it was required. He also said he hoped in the future Tyrone and the County could construct a path on World Drive.

They had the right to readdress the issue when further housing was built in this area, Brown remarked, asking that traffic be monitored on a semi-annual data. She said she was surprised to see more people coming into Peachtree City from the south side than the north.

Johnson thanked the police and staff for their work in getting the traffic counts. She said she visited the area in question to see if additional residential development would pose a problem and did not see anything new. She agreed with Brown that they needed to keep an eye on it and was glad they had these baseline figures.

Motion carried unanimously.

New Agenda Items

A. 11-25-03 FY26 Budget Amendment- Drake Pavilion Permanent Repair

City Engineer Dave Borkowski said he was asking Council to award a contract for the Drake Field Pavilion repair and to approve a budget amendment. The pavilion had a lot of wood rot in the structural beams and had undergone temporary repairs to enable it to be used during the summer and fall.

The permanent repair was bid out, with four responses ranging from $84,500 to $270,000. They interviewed the two lowest bidders, asking specific questions to ensure the firms understood the scope of the work. After those interviews, Borkowski said they decided to recommend Willow Dell, the second lowest bidder, because they seemed to have a better understanding of the project. For instance, Willow Dell agreed to sand all the existing wood down to bare wood, per the specifications, and were also upfront about repairing any damage to the landscaping at Drake Field. The other contractor said this would require change orders at additional costs.

He explained that Willow Dell's proposed procedure of lifting the entire roof structure and sliding the beams in place was more sound than the other firm's, which called for cutting some of the existing timbers and structural plates, requiring a certified welder, which was not in the low bidder's price.

Willow Dell's cost was $119,405, which would require a budget amendment because it was an unexpected emergency repair.

Brown commented that Drake Field was a symbol of the lakefront, and this was the second major repair on the pavilion due to the initial use of substandard materials. She felt staff had done a good job of vetting these firms and hoped this work would be long-lasting.

Johnson thanked Borkowski for providing so many details on the decision-making process.

Was there anything that would not be covered by Willow Dell? Holland asked. Borkowski replied there was nothing he knew of. He said the pavilion had been thoroughly inspected, and it was hard to hide defects because it was an open structure.

Holland moved to approve awarding a construction project for the repair of the Drake Field Pavilion to Willow Dell, LLC with a budget amendment in the amount of $119,405. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 11-25-04 New Alcohol License -The Cottages at Laurelbrooke, 4000 Hayes Square

City Clerk Yasmin Julio said Joshua Thompson was the licensee and the license representative, and he and the location met all City requirements.

Brown moved to approve New Agenda item 11-25-04, new alcohol license--The Cottages at Laurelbrooke, 4000 Hayes Square. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 11-25-05 Alcohol Ordinance Amendment and Fee Schedule Update

At the last work session, the owner of a new restaurant had asked Council to consider amending the alcohol ordinance to allow the restaurant to sell unopened bottles of wine to patrons who wished to take home a wine they enjoyed with their meal. Also, The Avenue, which currently had a qualifying location permit that allowed people to walk around with open containers during special events, had sent an email asking that open containers be allowed year-round.

Council had expressed an interest in modernizing the ordinance. These requests were for things already allowed by the State, and Julio explained that the changes would support local businesses and commercial centers. There would be clear guidelines for controlled alcohol usage and to maintain strong public responsibility and safety. She explained again that open containers were already allowed in Peachtree City for special events with a permit.

Julio outlined the proposed changes for wine sales. Currently, a business owner could get an alcohol license for consumption either on premises or off-site. They could not obtain both. The ordinance was updated a few years ago to allow for a restaurant to re-cork an already opened bottle of wine. Now, The Wine Bar wanted the ordinance changed to allow them to sell unopened bottles.

The second proposed change was for a plaza or shopping center to allow year-round open containers with certain requirements. Julio said not every shopping center would qualify—they must have at least three locations that sold alcohol and have a pedestrian-friendly area suitable for gatherings and entertainment. She emphasized that every applicant must be approved by City Council, and staff and the City Manager would review the boundaries before the request came to Council.

Only non-glass containers would be permitted, and containers must show the establishment or district name/logo. Security, lighting, restrooms, and waste control were mandated. Licenses would have to be renewed every year, and the district operator would be responsible for management and compliance. Signage would be required to notify patrons when they were leaving the boundaries of the entertainment district.

A fee of $500 for the entertainment district was proposed to cover additional costs to the City. A qualifying location permit would no longer be required, but it would still exist for other locations that needed it for special events. The change to allow off-premise wine sales carried no additional fees, but Julio said they would keep an eye on it to see if additional costs were incurred to the City.

Kelly Lawrence, The Avenue's marketing manager, remarked that many people saw The Avenue as the central gathering spot for the community. She said there might be concerns about safety, but she assured Council that management and the tenants had a good relationship with the police and would be happy to work with them if this was passed. Open containers were already allowed for special events, and Lawrence said there had been no major issues. She also thanked the City for helping manage the grand opening of Trader Joe's.

Julio added that, according to process, the Police Department, the Solicitor, Code Enforcement, and the City Attorney had reviewed the ordinance. Currently, The Avenue was the only shopping center that met the requirements, but the Willow District might after its renovation was complete.

Brown said she would like to wait until the next meeting to take action in order to give citizens a chance for input. Johnson said she saw no harm in a delay.

What would be the boundaries? Holland asked. Julio said the district would submit a proposal with their application, and staff would review it. The boundaries would have to be on their property.

Holland said he had no problem with the sale of unopened bottles of wine but thought they should table the entertainment district portion for further review. The Mayor pointed out that the two parts were intertwined, but there was no problem with delaying the vote.

Holland moved to continue this item until the December 11 Council meeting. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. 11-25-06 Resolution Micromobility and Legislation

Learnard told Holland she was aware he had a presentation for this, but with the revision he had made, she already knew she was fine with it. Johnson and Brown both said they were in favor, as did Holland.

Holland moved to approve New Agenda item 11-25-06 Resolution Micromobility and Legislation. Johnson seconded.

As they had heard during the public comments that night, safety was the most important thing, Holland said. He acknowledged the bill would be changed in the legislature, but said something needed to be done.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. 11-25-07 American Legion Facility Use Agreement

At the previous work session, Holland had mentioned that he would like to see the City eliminate the lease and utility payments charged to the American Legion Post 50 for the use of the box office at The Fred for meetings. Strickland said State law

allowed them to do so, and he presented a revised agreement with the post that eliminated those charges. Strickland said a Council member had asked if doing this would open them up to similar requests from other non-profits, and he explained that the State limited it to veterans' groups and their auxiliaries.

Holland moved to approve New Agenda item 11-25-07, American Legion Facility Use Agreement. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

F. 11-25-08 FY26 Budget Amendment- Sprung Structure for Kedron Aquatic Center

Assistant City Manager Chris Hobby reminded Council of their discussion at previous meetings and said he would forward links to a video that showed how a Sprung Structure was erected and insulated, along with another link featuring a Sprung Structure at a private facility in Chamblee. He showed photos of a new facility in Jefferson that was twice the size of what Peachtree City's would be but without the garage doors on the side that Peachtree City wanted.

Jefferson's Sprung Structure cost $1.2 million , while Peachtree City's would be around $800,000. This did not include the renovation work, which included new pipes and re-tiling the pools. Once the scope of the work became apparent, staff reached out to WM2A Architects to help develop a scope of work for the design, Hobby explained. The cost for that design work would be $247,500, and the estimated total cost for the entire project was $4.5 million. Hobby said it should be budgeted for around $5 million to allow for overages. Tonight the ask was for $247,500 for design work. When the design was complete, it would come before Council to vote on how to proceed.

Learnard mentioned the possibility of Council visiting Jefferson and Chamblee to see these structures with Sprung representatives. Learnard acknowledged time was of the essence but asked if it would be harmful to delay a vote until the December 11 Council meeting after they had seen the other structures? Hobby said that should not be a problem.

Johnson asked again about costs, and Hobby affirmed that the $800,000 was just for the structure. Other needed work included replacement of the grade beam, piping upgrades, and pool re-tiling. Strickland noted that HVAC would be an additional cost. Did they have an itemized list of costs? Johnson asked, but Hobby replied that would be part of the design package, and Council could choose what items they wanted to include.

In response to a question from Brown, Hobby said the design work would probably be complete around April. The time to do the work was another four to six months. Holland asked if next September would be a fair estimate for completion, and Hobby agreed. The facilities would probably be shut down for the summer. Recreation Director Harold Layton said it would take 17 to 24 days to erect the structure; it was the other work that would take the majority of the time.

Holland asked about the wind tolerance, and Hobby said a similar structure in Jamaica had withstood a recent hurricane. They were told the structure would stand up to 165 mph winds, Layton added.

Learnard asked for a motion to table this until the December 11 meeting. Brown made the motion, with Johnson seconding. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

A. 11-25-08 Administrative Variance Appeal for 104 Lanyard Bend

Julio stated that on October 13, an Administrative Variance Committee comprised of Holland, Strickland, and Planning and Development Director Shayla Reed reviewed an administrative variance request for the property located at 104 Lanyard Bend. There were two setback variance requests; one was for the existing home to encroach five feet into the 30-foot rear setback, and that was approved. The other was for an additional 7.5-foot encroachment for a noncompliant deck, which was denied. The applicant was appealing that denial and was present to state his case.

Applicant Glenn Thompson said he had lived in Peachtree City since 1975 and had owned and renovated several homes. He wanted to downsize and purchased this house from a friend's parents. It needed major renovations. A porch on the rear of the house was in the setback. It was built in the 1980s and included a sunroom with a flat roof. He intended to add a pitched roof, but the City issued a stop-work order. Thompson said he wanted to keep within the existing footprint, just bring it into code.

Although his original intent was to live in the house, Thompson said he now planned to sell it. He wanted to rebuild the room on the back porch to make this a four-bedroom, three-bath house, but said if he did not get this variance, it would not be worth his time. He understood he could add a second story but that would not be cost-effective and would make his house tower over his back neighbor's. Thompson said he just wanted to rebuild the sunroom with a pitched roof, thereby improving the house and the neighborhood.

The Mayor opened the public hearing. No one wished to speak in favor of the administrative variance appeal.

Cecilia Uceda, the neighbor to the rear of this property, spoke in opposition. She refuted Thompson's claim that this deck was grandfathered, saying a structure could only be grandfathered if it was legally built. This deck was built without a permit, so it was never legal. Uceda said she reported it two years ago, and the City labeled it "pre-existing and non-conforming" and said it must be brought into compliance before any work would be allowed. The applicant had an opportunity to inspect the property before purchase, she remarked, noting that the deck had violated the setback since 2002. She said Thompson had done work outside his

roof permit, including removing the chimney.

Thomspon did not live in the house, Uceda continued and intended only to fix and sell. She said the lots were small in this neighborhood so the setbacks protected space and property values. Granting a variance for an illegal encroachment of this size would set a harmful precedent, said Uceda. She reminded Council that this was a request for a 12.5 foot encroachment that was 53 feet long and said she and her neighbors had a petition asking Council to deny this variance.

Another neighbor, Kim Miller, also spoke of the small lots and close proximity of the houses.

No one else wished to speak, and the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Brown commented that the Zillow listing of this house made it clear that it was being sold as is, although buyers were welcome to get an inspection. Thompson said he did an inspection himself before purchase and knew the house would have to be gutted. However, he was not aware of the issues with the rear setback. He questioned why nothing had been said in the 20 or 30 years the porch had been there.

At the time this house was built, many current codes and regulations did not exist, Brown remarked, and that was probably the case for this deck. She said grandfathering was not the correct term; the setback encroachments were pre-existing conditions. Thompson said no one had mentioned any issues with this prior to the sale, but Brown pointed out that several complaints were on file when he bought the property, and Code Enforcement had been involved.

She asked Thompson what work he had done to the house before he was halted. He said he had taken off the flat roof over the porch and removed the fireplace and chimney.

Learnard asked how this was different from another variance request they had granted for a stairway off a deck that stayed within the same footprint? Brown remarked that the neighbors had no objection to that request, but multiple people opposed this. Learnard said one of the neighbors said the deck had violated the setback for more than 20 years, but Brown pointed out that until someone came to the Building Department for a permit, they might not know they were encroaching. She acknowledged that the illnesses of the former owners made this a difficult case.

City Attorney Ted Meeker also said in the case the Mayor referenced, there was evidence that it was a previously legal non-conforming use. In this case, the deck had never been a legal use. It had been added well after the standards were put into place. The other cases they reviewed had additions done before the standards were adopted.

Learnard asked if this is what drove the committee's decision to unanimously deny? Strickland first said you could see the deck on the aerial maps as far as the early 2000s, then added that he was not comfortable approving this large of an ecroachment.

Holland had questions about the names and addresses on the petition submitted by neighbors, but Thompson explained the differing owners as the property having been sold. The former owners were okay with the variance; the new owners were not.

The deck had been there at least 25 years with no objections, Holland stated, and he was inclined to approve this. Learnard asked if they had standing to approve this, and Meeker said they did if they could prove the deck was existing. Learnard noted that they knew the deck was there in a 2001-02 timeframe. Meeker said that would be sufficient but pointed out that it was the applicant's burden to provide proof. He did not know if the information Strickland had discovered was available to the Administrative Variance Committee. Holland said it was not.

Learnard told Thompson this was a difficult decision. Council wanted people to be able to improve their homes, and this was on an existing footprint.

Brown noted that you did not hear about these violations until someone sold their property or needed a permit. However, the adjacent neighbors had reported this a couple of years ago. Uceda had complained to Code Enforcement about the deck, and Code Enforcement would have taken more action if the homeowner had not been in a memory care facility. There was a notation in the packet that Code Enforcement said this information would be conveyed when the property sold. Thompson told Learnard he purchased the property in February 2025.

Brown stated that her concern was this was a detriment to the public, and that was a reason to deny a variance. There were a lot of small and oddly shaped lots in Peachtree City, but approving one variance did not mean they all should be approved. In this case, she continued, there had been opposition to this deck since before Thompson bought the house.

Johnson said that was a significant point and asked Thompson if he was aware of these setback issues when he bought the house. Thompson said he only knew the house had been neglected for many years, and the owners wanted it sold quickly. Johnson asked if he was a licensed inspector, and he said he was not, but was experienced in construction. He did not have a survey done, but had one done since and had also hired a contractor to draw plans for the room.

This was difficult, Johnson stated. The other cases they had heard did not have neighbors in opposition. Those applicants had attempted to do things correctly, and she said she did not see that here. She saw a homeowner who did something they

were not supposed to do; they did not get caught, so it had been there a long time.

It was hard to justify an encroachment so far into the setback, especially when it backed up to a neighbor who had complained about it prior to the property being sold. Johnson told Thompson he had the burden to prove that this denial would pose a hardship to him. He had the opportunity for due diligence, and he did not take it, she remarked. Johnson said she respected their ordinances and also the variance process. Variances were often granted, but she could not justify approving this.

Holland recalled that Uceda had mentioned that the deck overlooked her yard, and she did not like that. He wondered if they could approve this with the condition that Thompson erect a six-foot privacy fence across the back? Thompson said he intended to replace a fence that had been torn down. He also mentioned that Uceda had trimmed some huge bushes on the other side that opened up views to her property. Holland said he would not get into that, but thought Council might want to consider requiring a fence.

Brown said the fence ordinance allowed people to apply for a variance for a taller fence, and maybe that was an option.

Holland moved to approve this variance with the recommendation that the applicant put in a privacy fence along the back. He asked Brown what height fence she recommended, and she said they could not require him to build a fence. Holland added to his motion that the fence should be an appropriate height. He rephrased the motion to say he moved to approve this variance with the recommendation of putting in a privacy fence in the back of the property at a minimum of six feet. Brown seconded for the sake of a vote, she said.

Johnson asked if Thompson could appeal if Council denied this, and Meeker said he could appeal to Superior Court or come back to Council and ask again after six months.

Holland said poet Robert Frost was right when he said "good fences make good neighbors." Thompson had offered to put up a fence, which Holland thought was a conciliatory gesture. People should be allowed to improve their properties. He said this was an example of how neighbors could get along.

If Council approved the encroachment, could Thompson build more than the deck, Brown asked, and Meeker said he could only replace the deck. Brown asked about the porch structure. Meeker said he could replace the roof. He could not encroach any more than what was allowed. Brown asked if he could build a structure within the allowed encroachment the entire length of the house, and Meeker said he could unless Council limited the encroachment to the existing dimensions. That is what they did on the other deck variance they approved, but Brown said the deck on that one was in good repair; it was just the stairs that were in question.

Johnson asked Uceda how long she had lived in her house. She said they had been there since 2011. She did not know about the encroachment until she got a survey. Uceda also said Thompson wanted to create a bedroom and a bathroom in place of the porch. She added that he was not her neighbor. He was someone who bought that house with the intention of flipping it. All of the neighbors opposed it. She again emphasized the size of the encroachment, saying he should respect the setbacks, and adding that a second floor was an option.

Johnson asked about the bathroom. Thompson said the bathroom would be inside the house. He would be building a new roof so the room could be a workroom or a bedroom.

Brown rescinded her second. No one else seconded. The motion died on the floor.

Brown moved they deny this appeal. Johnson remarked that this was a difficult decision. Thompson said he was trying to make this house better. People needed to be able to update their houses, and he wanted to be able to sell and get his money back. Learnard noted that five neighbors had come forward to oppose this, which was unusual, and she could not support it. Johnson seconded Brown's motion. Holland pointed out that this was an existing non-conforming use, and they had approved one of those in the recent past.

Motion to deny carried 3-1, with Brown, Johnson, and Learnard in favor, and Holland voting against.

Council/Staff Topics

A. Top Ten 2025 Community Impact Award Recipient— PTC101

Strickland announced that the Peachtree City had been a national finalist in the 2025 CivicPlus Community Impact Awards for its PTC 101 program. Strickland said PTC 101 was an effort of Julio's, and Learnard said not only did Julio apply for this award but put the class together.

B. Fire Tower Project

Holland wanted Council to discuss using money from the reserve fund for a fire training tower and said he would put that on a future agenda. Fire Chief Clint Murphy said this tower was a long-time need. Holland remarked that Council had always claimed supporting Fire and EMS as a priority, and this was an example. The tower would cost about $353,000.

Learnard pointed out that this tower had originally been in the budget. She suggested a conversation about using the reserves after the new member was sworn in, putting it on the list to discuss when setting priorities at the Council retreat in February.

Holland said he thought it was important enough to start discussion on this in January. Learnard said the City Manager would start working on the budget after the retreat, and Strickland pointed out that the use of the reserves would require a budget amendment and could be done immediately; it could be on the December 11 agenda for a vote. Holland said he saw no need to delay this, and Learnard told him that was her opinion when it was removed from the budget.

There were a lot of budget issues they needed to discuss, Brown said, mentioning the Sprung Structure at Kedron. Delaying a few more months would not strip them of their ISO rating. Johnson said she was okay with having this discussion.

Holland said he hoped to put this on the January 5 agenda after the new member joined.

C. 250th Anniversary of the United States

The 250th anniversary of the United States was next year, and Holland said he hoped the Recreation Department was planning a celebration. Layton said they had discussed a few options. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution had offered to help, Holland said, but the planning would have to come from the City. Strickland said they would be discussing it. Holland thought the Liberty Tree at Drake Field should have a commemorative plaque.

D. Alcohol Licenses

Brown asked if it would be possible to change the meeting agenda so that alcohol license applications were near the beginning. Julio said they could put them on the Consent Agenda but putting them under the New Agenda gave the applicant an opportunity to speak if they wished. Could they create a new category so the applicants did not have to sit through a lot of presentations and other agenda items? Brown asked.

Julio suggested they just add it to the Consent Agenda, and she could notify the Mayor if the applicant was present. They could pull it off Consent if there was something that needed to be addressed. Meeker pointed out that Council could delegate it to the City Manager and let him approve the licenses if they met the qualifications. Learnard said she liked seeing who was getting a license and learning about new businesses. Brown suggested they move this to the top of the list under New Agenda items.

E. Revisit Burn Ordinance

Brown said she wanted to readdress the burn ordinance as it applied to larger properties. She would try to get it on the next agenda.

F. Youth Advisory Council

Johnson said she had not planned to bring this up right now, but she felt compelled to after some things she had heard at this meeting. A young man had approached

her a few months ago about forming a youth council, and she had talked with Julio about it. This past week she visited McIntosh High and talked with the students, asking them how they felt they were viewed by the community. She reminded Council of how people talked about teens on the paths and said the McIntosh students echoed those comments, saying people thought they were loud, annoying, and posed a hazard. She then asked what the City could do for them and said the teens were full of ideas and enthusiasm for contributing to the community.

She referred to the comments made to Council about the micromobility bill and said only one time were the teens referred to as polite. Johnson said Peachtree City had some great teens, and they should bring them in and make them a part of the community. She proposed forming an advisory council for teens and hoped Council could discuss it later. Learnard told Johnson she would be the perfect liaison to that group, and Johnson said she loved teenagers.

Executive Session

Holland moved to adjourn to executive session at 9 p.m. to discuss personnel matters, the lease, sale, or purchase of property, and pending or threatened litigation. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Holland moved to reconvene in regular session at 9:19 p.m. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

Holland made a motion to deny the Anti Litem claim made by Sean Smith. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Martha Barksdale, Recording Secretary

Kim Learnard, Mayor