City Council of Peachtree City
Minutes of Meeting
December 3, 2009
7:00 p.m.

The City Council of Peachtree City met Thursday, December 3, 2009, in the City Hall Council Chambers. Mayor Logsdon called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present: Steve Boone, Cyndi Plunkett, and Doug Sturbaum.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognitions
There were none.

Public Comment
There was no Public Comment.

Agenda Changes
There were no changes to the agenda.

Minutes
Boone moved to approve the November 19, 2009, regular meeting minutes as written. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Reports
There were no comments on the Monthly Reports.

Consent Agenda

1. **Consider Approval of the Revised City Emergency Operation's Plan (Disaster Plan)**
2. **Consider Amendment to Sec. 2-336 Commission, Authority and Association Appointments, Attendance**
3. **Consider Intergovernmental Agreement with PCAA and Fayette County Commissioners for Funding of Dam Access Road**
4. **Consider Bid for Fuel Pumping System**

Logsdon noted there was an additional document on the dais for item 4 – the staff memo. Boone asked if the other system was shot. City Manager Bernard McMullen said the system frequently malfunctioned, the recording system did not give the needed information, and parts to repair the system were not available. It was on its last legs.

Plunkett moved to remove Item 4 from the Consent Agenda. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Boone moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1, 2, and 3. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Plunkett asked about the financing for the fuel system. McMullen said APEC was the lowest bidder at $97,400, and the system was part of the equipment lease that would be considered later in the meeting. Financial Services Director Paul Salvatore said $105,000 had been budgeted for the system, so the bid had come in under budget. He continued that there would also be a savings on the debt service since the loan would be financed over five years at a lower interest rate.

Sturbaum moved to award the bid for the fuel pumping system for $97,400 to APEC. Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Agenda Items

11-09-11 Public Hearing – Consider Amendment to Development Impact Fee Ordinance Establishing Criteria for Exemptions (2nd public hearing)

Interim Community Services Director/City Planner David Rast addressed Council, presenting three alternatives on the wording for the proposed ordinance that were suggested at the November 19 meeting regarding which boards and authorities should review applications to exempt the impact fee. The alternates included:

> ***ALTERNATE A:***
> *The Administrator shall forward the application to any and all Boards, Commissions, or Authorities of the City or Fayette County, as applicable, who shall review the request and provide their recommendation to the Administrator. The Administrator shall forward the application and all recommendations, as applicable, to the Development Authority of Peachtree City (DAPC) for review and consideration. The DAPC shall review this information and provide their recommendation to the Administrator. Each recommendation shall be included in the information provided by the Administrator to City Council.*
>
> ***ALTERNATE B:***
> *The Administrator shall forward the application to any and all Boards, Commissions, or Authorities of the City or Fayette County, as applicable, who shall review the request and provide their recommendation to the Administrator. At a minimum, the Administrator shall forward the application to the Development Authority of Peachtree City (DAPC) for review and consideration and recommendation. Each recommendation shall be included in the information provided by the Administrator to City Council.*
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> ***ALTERNATE C:***
> *The Administrator shall present the application to the Development Authority of Peachtree City (DAPC) for review and consideration. The DAPC shall review the application and may consult any relevant boards, commissions or authorities of the City or Fayette County before making their recommendation to the Administrator. This recommendation, to include consultation with any and all relevant bodies if applicable, shall be included in the information provided by the Administrator to City Council.*

Rast pointed out that Alternate A was the original wording in the proposed ordinance presented at the November 19 meeting. Alternate B stated that the DAPC, at a minimum, would review applications, and Alternate C reflected comments from the Development Impact Fee Advisory

Board members. Rast emphasized that only one of the paragraphs should be adopted as part of the final ordinance. He added that language was also added to another section stating that Council was not obligated to grant an exemption, and that granting an exemption did not set precedent.

The public hearing opened. There were no comments, and the hearing closed.

Plunkett was concerned that there was no time limit how long the process should take, such as there was for rezonings and variances. Rast said each of the boards met monthly, and an application should be on the next agenda after it was received. He agreed that the process could be extended if a board did not meet for some reason. Plunkett said a time limit should be included in the procedure. Sturbaum agreed, especially if there were delays with two or more boards.

Boone said Alternate C added another step in the process. Staff should send the application to the affected boards and authorities, and the DAPC should review an application if it was involved.

Logsdon said he had a problem with A, B, and C, and the bureaucracy. He asked what the role of staff was. He felt the first sentence of Alternate A was sufficient. It did not make sense to insert another layer of bureaucracy into a good process.

Rast said the Impact Fee Advisory Board had wanted to ensure the appropriate boards reviewed an application, not just Council. Logsdon said that, anytime impact fees were involved, it was looked at by several sets of eyes. Many boards would be involved. He did not see what the language accomplished. McMullen clarified that the language was what the committee asked to be inserted. He agreed that different boards would be involved depending on the project. Boone agreed with the Mayor, saying the process was in place. Rast pointed out that this was a new ordinance, and the City had not previously imposed impact fees on commercial/industrial development.

Plunkett asked if residential developers could ask for an exemption. Rast said residential developers could ask for a credit based on infrastructure improvements that had to be made. Plunkett asked why there would be one process for residential and another process for commercial/industrial. Rast said there was an option for residential developers to donate property for a credit of up to $500 per lot.

Plunkett asked why there would be two separate programs. McMullen said that residential developers spent money to make improvements in lieu of paying impact fees. An exemption for commercial/industrial developers was provided based on the economic development the exemption would support. Logsdon added that if the project were that large, then the Fayette County Development Authority (FCDA) would be the lead anyway. McMullen said the only time the FCDA would not be involved was with redevelopment in a key area of the City. The exemption would be an incentive for developers to go into those areas. Logsdon asked if the Planning Commission would be involved with that type of project. McMullen said the Planning

Commission would be involved with any development, including the approval of site plans. Boone added that the DAPC would be involved in those projects, too.

Sturbaum asked if there was any scenario that would not involve the DAPC. McMullen said possibly an infrastructure expansion at Falcon Field. The DAPC would not necessarily be excluded, but the Airport Authority would be more involved.

Plunkett said Alternate B might be the best choice since at least one board would provide input. She could not envision any project that would not be reviewed by any board, but Alternate B ensured it. Plunkett said this layer was not on the residential side of the impact fee ordinance. Rast said the task force members wanted to ensure there was input from other boards.

Sturbaum said he liked Alternate B, but agreed with Plunkett that a time frame was needed. Rast City Attorney Ted Meeker said he understood Council's concern for a time frame, but he did not want to cut the time frame too short. Plunkett suggested 90 days, with an option to extend the time that could be approved by the administrator. Logsdon said he was worried about a time limit, saying this was Peachtree City, and they wanted it done right. The process could take 120 to 180 days. Plunkett said there were time limits on rezonings and variances. She recommended staff look at it. McMullen said adding a time frame meant having to go through the entire process again. Staff received all the information from the developer first, so Rast would ensure all the analysis was there prior to sending it to the commissions and authorities for review. Sturbaum added that the state planned to look at the impact fee program as well.

Plunkett moved to adopt Alternate B with the recommendation to look at time limits. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried 3-1 (Logsdon).

New Agenda Item

12-09-01 Public Hearing – Consider Annexation Request, Southern Pines

Logsdon noted there was an additional document on the dais – an e-mail from Jim Wells of Southern Pines Plantations Commercial Group, LLC, (SPP), with a list of conditions. The developer was requesting annexation of 18 acres of an overall 80.09-acre tract located in unincorporated Fayette County. The tract was located adjacent to the City, bordered to the north by SR 74, to the west by Meade Field, and to the east and south by the Little Ones day care facility and the Brechin Park subdivision.

Wade Williams, chairman of the Peachtree City Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), and Steve Hogan, WASA's general manager, addressed Council. Williams said that extending the sewer to SPP's commercial/office development would provide approximately $15,000 per month revenue for WASA. The connection fees would be $600,000 to $800,000, and WASA's construction costs would be approximately $250,000. Another lift station would be required, increasing the number from 36 to 37. From an environmental viewpoint, the developer had an approved application for a septic system, and WASA would have no control over the discharge, which flew in the face of the North Georgia Metropolitan Water Planning District (NGMWPD) wastewater plan. Williams said WASA was in favor of the proposed annexation.

Jim Wells of SPP said the discussion about annexation began in 2007. The project was in a complex situation. The 80 acres were located in the only place where a gravity sewer trunk line could be built. If not for that, they would not be asking for annexation. His project was brought into discussions with Columbia Properties' commercial project and Dominion Partners' senior housing project. He noted that the Starr's Mill Professional Center was currently on septic, and their development was stymied until it could get sewer. Group VI also had a fairly large office project across the highway on sanitary sewer. The vote was about what was right for the environment, WASA, and Meade Field, adding that the annexation would eliminate the septic system at Meade Field. He had tried to address concerns about development standards, and he understood the City requirements. The initial concern about the sewer was that the initial trunk line stayed in the City and was not within 200 feet of County property, which was also the County's concern. Their engineering took that into account. Wells proposed the following conditions, which had been sent to Council earlier:

1. *The 3.86 acre tract fronting on State Route 74 shall be zoned GC and shall be limited to office and related accessory uses.*
2. *Prior to issuance of a sewer tap permits, the owner/developer shall dedicate 14.14 acres to the City for use as an addition to the recreation area in Meade Memorial Park and shall provide $25,000.00 to Peachtree City for the purpose of grading the 14.14 acre tract being dedicated.*
3. *With the exception of the owner/developer's adjacent Fayette County commercial and office tract (the "Fayette Tract"), (a) the sanitary sewer trunk line proposed to traverse the property shall not serve any other property in Fayette County and (b) the sanitary sewer trunk line shall not extend within 200 feet of any other Fayette County property.*
4. *Peachtree City shall not be required to provide sewer service to any buildings in which a single use occupies more than 95,000 square feet developed on the Fayette Tract. A deed restriction will be provided.*
5. *Peachtree City shall not be required to provide sewer service to any buildings on the Fayette Tract that are not consistent with the general architectural standards as indicated on the renderings attached to these conditions.*
6. *SPP will develop County tracts 1 and 2 according to the GA 54 West Design Guidelines with exceptions:*
    a. *Where the guidelines conflict with Fayette County regulations.*
    b. *Specific architectural items specified may be substituted with similar items and colors as designed by SPP's architect and approval by the City Planner.*
7. *SPP will contribute $25,000 for grading the expanded portion of Meade Field.*
8. *SPP will contribute $15,000 for lights at Braelinn Park.*
9. *SPP will meet the requirements of the City's lighting, signage, and landscape ordinance where it does not conflict with Fayette County's ordinance.*

Wells noted that there were concerns about the sewer line staying in the City, adding that the sewer line would not be located within 200 feet of the County portion of the tract. The development, as approved, had 150,000 square feet, and the concern was that it would all be under one roof. Wells said that was not in the cards, and he proposed a 95,000 square-foot restriction on any single building. The City and County needed to be reasonable in moving forward with any differences. They were willing to limit the size and scope of the development with no building over 95,000 square feet. They could not build just small shops and be successful. Retail developments failed without an anchor. He had the zoning and permits in the County where they would spend $300,000 to $500,000 on a septic system. The question was whether it would be public or private.

The public hearing opened.

Brechin Park residents Jimmy Pace and Virginia Sack, vice-president of the Brechin Park Homeowners Association, both encouraged Council to approve the annexation, noting that many homes in their neighborhood, which was located in the unincorporated County, backed up to the area planned for the septic system.

Robert Brown said the annexation was worth considering only if the entire 80 acres were included. He opposed annexing part of the tract just so the developer could get sewer.

Richard Spain said a large commercial development at the gateway to the City would not look good and was not good for the City, adding that this was merely an effort to get sewer service. Plunkett noted that the development had already been zoned and approved by the County for 150,000 square feet, with one building at 120,000 square feet.

Rich Granger recalled that the City had disagreed when the County had approved the project, and he did not know what had changed. The entire parcel should be annexed, and he did not agree with the piecemeal approach.

David Craig was against any more annexation unless there was a truly positive benefit to the City. There would be more people at the door wanting sewer as soon as it was approved. He asked Council not to open up that end of the City to continued development.

Juan Matute said the City's boundaries should be kept as they were. In five years, there would be something else. There were positives, but the negatives had to be developed first and could hurt the City in the end.

Beth Pullias said the only thing the City could control was whether or not the development had sewer. The City had no control over putting the septic next to Brechin Park. There were limits to what could be put on a septic system, but there were very few limits on sewer.

Rast gave a brief history of the site, which was rezoned by the County in 2000. The zoning for the 80-acre tract included 21.8 acres rezoned from Agricultural Residential (AR) to Community Commercial (CC), 5.8 acres from AR to Office Institutional (OI), and 52.4 acres would remain AR because they were not developable. He confirmed that the City had objected to the rezoning in 2000. The County's staff and Planning Commission had also recommended denial. The development plan included 177,800 square feet including five outparcels. He compared it to The Avenue, which was 181,000 square feet, excluding the outparcels. Rast continued that the City objected to the rezoning because it was not consistent with the County's Land Use Plan, and the City had rezoned the Wilshire Pavilion tract.

Rast continued that the 18 acres proposed for annexation included 3.86 acres located adjacent to SR 74 for which the developer requested General Commercial (GC) zoning for retail and/or office use. The request was to rezone the remaining acreage, located adjacent to Meade Field, from AR to Open Space-Public (OS-P) for the potential expansion of Meade Field. There were only about seven acres of usable property. There had been some conceptual plans for the possible expansion of Meade Field, but Rast had no knowledge of cost projections and he noted there was minimal funding for improvements. Rast said neither staff nor the Planning Commission recommended approval of the annexation request.

Rast recalled that Council had discussed possible annexation of undeveloped areas bordering the City two years ago during Retreat as part of the Comprehensive Plan Update. There were also approximately 60 acres across SR 74 South they had also discussed. No studies or impact analyses had been done to see if there would be any benefit to annexation. While the recommendation was to not approve the request, staff felt the area should be looked at with the County Planning Department to see if it should be brought into the City. Rezoning the 3.86 acres next to SR 74 would not be consistent with the initial rezoning and would allow an increase in the amount of commercial/retail use approved by the County. There was no money or plans to expand Meade Field, and a large portion of the property that would be donated was undevelopable. The site plan approved by the County was not binding. The developer could come to the City with plans for two large buildings. There was also no compelling reason to annex the property. The property had been zoned for the project for almost 10 years, with no construction. Sewer would make the property more marketable.

There were no other comments. The public hearing closed.

Sturbaum referred to Condition 4 and asked about the state's 200-foot requirement for sewer connections. Meeker clarified that the state required connection to sewer if a project was within 200 feet, and sewer was available. Availability was the question. The City would have a hard time denying requests.

Plunkett asked about the NGMWPD requirements and environmental concerns, and if there would be any negative consequences for WASA. Hogan said the NGMWPD set policy and made recommendations for the Environmental Protection Division's Department of Natural Resources. Through the course of events, the policy could become law or regulation. He was not familiar with any time the issue had been forced.

Boone concurred with Rast's recommendations. There would be commercial development at the City's southern gateway, even with septic.

Logsdon said his preference was to have the entire parcel annexed into the City to control the development. They were asking to put sewer on something they could build anyway. He was a proponent of putting anything on sewer if possible for water conservation because sewer treated the water and put it back into streams. With septic, the water was not re-used; it was just gone. He wanted to get the 14 acres while they could, but the entire tract would be better. He was also concerned about approving commercial zoning that would compete with commercial businesses in the City. While all entities shared the sales tax revenue, he had to look after the City first. He said he could go either way on this request. The City's southern boundary should be drawn and designed. Neither this Council nor the next was interested in grabbing land.

Plunkett said annexation and sewer had been talked about for two years. There had been no concessions from SPP until that day. The Planning Commission might have had a different recommendation if they had seen the conditions offered by SPP. She also was not in favor of the 3.86 acres next to the highway being zoned for anything but open space.

Sturbaum said he had similar concerns. The plan could change in the future, and the City would have to adapt to that.

Logsdon said he was surprised the Planning Commission did not see the conditions. McMullen said he had just received them late the day before the meeting and had forwarded them to Council as soon as possible that morning. Plunkett said Council could either deny the request or refer it back to the Planning Commission.

Plunkett moved to refer Agenda items 12-09-01 and 12-09-02 back to the Planning Commission with the conditions offered by SPP. Logsdon seconded. The motion failed 2 (Plunkett, Logsdon) – 2 (Boone, Sturbaum).

Meeker said Council either needed to move on to the next agenda item, which was in essence a denial, or make another motion.

Plunkett moved to deny the annexation request. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried 3-1 (Logsdon).

12-09-02 Public Hearing – Consider Zoning, Southern Pines
No public hearing or action was needed.

12-09-03 Public Hearing – Consider Sale/Lease Back of Weber Station 83 & Satterthwaite Station 84 – Collateral for Bricks & Mortar Loan
Salvatore explained the City was to hold a public hearing for input when using City properties as collateral for a Bricks & Mortar loan.

Lynda Wojcik said she was against the City using the public's land as collateral and asked whether she misunderstood what was happening.

Salvatore explained that the property would be sold to the Peachtree City Governmental Finance Corporation (the Council served as Board of Directors), and the Corporation would lease the property back to the City for 15 years. The rights to the payments were designated to the bank that financed the transaction. The loan would be used for necessary improvements for all four fire stations. Wojcik said she supported the use in that case.

David Craig asked if the improvements were part of the collateral. Salvatore said the improvement costs were included in the loan amount, so the loan was for the value of the buildings plus the improvements. Craig asked if all the improvements would be made if the City paid cash for them. Salvatore said they would as they were essential repairs. Craig said there were some capital improvements on the list that would increase the property value, which were more than just maintaining the property. Craig asked if everything on the list was crucial. Plunkett said she had asked the same question, and much of the work had already been done, and the City was paying itself back. McMullen said the largest item had been the repairs to the Police Department, which had been completed. Craig asked why the overage in the cash reserves could not be used to help reduce the debt service over the 15-year loan. McMullen said that these were not the projects to use the cash reserves to reduce debt service. The interest rate on this loan was very favorable. Staff would recommend using that overage to pay off other debt with higher interest rates. Craig asked Council to consider directing staff to look into paying off the debt with higher interest rates to help the City in the short term.

Sturbaum asked Salvatore to discuss the cost saving over time to show the loan was beneficial. Salvatore said this was a loan budgeted last fiscal year that was delayed due to the revenue shortfall. Delaying the loan until this fiscal year saved $230,000 in debt service for FY 2009. The loan closing was scheduled for December 15. The first debt service payment would be March 30, saving six months on this year's budgeted debt service. He added that no action was required on this item.

12-09-03 Consider Bricks & Mortar Loan Agreement

Logsdon noted there was an additional item on the dais – the bid submitted by the Bank of America Public Capital Corporation. Meeker said the resolution for the agreement was in the meeting packet, but the bank had not been identified. The Bank of America had turned in the lowest bid.

Plunkett moved to approve the authorizing resolution with the Peachtree City Governmental Finance Corporation and the Bank of America at the rate of 4.5%. Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12-09-05 Citizen Request to Address Council Concerning Ban or Limitation on Outdoor Burning

Lynda Wojcik addressed Council concerning outdoor burning. She noted that sometimes there were hazardous items in yard waste, and smoke released nitrogen and carcinogens that were detrimental to lungs. Smoke also stayed at a lower level in the atmosphere when temperatures were cooler, which was dangerous to the elderly and children. She noted that 88 permits were issued in the last two years, and there were 47 complaints. The fire trucks were sent out to check out complaints. She asked what the cost was for the City to send two fire trucks to investigate a yard fire. The City was the first in the County to ban smoking in buildings, but it was fine to pollute the outdoors. Wojcik preferred an all out ban, but realized that might not be possible.

She suggested limited the time burning was allowed to early hours of the day, so people could go outside in the afternoon after the air had a chance to clear. Currently, burning could take place all day long with a permit. Yard waste could be taken care of at the Recycling Center or the County landfill, or it could be mulched. She asked Council to consider a ban or extreme limitation.

Fire Marshal John Dailey addressed Council. Logsdon noted there had been 47 complaints. Dailey said burning had been allowed for 88 days, not necessarily 88 permits, and the City received 20 or more calls for permits per day. There were 47 complaints documented where units responded.

Sturbaum asked if any of the fires had been out of control. Dailey said he had only searched for the actual number of responses, but he could read the narratives to find that out. Plunkett asked if the complaints were because the fires were out of control or people were having trouble breathing. Dailey said that information was hard to get from the database. Without downloading all the reports, he could not read the narratives.

Fire Chief Ed Eiswerth acknowledged that outdoor burning could be a nuisance. Most of the complaints the department received were due to no one watching the fire or fires that included rubbish. Very few were out of control.

Plunkett asked if the same people were calling in. Administrative Services Director Nikki Vrana said City Hall also received complaint calls. A few of the calls were about health concerns, but the vast majority were because the fires were nuisances.

Al Yougel, Keep Peachtree City Beautiful director, said burning was unnecessary, adding that there was a perfectly good, and staffed, recycling center on Rockaway Road that took all kinds of yard waste. He recommended Council consider a ban on burning.

Logsdon asked if Council had required yard waste be picked up as part of the garbage franchise. McMullen said the vendors had to provide it, but there was an extra charge for the service.

Logsdon said the issue needed to be publicized so both sides could have their say before a decision was made. McMullen said staff was looking for guidance. No policy changes were recommended at this point. Plunkett said she would like to know what other cities were doing. Sturbaum and Boone agreed. Sturbaum added that there might be limits on hours or areas where burning could take place. Staff was directed to look at the issue and bring a recommendation to Council.

12-09-16 Consider Equipment Lease Agreement
Plunkett moved to approve and adopt the authorizing resolution for the equipment lease agreement. Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council called a five-minute break at 8:55 p.m., reconvening at 9:00 p.m.

12-09-07 Consider Bids – Ford Crown Vics (6), Ford Explorers (3), and Aftermarket Accessories

Police Chief H.C. "Skip" Clark addressed Council, noting that Legacy Ford had the lowest price for the six (five replacement and one new position) Crown Victorias at $128,730 ($21,455 each), and Adamson Industries had the lowest bids for accessories at $80,370 ($13,395 each). Wade Ford had the lowest bid for the three (two replacements and one new approved position) Ford Explorers at $55,464 ($18,488 each), and Adamson Industries had the lowest bid for the accessories at $18,825 ($6,275 each).

Sturbaum asked if the cars could be pushed out any further. Clark said no, adding that the department tried to get all it could out of its vehicles. The five cars being replaced would have an excess of 100,000 miles on them when the new ones were delivered. Two 1999 Ford Tauruses would also be retired.

Plunkett moved to approve the bid for the six Crown Vics, three Ford Explorers, and aftermarket accessories. Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Boone asked how old the vehicles were that were being replaced. Clark said they were model years 2003 and 1999. Boone asked if the City received good offers online. Clark said usually more money was received when the vehicles were sold online.

12-09-08 Consider Raising the Volunteer Stipend Program's Annual Cap

Assistant Chief Joe O'Conor addressed Council, asking them to consider raising the volunteer firefighter stipend from $3,000 to $6,000 per year. While volunteerism had suffered overall, the Peachtree City Fire Department's volunteer contingent was thriving. The stipend program began in 2006 to provide a monetary reward for service. O'Conor continued that a volunteer earned $10 for every four hours at the station and $10 for every call, which did not cover all their expenses. In 2006, the cap was $1,500 per volunteer. Due to the success of the stipend program, the cap was increased to $3,000 the next year. O'Conor asked Council to raise the cap within the current budget allotment. The volunteers contributed greatly to the recent change in the City's Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating from 4 to 3. During the first half of FY 2009, five volunteers reached the $3,000 cap. Thirteen reached the cap during the second half of FY 2009.

Logsdon said the department could run out of money more quickly by raising the limit. O'Conor said that was possible. The reality was that the life cycle of a volunteer was usually two years. Currently, there were 53 volunteers. A new class started in January, but they would not be eligible for the stipend until June. Logsdon reiterated his concern that there was not enough money in the budget.

Eiswerth noted that the Department had recently hired the volunteers who had reached the limit as full-time personnel. The volunteers who would start training in January would not be eligible to receive the stipend until July. Logsdon acknowledged the department might be able to manage the stipend this year, but he was concerned about next year's budget. Eiswerth said the department did not spend all the money in FY 2009. The amount budgeted for FY 2010 was

$50,000. He understood the constraints, and felt those could be handled. He reiterated that the volunteers played a great part in the ISO rating going from 4 to 3.

Plunkett clarified that they wanted the same budgeted amount, which could mean fewer people would get the money. Logsdon said the request was sound, but they needed to be realistic about the money. Without adding more to the budget, they would run out of money sooner. Eiswerth said there were three ways to get paid – going on calls, serving station time, and attending training. O'Conor noted that the ISO credited the department with an additional four full-time firefighters for every 24-hour day because of the volunteer hours in the station. Sturbaum said he was concerned about other staff; he wanted to be fair and equitable to everyone across the board.

Boone moved to approve raising the volunteer stipend cap to $6,000. The motion died for lack of a second.

Sturbaum moved to raise the volunteer firefighter program's annual stipend cap to $4,500. Plunkett seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12-09-09 Consider Resolution in Support of 2009 Recreational Trails Grant Application for Flat Creek Multi-use Trail

Rast said the path was identified in the City's Multi-Use Path Master Plan and would extend from the Flat Creek bridge north to Crosstown Drive on the eastern side of Flat Creek, providing access from several businesses in the Industrial Park to the path system via the Flat Creek bridge, the Crosstown Drive retail and commercial areas, and the South 74 Baseball/Soccer Complex. The path would be constructed within an existing cleared sanitary sewer easement. The funding would be through the Federal Highway Administration, administered at the state level by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites. The grant required a 20% local match. The cost of the 2.7-mile trail was estimated at $894,020, requiring a local match of $319,020. Approximately 50% of the local match would be in-kind through Public Works, and the other $150,000 would come from the 2007 Bricks & Mortar loan surplus. ECOS Environmental Design, Inc. assisted in preparing the grant application at no charge.

Boone asked if the money was there. McMullen said the bid for the Flat Creek ramp had come in under budget, so funds were available for re-programming. Boone said the paths would be very convenient for people working in those areas. Rast said the proposed path was in the master plan, and there could be some contributions coming in from businesses to help offset the City's cost.

Plunkett moved to approve the resolution of support for the 2009 Recreational Trails grant application for the Flat Creek multi-use trail. Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

12-09-10 Consider Resolution in Support of 2009 CREATE Community Application for The Bridge Community Center

Plunkett noted that the public-private partnership between the City and The Bridge was working very well and moved to approve the resolution in support of the 2009 CREATE Community Award application for The Bridge. Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Council/Staff Topics

Review of 2005 SPLOST Projects

McMullen briefed Council on the 2005 Special Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) projects. (A copy of the PowerPoint is included in the official meeting file.) The original projected revenue was $12,025,984. The revenue collected through October 1, 2009, was $9,069,617, and the estimated revenue through March 2010 (the end of the five-year period) was an additional $900,170. The total projected SPLOST revenue was $9,969,787. The actual/encumbered SPLOST funds through November 30 were $6,431,050, and $3,538,737 remained that could be used for projects on the SPLOST list. McMullen went over the active and completed projects, as well as those that were inactive.

McMullen reminded everyone about the Hometown Holiday celebration on Saturday, December 5. He also noted there would be another power outage at City Hall and the Library on December 4 to finish repairs on a broken utility pole. The Library would be closed, but City Hall would remain open.

Logsdon added that the memorial service for former Mayor Ralph Jones was also on December 5.

Plunkett moved to convene in executive session for threatened or pending litigation at 9:35 p.m. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Plunkett moved to reconvene in regular session at 9:37 p.m. Boone seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Plunkett moved to deny the claim of Mr. and Mrs. Delaney as such claim was presented. Sturbaum seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Plunkett moved to adjourn. Sturbaum seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Pamela Dufresne

Pamela Dufresne, Deputy City Clerk

Harold K Logsdon

Harold K. Logsdon, Mayor