

City Council of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 20, 2026
6:30 PM

Call to Order

The City Council of Peachtree City met for a regular meeting on Thursday, August 20, 2026, at City Hall. Mayor Kim Learnard called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Pro Tem Suzanne Brown and Councilmembers Clinton Holland, Laura Johnson, and Michael Polacek also were present.

Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence

Presentation

A. Presentation of Telly and Communicator Awards

Public Communications Manager Vivian Lett said the Communications Department collaborated with all other departments to engage and inform residents, and their dedication was reflected in the awards she would be presenting.

Communicator Awards, Lett explained, were given for excellence, effectiveness, and innovation in all areas of communication, and this year Peachtree City earned three Communicator Awards of Distinction. Yasmin Julio, Wilson Allen, Kevin Mras, Kelly Bush, and Dustin Farron were honored for their work on the FY 2026 Budget Book, and Clint Murphy, Tiffany Comeau, Lett, Mras, and Chris Darna earned an award for the Fire Rescue 60th Anniversary Challenge Coin.

Fire Rescue's Paw Paw Jimmy Shorts earned a Communicator Award for Will Harbin, Josh Teal, Trent Jenkins, Julio, Lett, Comeau, Mras, Darna, and Will Calhoun. The Paw Paw Jimmy team also won a Telly Award, which recognized excellence in all forms of video and television. The award was a Gold Award, the highest level.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition

None

Public Comment

Twenty-two citizens signed up to comment, with the majority wanting to talk about the proposal to have one citywide residential garbage hauler.

However, a few spoke on other topics. Gary Rossomme of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) said Westminster Gardens would be participating this year in Wreaths Across America, a project which marked the graves of military veterans at Christmas. Rossomme explained how to donate. Brenda Walton had a petition asking Council not to participate in Forward Fayette's effort to increase path connectivity among the County and cities, citing safety concerns. Riley Thames commented that Lake Peachtree was a special gathering place that could be improved by having a

concession stand nearby and said she would be submitting a proposal for Council's consideration.

Speaking about the trash service proposal were Skip Schafer, Jim Altemose, Wayne Smith, Teresa Smith, Glenn Moore, Barbara Freeman, Robert Brooks, Gail Wargo, Michael Diamantides, Suzanne Stern, Allen Felts, Ralph Hail, Jeff Anderson, Peggy Dillie, Sharon Geistweidt, Jim Sells, Anne Menardo, and James Clifton.

The most common reasons cited in opposition to the plan to award Amwaste a contract to collect trash, recycling, and yard waste throughout the city included their belief that competition among businesses fostered better service and that residents should not be mandated to have trash service. Some of the speakers said online reviews showed Amwaste to have a bad service record, while others mentioned they had called Amwaste and encountered long wait times and hangups. Others expressed concerns about unforeseen cost increases and an inability to cancel the contract for poor service. Some speakers said they were not convinced by the argument that a single hauler would reduce wear and tear on the streets, adding that if it did, the savings from reduced paving should be applied to tax decreases.

Many of the speakers lived in Cresswind and said they were happy with the community-wide garbage service they already had. Several citizens summed up their feelings by saying that the government should not interfere where it was not necessary.

After the comments from the public were finished, Learnard said she wanted to assure everyone that all Council members took the opinions of the public very seriously and had read all of their emails, of which there had been many, on this topic.

Agenda Changes

After the Public Comments, Brown moved to change the agenda to allow for immediate discussion of New Agenda item 10 C., 08-26-06, RFP Exclusive Solid Waste Management Collection and Related Services. Johnson seconded.

After the vote on waste services and the break, Learnard asked for a motion to move Public Hearing B, variance request for encroachment into an easement area and a side setback at 219 Sandown Drive to be the next agenda item. So moved, said Holland, and Polacek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes

A. August 6, 2026 City Council Work Session Minutes

Holland moved to approve the August 6, 2026 City Council Work Session Minutes. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A. New Alcohol License - ¡Qué Delicia!

Holland moved to approve Consent Agenda item A. Johnson seconded. Motion

carried unanimously.

Old Agenda Items

A. 07-26-03 FY2027 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget

Strickland said he would be brief since Council already had several chances for budget review at a June 22 budget workshop and a July 9 public hearing. He said they could now take action to adopt the Annual Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He had provided them with the budget resolution and all supporting documents, which he said were consistent with the figures presented at the public hearing. The budget would be for fiscal year 2027, starting October 1, 2026 and going through September 30, 2027.

He presented the budget summary, which showed the total sources of funds at \$60,779,253, which balanced with the expenses, and asked if Council had any questions. He said the citizens could watch the previous budget discussions, and the budget information was published on the City website. No one had questions, and Strickland recommended they adopt the attached FY 2027 budget.

Holland moved to adopt the attached FY 2027 Operating Budget and CIP. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Agenda Items

A. 08-26-04 FY2027 Proposed Budget - Peachtree City Convention & Visitors Bureau

CVB Executive Director Tyler Runyon said he would be brief but wanted to showcase his team by discussing a couple of statistics. He credited Sales Manager Sarah Tarnowski with upping the documented 75 hotel/motel room nights recorded in 2023, when both she and he were hired, to 7,600 in 2025, with a 61% pickup rate. This year, they were already at 9,500 rooms with a 91% pickup rate.

Wilson Allen handled the CVB's marketing, working on engagement and social media. Runyon reported that both followers and interactions were up 65%. He also said the Visitors Center was up 110% in sales and 42% on profit margins, compared to 18% in 2024.

A collage of photos highlighted events from the past year, and Runyon said he called attention to a promotion that involved delivering 250 pounds of bananas stamped with the CVB logo to visiting baseball teams and fans. That baseball event had already booked reservations for next year, Runyon remarked.

Moving on to the budget, he reported that almost 90% of the CVB's funds came from the hotel/motel tax. That was supplemented by other sources of funding and use of reserves. He said the CVB had a fairly high reserve fund when he came on

board, and they had been spending it down and now had reached a comfort level with the reserve percentage.

Contracted labor made up 48% of expenses, which Runyon said was low for a city of their size, and sales and marketing 44%. The labor cost was increasing this year to allow for hiring a Special Events and Marketing Coordinator. Runyon said right now they turned away a lot of good ideas because the small staff did not have the bandwidth to carry them out.

There was a drop of 29% under the Administration and Operations expenses because improvements at the Visitors Center, which included new furniture, a conference room, and a revamped break room, had been completed.

Runyon requested Council approve a budget of \$1,114,900, approved unanimously by the CVB Board of Directors.

Holland said they needed directional signs to point to the Visitor's Center, and Runyon said he had been thinking about this, too, and would ask Strickland and Miller about it.

Johnson moved to approve New Agenda item 08-26-04, FY2027 Proposed Budget - Peachtree City CVB. Polacek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. 08-26-05 FY2027 Budget - Keep Peachtree City Beautiful, Inc

Financial Services Director Kelly Bush said the FY 27 revenues for KPTCB were budgeted at \$258,948, which came from a couple of sources. One was the franchise fee collected by waste haulers from each customer. Prior to November 2024, it was \$1 per quarter but was then increased to \$1 per month. This year, they budgeted it at \$144,000 for 12,000 homes. She said Pollard paid on 4,004 homes, with GFL paying on 2,638, and Republic, 5,318.

KPTCB also got funding through City contracts, including \$50,388 for waste collection along the streets and highways, \$45,760 for litter pickup and waste bin maintenance on the paths, and \$7,800 for litter pickup and waste bin maintenance at the Line Creek Nature Area. All of these figures were unchanged from last year.

Revenues from the recycling center at Public Works were increased to \$11,000 this year, Bush continued, mentioning they had changed the hours and some policies at the center.

Brown asked KPTCB Director Al Yougel if he had noticed an improvement since they began a policy that only Peachtree City residents could drop items off. Yougel said it had helped tremendously, but there were still people who tried to get around the rule. He said cutting the hours had helped, and they were able to invest more in

manpower when they were open.

Contract labor costs were increased by about \$21,000 over last year, Bush stated. Bin pulls had slightly increased, and the overall increase in expenses was \$12,687. The offset of the \$21,000 was a decrease in rental expenses and in dues and fees.

The audited numbers from KPTC in FY 25 showed revenues of \$112,505, and that did not reflect a full year of the franchise fee increase, which amounted to \$136,602 in a transfer from the City. The City subsidized KPTCB about \$6,000 in 2025, which they no longer had to do, Bush reported.

Expenses were \$229,142, which resulted in \$19,965 going into the fund balance. At the end of FY 25, the fund balance was \$70,435, 31% of their annual expenses.

Holland moved to approve New Agenda item 08-26-05, fiscal year 2027 budget for Keep Peachtree City Beautiful, Inc. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 08-26-06 RFP Exclusive Solid Waste Management Collection and Related Services

Brown thanked the citizens for sharing their views and for showing up to the meeting. She said she believed that if the City wanted to change its regulations for municipal garbage haulers, it should be placed on a referendum vote to reflect the desires of a greater number of residents.

She read a statement said that citizens wanted Council to preserve their right to choose among providers who complied with the current requirements to be an authorized trash hauler. Brown said Council should not mandate homeowners to have a trash hauler. It was the homeowners' responsibility to ensure they legally disposed of their solid waste without littering or illegally dumping.

There should be consequences from illegal dumping, either on the cart path or in commercial dumpsters unless they owned the rights to use that dumpster, Brown stated, and the City should place notifications at the most-used entrances to the path system as well as on trash cans identified as regularly having illegally dumped household trash in them.

However, Brown said she knew the 1,400 homes without a trash contract were not all illegally dumping all of their trash on the paths. She asked that Keep Peachtree City Beautiful (KPTCB) document the locations, volume and/or weight of household trash that they found on the paths so that trail cameras or other measures could be employed to stop the dumping.

Brown then moved to terminate any and all Council and staff actions on agenda item 08-26-06, RFP Exclusive Solid Waste Management Collection and Related

Services, and leave the solid waste collection policies and service provider policies as they were today. Holland seconded.

Learnard said she had a motion and a second, and Council would continue the discussion.

Polacek also thanked the citizens for sharing their views, saying Council removed the time constraints for public comment in order to maximize the opportunity for comment on important issues like this. He also said they decided to discuss this topic at one more evening meeting in order to give more opportunities for comments and also to collect more data.

He recalled that Council agreed to put out a request for proposal (RFP) at its January retreat with the intent to see if there was an opportunity to lower costs and what that would look like. The top scoring bidder, Amwaste, was invited back to make a presentation to Council in July.

That is what had brought the discussion to this point, Polacek continued, and he said he had heard from the public, reviewed the data, and did not feel he could support this.

He said he was elected to give objective analysis to ideas and proposals that were presented to Council. Polacek noted that he grew up in Peachtree City and was raising his family here. His mother lived in Peachtree City. Any decision Council made would impact their lives, too, he observed, saying he wanted to provide some context of what led them here.

He knew there were people who appreciated fewer trucks on neighborhood streets, but there simply were not enough trade-offs from a policy standpoint to justify a shift to a single vendor. He said he campaigned on yard waste pickup and would continue to look for a pathway for the City to provide that as a service, if the citizens wanted it. Right now, some vendors offered it, but it was expensive. It was also inconvenient to have to load it up on a truck and take it to the mulching center.

Proponents of single hauler had used an infrastructure and paving argument, but it was difficult to quantitate the cost savings for repaving the roads, Polacek said. He heard some arguments that a cost savings should equal a millage rate decrease, but pointed out that repaving was not funded by the General Fund but by the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) and State grants for repaving.

It was certain that illegal dumping was a problem in isolated areas around the community, and that needed to be addressed. Polacek said he agreed with Brown that there were alternative means and possibilities to prevent this, and they needed more data to see where those dumping hotspots were. He thought signage was a commonsense solution, along with increasing the fines.

Polacek acknowledged that they wanted to attract the next generation of families and businesses and had to look for ways to modernize to enhance quality of life. However, he said he did not want to strip away anyone's choice away in order to accomplish that.

Polacek stated that he hoped Council could ask staff to look at the cost and logistics of a City-provided yard waste service for those who wanted it. He also hoped the hours of operation for the mulching center could be expanded. The annual spring cleaning/junk removal day had proved popular, and maybe a second one could be scheduled. He concluded there were many things they could do to reduce the dumping problem, but the data did not show a benefit to a city-wide single hauler garbage service, he concluded.

Johnson said she did not arrive with a prepared statement because she wanted to make decisions based on what was presented at the meeting. She referred to notes she had taken during the public comments, remarking that one citizen had said the Council members cared about the community, which she affirmed and said that was why she chose to run for office. She said her family moved to Peachtree City when she was 11, and now she and her husband were raising five children here. She thanked the citizens for their emails and said her responses should show that she had kept an open mind.

However, her opinion had not wavered. She raised concerns when this was discussed at the retreat, and a lot of those concerns matched what the citizens had mentioned. This was a broad stroke brush being used on smaller issues that could be handled in other ways, Johnson observed.

Holland remarked that he had gone both ways on this issue since January, but now agreed with what a citizen had said, that this was a solution looking for a problem. He remarked that they had all been inundated by citizens on this issue, and Council had to listen. He was not in favor of this and would represent the citizens.

Learnard began her remarks by saying she knew how to count and understood that the majority would rule. She also believed that everyone's voice should be heard, but not everyone lived in Cresswind. There were reasons why Cresswind would not like this solution, and she said she understood that.

The City was conducting its annual citizen survey right now, the Mayor read, and the survey company had sent them preliminary data that showed 66% of respondents would support a citywide single company curbside pickup for trash recycling, yard waste, and bulk item pickup program if the bill was the same or less than their current curbside provider that only provided trash and recycling. She said she wanted to speak for the citizens who emailed them to support citywide service that would reduce the number of trucks on the road, lessen noise and emissions, provide accountability for litter and spills on the roads, and lead to better looking neighborhoods with cans out only once a week, along with providing a solution for

collecting yard debris.

The Mayor said she would never allow double billing or redundant services for Cresswind. Amwaste had told them they would be able to handle the private neighborhoods and private roads with smaller trucks.

Learnard noted that she and Council got an email from former Mayor Harold Logsdon urging them to pass this agenda item because it was best for the city. Another citizen pointed out that the vast majority of households would see a cost reduction and an increase in services. Learnard noted her household was now paying Republic \$87.60 a quarter.

She remarked that she had heard everyone but wanted to speak for the rest of the city who could not be here or who had not otherwise had their voice heard.

The Mayor said they had a motion and a second. Motion to deny carried 4-1 with Brown, Holland, Johnson, and Polacek voting in favor, and Learnard in opposition.

The Mayor called for a break at 8:05 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:17 p.m.

D. 08-26-07 Annexation Study Final Draft

Strickland noted the City contracted with KB Advisory Group a few months ago, and they had included interviews with Council, staff, Police, and Fire, along with an open house for the general public on July 16. He said he felt KB did a good job, and the final report was included in the meeting packet. Strickland introduced the lead on the project, Geoff Koski, to give a summary.

He began by telling Council he hoped they would read the full report. He said KB's first task was to familiarize themselves with Peachtree City and its needs. They found that the city was basically built out and that property values had gone up tremendously, both in the city and in unincorporated areas they might consider annexing. His firm's task was to look at where growth might occur, what it cost and when they should act on it.

KB designated large areas with definite boundaries that might be considered options for annexation. All these areas shared a boundary with Peachtree City and were in Fayette County. No properties in Coweta County were considered, he stressed. KB's research had shown that the goal for annexation would be to expand the property tax base through industrial and commercial growth that would provide jobs and long-term sustainability while preserving Peachtree City's community identity.

To determine if annexing would be a good move fiscally, KB looked at property tax collections and estimates of revenues and expenditures, such as service costs, for specific land use categories and then weighed the additional revenue from the

annexed area against any additional costs.

Koski said it was obvious Peachtree City had an engaged citizenry, and some people at the open house were adamantly opposed to any talk of annexation, but he felt they still had some good conversations. Holland said he believed many people walked out with a better understanding of what they were doing. Koski added that reviewing annexation options at least every five years was considered best practice for cities. Studies like this helped them have an informed discussion if an annexation request was submitted.

Despite the skepticism, Koski said there did seem to be an agreement that the idea of targeted annexation could buffer Peachtree City from development in other jurisdictions, especially along the SR 54 East corridor. Some people supported the idea of annexing the area containing Starr's Mill High School, but Koski cautioned that it might not be fiscally advantageous because of the cost of services, such as providing school resource officers.

KB designated five areas that might be considered feasible for annexation and ranked them in order of importance. Area 1 was along SR 54 towards Fayetteville, and Koski said KB estimated it would cost \$70,465 a year in negative net revenue if it were part of the city because it was largely residential.

However, he said, this area would be more commercial in the future. Would it be advantageous to go ahead and annex it now before the growth started, with Peachtree City in control?

Area 2 covered the Starr's Mill High property and adjacent residential areas. It would have a negative net revenue of \$343,616 annually. He mentioned that annexing an area with this much residential could be a long, drawn-out process. However, there might be an advantage to annexing this land as a connection to parcels to the east.

Ebenezer Road, which was in Area 3, seemed to be a natural boundary, Koski remarked. Right now, there would be a loss of \$675,341 if it were annexed, but over time, it could become more industrial or commercial. There was a mobile home park in this area, and Peachtree City could control the destiny of that park if annexed. Koski said he understood that Peachtree City's Police and Fire already effectively serviced that area, so it might be worth the effort to go ahead and annex. He said this was number 3 because growth in this area was a long way in the future.

Koski commented that Area 4 was also worth a look for future industrial use. It consisted of an area southeast of the current City limits that could not be annexed by any other jurisdictions. It was almost break even, with an estimated revenue loss of \$6,999 per year.

Area 5 was north of Peachtree City, bordering on Tyrone. The only reason Koski

could provide for annexation was to control future growth. He said a lot of residents in this area expressed no interest in becoming part of Peachtree City.

Koski said Peachtree City was in a position where the decision to annex was strategic, not fiscal. However, there were areas worth consideration, and the financial cost of about \$1.1 million a year was less than 2% of the City's operating budget. There was no rush, but Koski mentioned that the undeveloped land would certainly be developed in the future and would be fiscally beneficial to whatever jurisdiction in which it was located.

Koski told Council that was his report, and KB would still be around to help if needed. The Mayor thanked him.

Brown found the color-coded maps helpful in differentiating different types of development within the areas. Koski also pointed out that the break-even point for residential development was around \$550,000 per home, so if these areas had \$1 million homes, it would be a fiscal plus for property taxes.

Holland said this was a good guidance document and was glad to see that KB had recommended the order for annexing the various areas. He agreed that control of the 54 East corridor should be the top priority if they decided on annexation.

Koski also wanted to emphasize that if Council approved this document, they were not obligating themselves to anything. It was a planning document. Actual annexation was its own process, and when Council was approached by people who wanted to be annexed, they could refer back to this document.

Brown asked Strickland if this could be printed and bound like other studies, and he agreed to get copies to them.

The Mayor said the recommended motion was to approve the annexation study document as presented. Holland moved to approve 08-26-07 Annexation Study Final Draft. Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings

- A. ~~08-26-08 Text Amendment to the Land Development Ordinance, specifically Article XI — Vegetation Protection and Landscape Requirements (Referred back to Planning Commission)~~**

- B. 08-26-09 Variance request for encroachment into an easement area and a side setback, 219 Sandown Drive**

Planning and Development Director Shayla Reed explained the property was zoned R-12 for single-family residential use. The property owners were requesting two variances: a side yard setback encroachment and a drainage easement

encroachment to allow an existing gazebo and deck to remain in place and bring the site into compliance with applicable zoning requirements.

There were three ordinances to consider, she said. One pertained to the side yard setback, another to the drainage easement, and a third that said the fence permit was pending because the property must be in compliance before it could be issued.

Council had approved a variance for this site in 2003 to allow for an encroachment of 4 feet, 4 inches into the 10-foot side setback. Reed said the 7.5 foot easement for that site was not addressed at that time.

When the fence permit was applied for earlier this year, staff's review of the 2003 variance materials showed that portions of the improvements extended approximately 9 feet, 7 inches into the required 10-foot side yard setback and 7.2 feet into the 7.5-foot utility easement. This resulted in the current requests for an additional 5-foot, 8-inch encroachment into the side setback and 7.2 into the drainage easement.

Reed showed illustrations that indicated the setback and the drainage easement, along with the deck and gazebo. She noted that the gazebo was within the 2003 setback variance, but the deck encroached far past it and into the utility easement. Reed said the difference between the gazebo and the easement was 1 foot, 10 inches, which matched the 4-foot, 4-inch easement approved in 2003. Reed showed the lines that indicated where the variance ended.

Twenty-three years later, the homeowners were now asking for approval to extend the variances in order to get a fence permit, and Reed indicated where those new variances would be on the property.

She presented photos that showed the condition of the fence that the homeowners wanted to replace. They had a survey done to mark the property lines, and it showed that the deck ended almost at the side property line.

The applicants, Michael and Christy Cornett, were present. Michael Cornett said they wanted to replace most of the fencing because it was in poor condition and had been on the property when they bought the house in 1999, as had the deck. He said they obtained the variance in 2003 when he built the gazebo. At the time, the Cornetts were unaware of the utility easement and said the City did not mention it. The easement came to light only when they applied for the fence permit this year; after seeing it on a builder's plat, the City said the property had to be brought into compliance.

Cornett said they had since had a survey done and now the records showed the easement. He said they hoped to be able to keep the deck in its present location and pledged to pay any costs incurred to remove it if a repair was needed on the

storm pipe in the ground below. Christy Cornett again pointed out that the deck was built at the time they purchased the house, and none of this was disclosed to them in 1999 or in 2003. They thought everything was taken care of in 2003.

The Mayor asked if the deck was pulled back 1 foot, 10 inches would it clear the stormwater pipe, and Reed explained that granting a variance of 1 foot, 10 inches would bring them to the 4 feet, 4 inches granted in 2003. Holland pointed out there were 5 feet, 8 inches beyond that, and the deck went almost all the way to the property line.

The Cornetts remarked that the previous owner seemed to have done a lot of work that was not permitted, including a pool and tree removal, in addition to the deck. The previous owner built an addition to the home over a builder's debris pit that started sinking in 2007, costing the Cornetts \$30,000 to repair.

Brown verified with the Cornetts that the deck was built out to the property line when they purchased the house. She said they needed a far larger variance than what they obtained from Council in 2003.

Brown said it seemed that the earlier Council had looked only at where the gazebo would be. Cornett said they would have addressed this in 2003 if they had been aware there were issues. He mentioned the City inspectors had looked at the gazebo right after it was built, and Ms. Cornett said Council members had come to their home to look at the site before granting the variance. She said the original survey done when they bought the home did not show the utility easement. Brown said that was baffling because the pipe was put in place before any building was done. Reed said the survey plat and the site plan both showed the 15-foot utility easement.

Brown said she had looked at the inspector's report from 2004, and the inspector did not seem to have measured to ensure they did not go over the approved variance for the setback. She thought he should have at least noticed that the deck went 5 feet, 8 inches over the permitted distance. She wondered how many people had dropped the ball on this.

However, the issue was what to do now. Learnard read from an email from City Manager Justin Strickland who said this structure was built over a 7 foot, 6 inch utility easement with a storm pipe down the middle. From the City's perspective, the email continued, this was a major problem because they would have to tear down part of the deck when the time came to replace the pipe. If Council granted the variance being requested that night, the City would be responsible for replacing the deck during future maintenance and replacement.

Michael Cornett said they would be willing to sign something saying it would be their responsibility, but Brown pointed out that they would not own the house forever. She added that the pipe had been in the ground for at least 44 years. There had been numerous collapses of old storm drains throughout the City, and it

was best to replace or reline the drain before it reached that point. If the pipe could not be relined and had to be replaced, the deck would have to be removed.

Interim Assistant City Manager Jonathan Miller, who was also the Public Works Director, said the pipe had been recently inspected, and it was labeled as severely corroded, meaning it was getting to the point where action was required, but he did not know if relining was possible or if replacement would be required. As it got higher on the work list, they would hire a company to camera the entire pipe.

Miller said he was not sure what had happened in the past. He had reviewed some of the original plat documents, and they showed the drainage survey. However, the survey presented in 2003 did not.

Learnard continued to read from the City Manager's email, which said Council could at least approve the 1 foot, 10 inch variance into the utility easement, but another option would be to pull back the deck to match the edge of the gazebo, clear of the stormwater drain.

Holland noted that would still maintain the 4 foot, 4 inch variance they had been granted. However, he continued, a piece of the deck had to disappear. The Mayor again pointed out that 5 feet, 8 inches was over the line.

Holland told the Cornett's they understood it was not their fault, and Christy Cornett replied that a lot of it was the City's fault, calling it a great injustice.

Brown again said the pipe might not fail for 20 years, but at that point, if Council granted this variance, the citizens of Peachtree City would have to pay if they let the deck remain as is. They would have to remove the fence, remove the deck and possibly the gazebo, then put it all back.

City Attorney Ted Meeker said he had an idea for how to resolve the potential cost to the City but wanted to share it privately with Council before saying it in a meeting. He suggested continuing this matter until the September 3 work session. Council and the Cornett's agreed.

Meeker went on to say that citizens often complained about all the surveys and documentation required for building, but cases like this proved why they were necessary.

City Clerk Yasmin Julio recommended the Mayor open the public hearing, so there would not have to be a hearing on September 3. No one wished to speak either in favor or in opposition, and Learnard closed the hearing.

Holland moved to table this item until the September 3 meeting. Polacek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Council/Staff Topics

1. City Hall Reopening

Learnard mentioned that City Hall would be closed the next afternoon, so staff could get moved back in after the renovations. It would reopen Monday.

2. Wreath Across America

Holland said Wreaths Across America was an important program he had long supported and urged citizens to make a donation.

Executive Session

Johnson moved to adjourn to executive session at 9:39 p.m. to discuss pending or threatened litigation. Brown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Brown moved to reconvene in regular session at 9:48 p.m. Polacek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

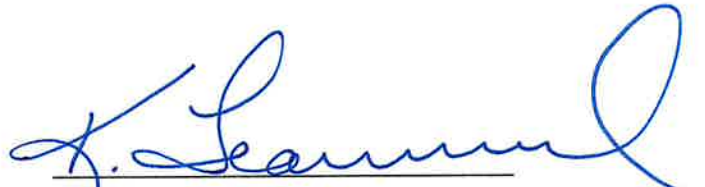
(Motion to deny claim by Charlotte and Jennifer Heavin as presented)
APPROVED 5-0

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.


Martha Barksdale, Recording Secretary


Kim Learnard, Mayor