

City Council of Peachtree City
Litter Forum
October 14, 1993
7:00 p.m.

The City Council of Peachtree City met in a special session on October 14, 1993 to hold a litter forum.

Present were Mayor Robert L. Lenox, Councilmembers Annie McMenamin, Edward Bradford and Caroline Price. Robert Brooks was not in attendance.

Mayor Lenox made opening remarks and stated that the forum was to collect ideas from the public on how to control litter in Peachtree City. Lenox stated that staff had identified several contributors to the litter problem in Peachtree City and were as follows: Construction Sites, Highway Litter, Fast Food Litter and Newspapers and Flyers.

Mayor Lenox asked for any comments by the Council. McMenamin stated that Peachtree City would have a much more serious litter problem if not for the efforts of employees and volunteers that kept the trash picked up on a regular basis. Price stated that the volunteer programs had benefited Peachtree City, created a cleaner environment and were used as a reminder to others that there are people picking the litter up. Price stated that education needed to be included in the discussion, that construction sites should be addressed, builders educated about litter and to form an alliance with the fast food restaurants to provide litter materials to their patrons.

Mayor Lenox asked the City staff to speak to the public about the litter situation in Peachtree City.

Curtis Benson, Manager of Support Services for the Public Works Department

Benson stated that the county adopt-a-mile program was started in 1990 by Mr. Peter Pfeifer. Benson stated that the City would be taking over the city portion and that he had all paperwork if anyone wished to adopt-a-mile or adopt-a-cartpath. Benson stated that when the adopt-a-mile started people were asked to pick up trash on their mile six times a year. Benson stated that everyone would be now asked to increase the pick-up to once a month. Benson stated that some citizens pick up once a week such as Mr. and Mrs. Dvorst who adopted a mile on Peachtree Parkway. Benson stated that prior to the adopt-a-mile program the city was using more staff time to pick up trash. Benson stated that the adopt-a-cartpath program had started two months ago. Benson reported that Mayor Lenox had sent letters to all the fast food restaurants and that several had already agreed to pick up trash on the cartpaths located near them each day.

Benson reported that Peachtree City had opened a recycling center in 1991 and that to date 29,108 citizens had used the center and the following had been recycled:

aluminum	7.2 tons
glass	119 tons
newspaper print	688 tons
organic materials	255 tons
plastics	20.5 tons
corrugated material	19 tons

Benson stated that the revenue from the recycling center had been \$18,892.00 which only covered 35-40% of the expenses the center incurred.

Frances Meaders, Director of Administrative Services

Meaders reported that the City staff had received many complaints about newspapers and advertisements being thrown in yards. Meaders stated that staff had met with the newspapers and that they had been very cooperative in trying to resolve the complaints. Meaders stated that putting a tube type box in every yard to hold newspapers and advertisements had been discussed and it was felt that would lessen the problem. Meaders reported that all newspapers could share in the cost of the box, however Fayette Newspapers had offered to provide the tube. Meaders went on to say that the City could not stop newspapers and advertisers from delivering their materials because it was considered by the courts as a free speech issue, but that if a tube type box was put up, an ordinance could be passed requiring newspapers and advertisers to put the material in the box.

Police Chief Jim Murray

Murray stated that education was the key to litter control. Murray stated that increased fines, mandatory appearances in court and published names in the paper could help lessen the amount of littering. Chief Murray suggested signs could be placed in strategic locations reminding people not to litter. Murray stated that he had met with some of the builders in the City and that they were willing to work with the City. Murray suggested using the DARE officer to educate the children in school. Murray went on to say that the police department was considering a program whereby if citizens called in a litter report the person observed littering could be called, told they were seen littering, and told if it happened again they could be given a citation.

Citizen Comments

Mayor Lenox asked to hear comments and suggestions from the citizens in attendance and the following comments and suggestions were made:

1. Can and Bottle Bill-refund on cans and bottles
2. Closed trash containers placed on building sites
3. Citizens able to report other citizens seen littering
4. Signs on building sites saying "Workers Can Not Litter"
5. Litter bags given to customers from Fast Food Restaurants
6. Fast Food Restaurants - charge more for drive through service
7. Adopt-a-Stream
8. Police call to citizens who have been seen littering
9. More trash cans in all areas
10. Builder Sign to go on all job sites "War on Litter, \$250 Fine"
11. Higher fines imposed on those who litter
12. Urge citizens to call in
13. Names of those littering published in paper
14. Community service for those who litter
15. Ordinance against flyers on mailboxes
16. Sweep Program by all papers
17. Ask paper delivery persons to be more considerate about how they deliver
18. Newspapers felt that using a box for papers would double the time delivery persons spent
19. Fayette Citizen mails paper and do not contribute to problem
20. Golf cart decals utilized to report citizens who litter
21. Education in schools
22. Fast Food Restaurants could hand out stickers on bags about the litter fines
23. Student trash pick-up day
24. "Litter Objective" What is our goal
25. Talk to trash collection firms

26. Customer prefers to see paper lying on driveway, less than 10% go into tubes that are currently available.

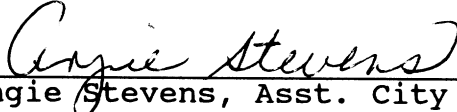
Several builders were in attendance and Kenny Johnson, President of the Homebuilders Association, showed a sample sign that they would like to place on all construction sites that states: "War on Litter \$250.00 Fine". There was discussion if the sign ordinance would permit these signs and staff stated that they would look into the sign ordinance and that some kind of sign could be used.

Mayor Lenox asked Chief Murray if citizens could be given community service along with a fine if found guilty of littering. Murray stated that the judge could require community service and that the fine and sentence would be set by the judge.

Mayor Lenox asked to hear from the newspapers represented. Representatives from the Journal/Constitution, the Fayette Citizen, This Week in Peachtree City and The Fayette Neighbor were in attendance. A representative from the Journal stated that the Journal does a sweep of the neighborhoods picking up papers that have been left on driveways and not picked up by citizens. The Journal also stated that the newspaper tubes next to mailboxes were only used by 10% of their customers. Many citizens present stated that they did not want a tube in their yard, that they would rather have the paper thrown into the driveway. Mr. Cal Beverly, The Fayette Citizen, stated that their newspaper was mailed and that they did not contribute to the litter problems. Mr. Gary Cornwell, This Week in Peachtree City, suggested that citizens call them when they were to be out of town so that the newspaper would not deliver during that period of time. Chief Murray stated that they would discourage citizens from telling any business that they would be out of town for safety reasons.

After further discussion on citizen comments and suggestions, Mayor Lenox stated that there was no easy answer to the problem of litter and that it would be an ongoing project in the City to control it. Mayor Lenox thanked the citizens for attending and for their input. Curtis Benson reminded the citizens that he had maps to adopt-a-mile and adopt-a-cartpath.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.


Angie Stevens, Asst. City Clerk


Attest:
Mayor