

City Council of Peachtree City
Minutes of Meeting
October 2, 1997
7:00 p.m.

The City Council of Peachtree City met in a regular session Thursday, October 2, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brooks led those attending in the pledge of allegiance. Council members present were: Jim Pace, Caroline Price and Annie McMenamin.

ADDITION OF AGENDA ITEMS

There were no added agenda items.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mayor Pro-Tem Brooks presented a Proclamation to Opal Murray for Fayette Family Expo.

Mayor Pro-Tem Brooks presented an Award of Recognition to David Piet.

Optimist President George Cabrall presented a bullet-proof vest, TV and VCR to the Police Department.

MINUTES

McMenamin made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 1997 meeting as presented. Pace seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD AGENDA ITEMS

There were no old agenda items.

NEW AGENDA ITEMS

97-10-01 Accept Accreditation Certificate

Brooks turned the meeting over to Chief Murray for opening remarks.

Murray welcomed everyone and said that in 1992 the Peachtree City Police Department became the 243rd department in the world to become accredited and thanked former Mayor Fred Brown for being instrumental in the pursuit of this endeavor.

Murray introduced Beverly Harvard, Police Chief of Atlanta and a Commissioner on the Law Enforcement Accreditation Board, advising that she had worked diligently for a number of years to bring law enforcement to the pinnacle of professionalism that it was today.

Chief Harvard addressed Council and stated that accreditation was no small feat for an agency and commended former Mayor Fred Brown for being a visionary in his desire to have a police department that was accredited. Harvard also thanked past and present Council members for their support in this effort.

Harvard defined the accreditation process for the benefit of Council stating that accreditation was taken very, very seriously and stated that the department was scrutinized "as if under a microscope." Harvard said she was extremely proud, as a commissioner as well as a sister city, because the Peachtree City Police Department had gone through the accreditation process so well that critical questions had not been necessary regarding the Peachtree City Police Department and its compliance with the standards. Harvard explained further that no matter how much Chief Murray wanted the department to be accredited, if he had not had the right people in terms of the Accreditation Manager, Assistant Accreditation Manager, and all the other members of the department, both sworn and non-sworn, who were committed to the effort, it would not have happened.

Harvard presented the Certificate of Accreditation to Mayor Pro-Tem Brooks, and stated it was an honor to be there to make the presentation and read the certificate to Council stating additionally that this Certificate of Accreditation would be in force for three years.

Brooks thanked Harvard for taking the time out of her busy schedule to present the award and personally thanked Chief Murray and members of the Police Department for their performance.

Basinger addressed Council and advised that Mayor Lenox was out of the country, and had asked Basinger to extend his congratulations to Chief Murray and to all the professional police officers for achieving the goal of reaccreditation. Basinger said Lenox and Council were well aware of the arduous process that had been placed upon each of them, and as a result of their dedication to accomplish that goal, Peachtree City was a very safe place for our citizens to live and raise families and they could be assured of the continued delivery of professional, top-notch police services as the police department complied with the extended list of accreditation standards in the daily performance of their duties. Basinger extended, on behalf of Mayor Lenox and himself, their appreciation for a job well done with a most hearty congratulations, and that Council and the City were so proud of the department and personnel. Basinger said further that Lenox had also wanted to thank Chief Harvard for being there tonight.

McMenamin commented that she realized the challenges and responsibilities the police department faced on a daily basis and thought it was phenomenal that a department as small as

Peachtree City would take on the added responsibility of being accredited. McMenamin stated further that Peachtree City Development Corp's independent survey, which was run a few months ago, reported that the quality of life, security and the school system were most important to those moving to Peachtree City and that 93.5% were satisfied or very satisfied with the security in Peachtree City and felt it was remarkable for a law enforcement agency to receive such a commendation from the citizens.

Pace congratulated Chief Murray and thanked Chief Harvard, saying the unsung heroes were the officers themselves and asked that they please keep up the good work.

Price offered her congratulations stating that Peachtree City residents trusted the police department every day "To Serve and Protect" as their motto stated, but it was admirable that the department had put themselves through a test from an outside source and felt it indicated to all in Peachtree City that the department truly wanted to carry out the mission to serve and protect.

Jean Studdard of Congressman Mac Collins' office and a representative from Senator Coverdale's office also offered their congratulations.

Chief Murray addressed Council with closing remarks and thanked all the Peachtree City police officers and their families; the volunteer organizations; the Reaccreditation Manager, Lt. Jenkins; Major DuPree, past Accreditation Manager; his administrative staff; Mayor and Council and the City Manager for their support. Murray explained that the standards which were maintained during this period had set the course for the department towards the year 2,000 when reaccreditation would be sought once again and stated that he and the citizens of Peachtree City were fortunate to have them as police officers.

Former Mayor Fred Brown addressed Council and said he was proud of the Peachtree City Police Department, always had been and always would be proud of them.

Price made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Pace seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Attest: Robert S. Brooks
Robert S. Brooks, Mayor Pro-Tem

Gloria Strobel

Gloria Strobel, Acting City Clerk