

**City Council of Peachtree City
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 16, 2021
6:30 p.m.**

The Mayor and Council of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, September 16, 2021. Mayor Vanessa Fleisch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Others attending: Terry Ernst, Mike King, Kevin Madden, and Phil Prebor.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognition

Fleisch recognized Fire Chief Joe O'Connor and Police Officer Paul Smilley for 20 years of service with the City.

Public Comment

Keith Larson said that on September 14 the Fayette County Transportation Committee discussed designating alternative routes to handle semi-truck traffic on county roads and city streets between I-75 and I-85. He was concerned about the possibility of a Bernhard-Goza truck route that would send truck traffic into Peachtree City. He also mentioned that Coweta County had asked Fayette County to add to its Transportation Plan two alternative Line Creek bridge crossings identified in the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) study, which would have a negative impact on traffic in south Peachtree City. He asked Council to declare its positions by formal motion on these issues.

Agenda Changes

None

Minutes

King moved to approve the September 2, 2021, regular meeting minutes. Ernst seconded. Motion carried 4-0-1, with Prebor abstaining due to his absence from that meeting.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Consider Appointment of Planning Commission Member**
- 2. Master Lease-Purchase-Lease Schedule #5**

Ernst moved to approve Consent Agenda items 1-2. Madden seconded. Motion carried unanimously. City Manager Jon Rorie noted an error on the memo in the packet. The updated memo was on the dias.

Old Agenda items

None

New Agenda items

None

Council/Staff Topics

- 1. GDOT Displaced Left Turn Project (DLT) Update**

Planning and Development Director Robin Cailloux said she was filling in for City Engineer Dave Borkowski. There was a long history of planning for the SR 54/74 intersection, but this project came out of the 2014 Corridor Study. On an aerial photo, she pointed out other recommended projects from the study that had been completed, including one at 54 and MacDuff/Line Creek, the green T at Line Creek and 54, and improvements at Planterra and 54. A project now underway was the creation of an R-cut at Commerce Drive. Bids for that project were let in July, but the materials were at least 10 weeks delayed. They were expecting work to commence in November, weather and logistics permitting.

Cailloux said a DLT involved moving back the left turns, giving them a longer area to stack up and allowing for longer through movement on SR 54. She called it an innovative design that helped utilize the existing right-of-way to the greatest extent. They would have to purchase some right-of-way, in an area she indicated on the photo, because there was already a dedicated right turn lane from 54 to 74 South.

The preliminary engineering was complete, and final engineering was underway. The right-of-way procurement process was underway with appraisals in the step called "cost to cures." This was when GDOT calculated how much it would cost to make the property owners whole again. After the purchase of the rights-of-way, construction was estimated to begin in October, 2022.

Cailloux said this could be tracked on GDOT's website and gave the address. She also said you could go to the website and search for "DLT," which would bring up five projects, including Peachtree City's.

City Manager Jon Rorie wanted to go back to Larson's comments about TDK, noting that it was related to this project. He said they met with members of the Coweta County board and opposition to an extension of TDK remained strong. They were not willing to have that project added to the Coweta Transportation Plan. Council passed a resolution saying that a year or two ago, and they continued to face litigation because of it. Rorie went on to say that everything being done on this corridor amounted to spending millions of dollars to gain seconds.

King pointed out that Coweta County seemed to finally understand that a TDK extension would only allow a gain of maybe two minutes to get drivers where they were going. Coweta was now looking to north/south routes out of their county, rather than east/west.

Prebor noted they were building at least a four-lane bridge on SR 85 South in Coweta County. Did they know GDOT's long-term plans? Rorie said they did not.

Fleisch pointed out that the DLT project was funded with Federal dollars and was announced in 2016. Peachtree City did have input into how it would be done. She also said their previous representative on the Transportation Board made it very clear that they would not allow truck traffic and said she assumed Madden, the current representative, did the same.

Madden said he did express his objections. They understood that trucks had to deliver to local businesses, but the Board's main concern was a huge new trucking complex being built in Hampton that would be seeking new routes.

Madden stated that he got many questions about the DLT and referred anyone wanting to know more to an excellent video showing such an intersection in Florida. He said Florida called it a "constant flow intersection." Right now, he said, there were four phases to the traffic light at SR 54/74; with the DLT, there would be two. There would be 10 lanes moving at the same time on SR 74 during the left turn signal.

Cailloux, responding to a question from resident Pam Kemp, said there was a link to the video from the Engineering Department's page on the City website.

King moved to adjourn to executive session at 7:19 p.m. to discuss the acquisition or sale of real estate. Prebor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Prebor moved to reconvene in regular session at 7:44 P.M. King seconded. Motion carried unanimously. There being no further business, King moved to adjourn the meeting. Ernst seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.



Martha Barksdale, Recording Secretary



Vanessa Fleisch, Mayor