MINUTES OF MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF PEACHTREE CITY
September 7, 1995
7:00 p.m.

The Mayor and City Council of Peachtree City met in regular session on Thursday, September 7, 1995 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Mayor Lenox led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance. Present were: Mayor Robert Lenox, Councilmembers Annie McMenamin, Robert Brooks, Ed Bradford and Caroline Price.

Addition of Agenda Items

None.

Announcements, Awards, Special Recognitions

None.

Department Reports

None

Minutes

McMenamin moved to approve the minutes of August 17, 1995 as presented. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Agenda Items

None.

New Agenda Items

9-95-1 Pubic Hearing - FY 96 Budget

Basinger presented the FY 96 Budget and commented that the budget had now been finalized and includes all carryover funds for unfinished Public Improvement Program projects, Council Reserve Fund carryovers, Self Insurance carryovers, and bond project carryovers. The total budget is $14,119,516, which includes all carryovers.

Staff projected a 6.08 percent increase in new money in the General Fund, with General Fund revenues projected to total $10.1 million.

McMenamin made a motion to approve the FY 96 Budget. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9-95-2 Alcoholic Beverage License
Representative Transfer - Y-Knot Sports Bar

Milller presented the change in License Representative for the Y-Knot Sports Bar and said that on October 20, 1994, Council appointed Mr. James Royal as the Licensee for the Y-Knot Sports Bar and Ms. Karen Stern was appointed as the License Representative. Ms. Stern is no longer employed at the Y-Knot Sports Bar and Mr. Royal has applied to be the License Representative for the establishment. Further, that the application appears to be complete and in order and that Mr. Royal is present to answer any questions Council might have. McMenamin asked Mr. Royal if he was familiar with the Liquor License Ordinance and he responded that he was familiar with the ordinance.

McMenamin recommended that Mr. Royal be designated as the License Representative for the Y-Knot Sports Bar. Bradford seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9-95-3 Consider Amendment - Retirement Plan

Lenox presented the proposed Amendment to the City's Retirement Plan and commented that the City had a defined benefit plan through the Georgia Municipal Association. The City paid the entire contribution to this plan. Benefits are determined by age at retirement (65 is normal retirement age), length of service and average highest five years salary. Currently, the plan is indexed to social security and the earnings, up to the social security break point ($24,312 for 1995), are calculated at 1.25%. Earnings above the break point are calculated at 2%. Due to a change in actuarial assumptions, the City's annual premium has been reduced and it would cost approximately $5,200 more than previously paid to amend our plan to provide a flat 2% benefit formula. There are adequate funds in the FY96 budget to fund this improvement in the plan. Furthermore, an ordinance which would modify the benefit formula to a flat 2 %, would need to be adopted by Council should they desire to do so.

Mayor Lenox commented that he thought it was an excellent move if we want to retain, properly compensate, and properly reward good employees. He further requested staff to continue researching this; particularly, with regard to the Municipal equivalent of the 401 K Plan. He said he thought we could stand some improvements in the benefit's program for our higher-paid, key employees also. He stated that we will probably revisit this subject some time in the next 90 days to see what we can come up with on that plan.

McMenamin made a motion to approve an ordinance to amend the Retirement Plan with a start date of October 1, 1995. Brooks seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9-95-4 Consider Agreement - Traffic Signal - Hwy 74/Peachtree Parkway

Basinger presented the agreement for the traffic signal at Hwy 74 and Peachtree Parkway. Basinger said that the Department of Transportation (DOT) had requested that the City sign an application for a stop-and-go traffic signal for the SR-74/Peachtree Parkway intersection. It is planned that this signal will be installed along with other lane improvements in order to support the new Kedron Village Shopping Center. Basinger also said that Peachtree City Development Corp. (PCDC) had committed to pay for the signal and to ensure that all improvements are in place prior to the opening of the shopping center. A letter to this effect has been provided from the PCDC. Staff recommends that City Council authorize the Mayor to sign the application agreeing to pay for all the improvements except the north-bound 74 acceleration lane and staff will include this qualification in a cover letter accompanying the application.

Price commented that these improvements are needed now and we have found a good way to resolve the problem and made a motion to authorize Mayor Lenox to sign the agreement and accept the PCDC letter committing to the improvements to the north-bound lane. Bradford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9-95-5 Appointments to Planning Commission

Basinger presented the Appointments to the Planning Commission and said that the Selection Committee, composed of Mayor Lenox, Councilman Bob Brooks and himself interviewed eight (8) applicants for these vacancies. It is recommended that Mike Hyde and Bill Foley be reappointed to serve three-year terms ending September 30, 1998. It is further recommended that T. Edwin Taylor be appointed to serve as an alternate to fill any vacancy which may occur prior to October 1996.

Mayor Lenox commented that the Mayor and Council are subject to a two-year limitation in their positions and that they felt the same way about the Authorities and Commissions. The opportunities to serve on those should be available to a number of citizens. Also, that both of these gentlemen represent reappointments. They each served one term and performed well in their jobs so we have chosen to recommend their reappointment even though we do like to see some turnover subjecting them to the same rules we subject ourselves to.

Brooks said all the applicants were very well qualified and that the two individuals who we are reappointing have some very specific talents, abilities, and knowledge that helped us considerably in the City's current building program and will probably be able to continue to do so for another year or two until we wrap up this certain phase. Brooks made a motion to reappoint Mike Hyde and Bill Foley to their respective terms and that T. Edwin Taylor be appointed to serve as an alternate to fill any vacancy which may occur prior to October 1996. McMenamin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

9-95-6 Tim Powers' Comments - Huddleston Road and Hwy 54 West Traffic Conditions

Mayor Lenox announced that this agenda item is in response to a citizen request from Mr. Tim Powers to address Council relative to traffic conditions at Huddleston Road and Hwy 54 West.

Tim Powers stated that Huddleston Road and Hwy 54 are his primary ways of returning from work and that he had been on Huddleston Drive for about ten years and watched the traffic get continually worse. He advised Council he had met with about 35 business leaders the day before and that all of them had businesses and employees. Furthermore, the businesses felt they were getting shortchanged as far as the development or non-development of Huddleston Drive as far as going onto Hwy 54. Mr. Powers said he had asked for a terminal and the DOT could not do it. He said they did get some asphalt and it did make a lot of difference; however, the problem still exists. Mr. Powers said the proposed plan to limit Huddleston Drive's access and push everything back out onto Hwy 74 and come up through the intersection and make a right turn if you need to go towards Coweta County would not work. He said we are the only industrial park in Fayette County and that tractor trailers and heavy industrial trucks come in and out during the day and that we, as a business community, would like to see some help from the City Council. Mr. Powers said he had asked for a traffic policeman and was told that we could not get one. There are several hundred people who work in the industrial park and this is their primary way home. He said there had been some talk about running the road underneath the bridge. There is an old state highway right-of-way on the other side of the bridge. There is enough room for a single lane to go underneath that bridge. He feels this is a viable solution to this problem. Mr. Powers further stated that the industries would be willing to pay $200 a week for someone to direct traffic to get their employees home. He asked if they could get a commercial intersection at the same time the four lane is installed.

Mayor Lenox made a general comment that there have been a number of meetings relative to this situation In the long term, the only answer is to make the appropriate improvements to Hwy 54, which is the number one project for the City and County and we have agreed that we will put all the resources that we can muster together on this problem. In the short term, there is no good solution. There are some possible bandaids that could improve the problem and we will certainly continue to explore those. We need to find some method that is cost-efficient, safe, and gives us a reasonable situation until we can get to the long-term solution. Lenox thanked Mr. Powers for his recommendation that the businesses, if they could come up with something, might be willing to defray the cost because it would be to everyone's benefit. We are not ignoring this problem. We will keep the dialogue going and see if we can come up with something that at least makes it workable and tenable. Lenox explained that the signal that is going into Wynnmeade will help the situation somewhat. Lenox thanked Mr. Powers for his comments.

Mayor Lenox made a motion that there being no other business, this concludes our regular agenda and moved to take a brief recess to reconvene in Executive Session to talk about a legal matter. Bradford seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bob Brooks made a motion that Council authorize the Mayor to sign a Letter of Agreement dated August 31, 1995. Caroline Price seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lenox made a motion to adjourn the Executive Session. Caroline Price seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Gloria Strobel

Gloria Strobel, Executive Secretary

Attest: Robert L. Lenox

Robert L. Lenox, Mayor