

**CITY OF CHAMBLEE, GA.
MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING AND WORK SESSION
APRIL 16, 2009 6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Mayor Clarkson, Council members Wedge, Robson, Hogan, Zanger and Taylor

Public Hearing: Mayor Clarkson called the Public Hearing to order at 6:05 p.m. and read the rules of order. Dan Schultz, Development Director, identified the parcel as 5251 Peachtree Blvd. (corner of Malone Drive) and the requested variance as section 1201.A.1 of the zoning ordinance which prohibits parking between a building and the street. Michelle Alexander, Pond and Company, read the planner's opinion (copy included with minutes). The Mayor then announced that proponents of the variance had 10 minutes to speak. Jacob McLendon, owner of Adrenaline Fitness which is the business applying for the variance, presented and distributed a power point report (copy included with the minutes) in favor of the variance which took 9 minutes and 30 seconds. The Mayor then announced that opponents of the variance had 10 minutes to speak; no one spoke opposing the variance. The Mayor then opened the floor for questions from the Council. Councilmember Robson stated that variances had been granted for this business to open at this location and the Council directed the staff to provide each of the elected officials with copies of all previous council actions for this project prior to the regular meeting on 4/21/09. The Council clarified with the owner his plans to re-stripe the existing lot which fronts Malone Drive to create more spaces, and confirmed that this parking lot could be expanded, but expansion would also require a variance. The Council also verified with the staff that on-street parking is permitted on all of Malone Drive as public parking, and directed that any signs to the contrary are to be removed immediately by the police department. Any action on the variance will be taken on 4/21/09 at the regular council meeting.

Motion to adjourn hearing at 7:05 p.m. was made by Councilmember Taylor, seconded by Councilmember Wedge and carried unanimously.

Work Session call to order: Mayor Clarkson called the work session for the April Council meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from March meetings: There was no discussion on this item at the work session. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Approval of 1st Quarter 2009 trial balance and LGIP report: There was no discussion on this item at the work session. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Request to set dates for Public Hearings on final millage rate: There was no discussion on this item at the work session. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

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Request for amendment to City Engineer fees: There was no discussion on this item at the work session. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Request for approval of resolution to extend Service Delivery Strategy Agreements with DeKalb County: There was no discussion on this item at the work session. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

First Quarter Budget review: Jim Gleason, City Manager, reviewed the revenue and expense reports for January through March, 2009. Mr. Gleason also presented the Council with some preliminary quotes which would save the City money on group insurance; and he has drafted an RFP for a Benefits Administrator to get formal quotes. **Motion to approve publication of a Request for Proposal for Benefits Administrator** was made by Councilmember Wedge, seconded by Councilmember Taylor, and carried unanimously. The Council requested that next quarter's report have a column that shows revenue/expense for prior year, same time period. This item will not move to the regular agenda for action.

Discussion to allow farmers markets and/or special events as Accessory Uses: Dan Schultz, Development Director, has prepared a report on the current ordinance sections relating to special events which was presented to the Council. After some discussion, the Council asked for a report with more detail and specific recommendations. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Discussion on the opening ceremony and naming of the Keswick multi-use trail: Joel Holmes, Parks and Recreation Director, has requested that the Council set a date/time and guest list for the event so that his department can send invitations. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Financial Transparency: Councilmember Hogan is requesting a policy change requiring City Manager to post our audited financials and monthly financial reports to a conspicuous place on the City's web site. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Taste of Chamblee: A report on the success to date for creating a Chamblee Summer Festival was given to the Council by Councilmember Hogan. No action was requested of the Council, and this item will not move to the regular agenda for action.

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Economic Development: Councilmember Hogan is requesting an update from City Staff on the creation and implementation of an economic development plan (including the use of the billboard). After much discussion, it was decided that this item will move to the 4/21/09 agenda for specific direction/action.

New and Used Car Sales: Mayor Clarkson presented photos and asked the staff to clarify if City ordinances allow cars for sale to be parked on grass surfaces and/or in the right of way. After some discussion, it was determined that this is not allowed and will be reported to code enforcement by the City Manager.

Streetscape Typical: Mayor Clarkson presented photos and asked for staff clarification regarding "typical" streetscape designs which had been prepared for and approved by previous City Council. After much discussion, it was decided that this item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Authority required make changes in or to the city right-of-ways: Mayor Clarkson asked staff if City ordinances require approval of City Council for work in the city right-of way. After much discussion, it was decided that this item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

New Miller Street Sidewalk, Parking and Landscaping : Mayor Clarkson presented photos and asked staff for an explanation of this design and why it differs from the design of the Battery Apartment development on the same street. After much discussion, it was decided that this item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Discussion with city staff regarding public safety in the mid-city district:

Councilmember Taylor asked for staff review of the following concerns:

1. The new linear park: The City Manager reported that the current security plan of routine patrol by the Police Department and graffiti control by the Parks and Recreation department are working well at this time. This item will not move to the regular meeting agenda for action.

2. Pedestrians crossing Peachtree Road: The City Manager presented an estimate to put a crosswalk on Peachtree Road at the intersection of Miller Drive. The crosswalk would not have pavers or in-street lighting as do the Peachtree Road crosswalks installed with LCI funding, but would be striped and have caution lights to the side. This item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

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3. Speed of vehicles traveling on Peachtree Road: Chief Johnson clarified the law which applies to police vehicles when traveling without lights and sirens. This item will not move to the regular meeting agenda for action.

Second Reading of Ordinance for Adoption: The City Attorney will read the ordinance for a Charter Amendment to delete Permits and Inspections Director (as a department head position) at the regular council meeting.

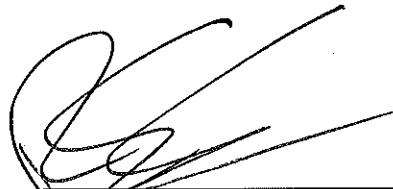
Report on proposed revisions to sign ordinance: The City Attorney sent the report to the City Manager who has distributed it to the City Council. The City Planner has also prepared a report which was distributed at work session. Item will move to the regular meeting agenda for action on 4/21/09.

Citizen Comment: Jim Hanson, owner of retail property at 5300 Peachtree Road, voiced his support for crosswalk at the intersection of Peachtree Road and Miller Drive.

Meeting Adjourned: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m. by unanimous consent.



Kathy Brannon – City Clerk



R. Eric Clarkson - Mayor