



Candidate Questions and Answers

Responses Submitted January 2012

1. How do you envision The City of Peachtree Corners in 20 years?

As a beautiful city with sidewalks, parks, bike trails, a healthy economic environment, and committed citizens that are proud of their city. A city with sufficient resources to support the city needs without tax increases as a result of a proper balance between non-polluting industries, businesses, and well-maintained residential areas. A city where people of all ages will feel welcome and can enjoy community events and functions. A healthy, vibrant place to live with people who care about each other and their community. A community with strong leadership and plans to continue to develop and grow our community leaders. A place where others wish to live, work, and play.

2. What is the biggest problem we have to solve to get there?

We need to develop a master plan for our new city with citizen input. We need to engage all the citizens of our new community. We need to make all of our citizens in the Gwinnett Community aware that we are a city, engage our businesses, community organizations, and residents in our city. We need to communicate and listen. We need to develop an efficient and effective infrastructure, hire the right people, and create a collaborative spirit to succeed as a city.

3. What changes in zoning from the current County Codes would you propose? How do you propose to manage and enforce them?

Review existing zoning issues, and assess the impact of each zoning change on residents and businesses so we can maintain a proper balance between growth and economic viability for our city. Update zoning ordinances that support a more attractive community.

4. What changes in permits and fees from the current County process would you propose? How do you propose to manage and enforce them?

Initially the city should be able to deliver zoning, code enforcement, and trash for less than the dollars quoted in the initial feasibility plan. Suggest subcontracting some of these services.

5. What changes in the garbage plan from the current County service would you propose? How do you propose to manage and enforce them?

Currently, we are under contract to the county for trash services for nearly two more years. This will give the new city council time to obtain citizen input regarding trash services and make recommendations based on the input and data obtained in a timely fashion to ensure a proper transition from one supplier to another should one be needed.

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Lorri Christopher
At Large Post 4

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6. What office space do you think is appropriate for the City government?

As a start-up operation, a lot of space for the city is not needed. There is plenty of available and affordable space that can be used to support the city needs. Consideration needs to be given to affordability, accessibility and access to the technological services need to best support the city and our citizens.

7. What do you think is the best use of the land across from the Forum?

A combination of business and residential that does not increase traffic materially in the area. Senior housing would be beneficial with a bridge to the Forum for accessibility for those that may night drive everywhere. Sidewalks for a walk, live community for seniors and access to small businesses for seniors.

8. How many full time employees will the city need to manage city operations, Zoning, Permits, Fees, Enforcement, Fines, etc.?

A city manager, limited staff to respond to citizen inquiries and to create a city presence. Initially subcontracting some services has been used by neighboring new cities to their operating and economic advantage. We need to evaluate and then use facts to determine the best choices for each function.

9. What is your position on taxes?

Our approved City charter stated the tax assessments that would be assessed. Citizen input and local control should determine taxation issues. Funding needs for the city should be presented to the voters and the city citizens determine what they wish to fund. Open inclusive government will make our community a great city.

10. How would you propose the issuance of City Bonds? When would you find it appropriate?

The city will begin operation with a cash flow problem. This is a short-term problem that will be resolved as projected payments are received. Projections from the Carl Vinson study showed a significant surplus in Year 1. A question might be what we should do with the surplus? I suggest putting half of the surplus in reserve for a rainy day, and allocate the rest of the surplus to projects that make our city areas more attractive.

11. How will you incorporate the views of the disparate communities that now make up Peachtree Corners? In particular, the communities that are very skeptical of the value a city government can bring?

We all need to reach out to those who are unaware we are now a city and to those that opposed the city. The decision has been made. The city option was chosen to enable citizens living with in our community to have a voice on decisions that affected the quality of our area. By communicating, holding open meetings, and forums and creating an open and inclusive environment, we can "Build the Bridges necessary to Connect our Communities". I am grateful to those who suggested and support me in my bid for City Council and I promise to work hard to make our city all it can be and include all of our citizens. Change is a part of our fiber, we have had great leaders in the past who enabled our community to become what it is today and we will build on old traditions and create new ones as we as a connected community move forward.

