



**From the Mayor's Desk**

**March 2017**

## **City Hall Update**

The city will soon be celebrating its 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July and I'm proud to say we've made tremendous strides in such a short span of time. It seems like only yesterday that we were cutting the ribbon on our first city hall space, hiring our first employee, and holding our first city council meeting.

Speaking of City Hall, the lease on the current building we are occupying is set to expire soon and we have already been informed by the owner that a new lease on our current 12,500 square foot space would contain an increase in the lease rate.

There are a number of challenges with housing our city hall out of the current building, which was built as commercial office space in the early 1980s; it does not completely meet ADA requirements, does not have public restroom access, and does not provide for adequate security. The building's layout simply makes it impossible to create the layers of security necessary to create the safe and secure environment that our residents, visitors and staff deserve. The current building is also tucked behind another commercial office building making it hidden from view and difficult to find. Finally, the building lacks the large multi-purpose public event space necessary to facilitate the numerous community groups and civic organizations who ask me if they can hold an event at city hall.

For these reasons, we have been recently looking at other buildings that might be a better fit. I'm happy to report that we have identified such a building about ½ mile from our current location and we have executed a lease on this property. The building is larger and meets all of the requirements and needs that the current location does not. The new city hall space, located at 310 Technology Parkway, also offers street presence which is something that has certainly been lacking at our current location. The cost to rent this space is in line with the effective lease rate we would pay if we were to remain in the current building.

The relocation of City Hall to this new location, which should occur within the next six months, represents an investment by Peachtree Corners into itself and the first step in our reinvestment into Tech Park as part of our Innovation Hub Master Plan. It is helping to take an unoccupied building, which has been vacant for more than three years and in foreclosure merely six months ago, and return it back to a productive use. We are excited to have this opportunity to improve the location and provide our community with a safe, comfortable and useful city hall that we hope to be in for years to come.

There is one element of this transaction that remains under consideration. The lease agreement contains a purchase option that the City is currently considering. As an accountant, I would have loved to include in this letter the spreadsheet we are creating as part of our due diligence and share with you how the numbers are stacking up. However, that would have been premature given that our analysis is

not yet complete. Rest assured that my colleagues and I on City Council take our financial responsibilities very seriously and will continue to ensure that the city is fiscally prudent in managing the expenditures needed to operate the City. So we will weigh this option carefully before making any purchase decision and will keep you informed.

***Mayor Mike Mason***

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