

Peachtree City mayor runs for Insurance Commissioner

By Charles Shiver

Harold Logsdon of Peachtree City believes his experience in municipal government gives him an advantage over his seven



Harold Logsdon

Republican opponents in the race for Georgia Insurance Commissioner.

During Logsdon's service as

mayor of Peachtree City, the City's ISO fire insurance rating improved from 4 to 3, decreasing homeowner's insurance premiums; the City's budget was cut by \$3 million with no increase in taxes; and he provided leadership for an organization that has 250 employees, about the same as for the Tax Commissioner's Office. "None of my opponents have ever done anything like that," Logsdon said.

Logsdon recently spoke to the Adel Roundtable as part of a campaign swing through South

Georgia.

Logsdon said that with 38 years in the Army National Guard before retiring as a Colonel, and 36 years at BellSouth, he believes he has proven his leadership ability. He was elected mayor of Peachtree City in 2005.

He said he is committed to helping consumers who are struggling to find more affordable health insurance; increasing insurance portability; fighting to lower property insurance rates; and holding the line on taxes.

As far as health insurance reform is concerned, "We need to insure the uninsured through the free enterprise system, not through a public option," Logsdon said, adding that having 1.7 million Georgians uninsured puts a \$6.6 billion drain on the Peach State's economy.

"I think it's time to fund the high-risk insurance pool," he said. "We have the pool in place but haven't funded it.

"We could supplement premiums of the 2 to 3 percent of those who are uninsurable and make it

something they could afford."

Logsdon said he took on the cause of keeping citizens safe as mayor of Peachtree City and as the next Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner, he will continue his focus on keeping all Georgians safe. If elected to the state office, he would combat arson, protect people from hazardous materials, and keep public buildings safe. He would consider contracting with investigators from municipal fire departments for arson cases.

Additionally, he said he

would emphasize fraud investigation and represent the consumer, not special interest groups, during these tough economic times. He also would examine the Insurance Commissioner's Office from top to bottom and provide services with more efficiency and effectiveness.

The Republican Primary Election will be held July 20, 2010. For more information about the candidate, please go to his website at www.haroldlogsdon.org.

City Manager offers SPLOST proposals

Negotiations among local governments will begin later this year on a planned renewal of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST).

Elected officials have been asked to begin thinking of projects they would like to include. During last week's Adel City Council meeting, City Manager Jerry Permenter offered as considerations: (1) Expansion of the City Hall, where "we are desperately out of room"; (2) Continuation and completion of the Alabama Road project; and (3) Treatment plant expansion.

According to County CFO Faye Hughes, legislation has been changed to only allow a referendum on the SPLOST renewal as part of the July primary election or November general election, instead of in a special election as has been done in past

years. The current six-year SPLOST cycle started on Oct. 1, 2005, and is due to expire on Sept. 30, 2011. The law allows voters to cast ballots on renewing the SPLOST up to a year prior to the expiration date.

SPLOST can only be spent on projects listed in the referendum. It cannot be spent on recurring expenses like salaries and utility bills.

Also during the Tuesday, Jan. 19, meeting of Adel Mayor/Council:

Internet equipment

City Manager Jerry Permenter advised the Council that the City, which is ending its wireless Internet service, has had contacts from other agencies interested in purchasing the Internet equipment.

Underage alcohol sales

Following the adjudication of

two cases in court for underage alcohol sales, action will now move to the Council for a hearing concerning the alcohol licenses of the establishments where the sales were conducted (Mega Mart and Piggly Wiggly).

A time and date of 1 p.m. Feb. 8, 2010, were set for the hearings.

In-car cameras

Following the receipt of a \$17,748 grant for cameras, the Council was asked to approve the use of asset forfeitures, not to exceed \$2,000, which would allow for the completed purchase of four camera systems for police cars.

Councilman Paige approved the use of the funds with Councilman Duke providing the second. The decision in favor was unanimous.

POWELL

Continued from Front

the park using private contributions, in-kind donations and grants.

"Even more remarkable, last year when he was making revenue projections for FY 2010, while we are still in the midst of this terrible economic situation, Chet and his staff made the confident but surprising decision to increase their revenue goal by more than \$20,000. Today, Reed Bingham has already attained roughly 60 percent of the revenue goal for FY 2010 and the park's busiest months are in the spring and summer."

"At a meeting a few months back, Chet talked about a small tree-thinning project on the Colquitt County side of the park that was changed to a larger clear-cutting operation, which he opposed.

"He said that since he

opposed it, the process would be put 'on hold' until the park's chief of operations decided on how to proceed and he would let us know what the ultimate decision was."

As for the latter point, state officials responded that Powell didn't oppose the planned 170-acre tree thinning on Colquitt County's side of the park and what is planned isn't a clear-cut project.

During the County Commission meeting last week, Commissioner Jeff Lane said, "Everything Mr. Browning said is correct. Chet has done a good job out there."

County Manager Bill Twomey agreed. "I think Chet has done a great job." He noted that Powell serves on the Chamber of Commerce board.

County Commission Chairman Michael Dinnerman

said the concerned citizens were asking the Commissioners to get in touch with the state legislators and DNR officials and try to get the order transferring Powell rescinded.

Bill Twomey said he had already made initial calls about the matter. Dinnerman said letters will be sent and calls will be made on behalf of the County Commission to the state.

The County Commission may also discuss the issue with legislators during a business trip already planned in Atlanta Feb. 7 to 9.

As of Monday, more than 600 people had signed an online petition to keep Powell at Reed Bingham. (It is located at <http://www.thepetition-site.com>.) The addresses show that people as far away as the Midwest and Poland have signed up.

CHAMBER

Continued from Front

Ambassador of the Year; Zoe Myers, executive director of Cook County Family Connection and author of "Dancing With The Dragon: An honest look at drug addiction"; and Beth Ryther, director of Quality and Environmental Services at the Memorial Hospital of Adel and Relay for Life chair.

Small Business of the Year

Bill Hawley, 2010 Chamber chairman, presented the 2009 Small Business of the Year award to Sisters Florist and Bakery. Sonya Griffin accepted the award.

Ambassador of the Year

Holly Greene presented the 2009 Chamber Ambassador of

the Year award to Judy Stracke.

Volunteer of the Year

Martha Darden received the 2009 Volunteer of the Year award from Kyle Clark.

Company of the Year

Jairaj Goberdhan, M.D., and Family Health Center of Adel Inc. received the 2009 Company of the Year award from Bill Hawley. Hawley described Family Health Center as an "unmistakable part of this community" by not only helping the sick, but also by supporting youth and community activities.

The event concluded with 2010 Chamber Chairman Bill Hawley's presentation of a plaque to 2009 Chairman Kyle

Clark recognizing his year of service.

Hawley acknowledged those who survived or went missing during the recent earthquake in Haiti, John Scarboro and David Apperson, as well as local people who have joined the relief effort for the devastated island nation.

In the coming year, Hawley said, the Chamber's leadership will work hard "to get the right people involved in moving our Chamber and community to the next level." In the near future, the Chamber will hire a new president, launch a state-of-the-art website, and plan events that will bring value to the Chamber members.

Community Fitness Kick-off and Health Fair

Saturday, February 6, 2010
9:00 am - 12:00 noon
Cook County Health Department

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Nashville VFW Post 5978 invitation

Former members of the Adel VFW Post are invited to transfer to the Nashville VFW Post 5978. Current service personnel are invited to join the Nashville Post as well. For more information call Kim Nessmith at 229-543-2140 or Gary Nelms at 229-686-4104.

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