

**MINUTES  
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 18, 2006**

*Meeting Location: Suwanee City Hall*

Attendees: Nick Masino, Mayor  
Jeannine Rispin, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jace Brooks, Councilmember  
Jimmy Burnette, Councilmember  
Dan Foster, Councilmember  
Alan Landers, Councilmember  
Hardin Watkins, City Manager  
Aimee Nobs, Human Resources Manager  
Gregory Jay, City Attorney

Absent: Elvira Rogers, City Clerk

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**6:30 P.M.  
PUBLIC HEARING**

Hardin read the Public Hearing Rules aloud.

**1. FY 2006-2007 Proposed Millage Rate**

**This is the third of three public hearings required by state law on the proposed millage rate, which will result in an increase in property taxes by 5.04%.**

The millage rate of 2006 is set at 5.77 mills. This is represented in the budget that was approved in June. The millage rate is the same as last year. Based on the rollback formula the rate would be 5.493. Due to the rate being above the rollback, the city is required to hold 3 public hearings and send out a press release. Hardin referenced the 2006 tax and brief budget document that was available on the back table. The proposed millage rate is increasing property taxes by 5.04%. The millage rate is on the agenda for the 7 PM meeting tonight for adoption.

Citizen Walt Hyzer, who resides at 3656 Martin Farm Road in Suwanee, had a comment about the 5.77 rate vs. the rollback. He shared concern for the justification of the higher rate and the purpose that has not been shared. He communicated that this was not a question, just a comment.

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**1. Call To Order**

Mayor Masino called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**2. Announcements**

- Congratulations to Captain Moon and her promotion to Deputy Chief and Aimee Nobs and her promotion to Human Resources Manager.
- For the third consecutive year, the City of Suwanee has received accreditation from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program. Suwanee was one of 74 cities throughout Georgia to be recognized for its downtown development program during the 2006 Georgia Municipal Association Convention in Savannah last month. In order to be designated a Main Street community; a city must demonstrate a commitment to the physical improvement of buildings and public spaces, aggressive promotion and image building, and economic development of the downtown area.
- The Smooth Jazz Concert Series will conclude at Town Center Park on Friday, August 4 at 7:00pm. Food, beer, and wine will be available for purchase; with vendors set to open at 5:30 p.m. Alcohol may not be brought into Town Center Park.
- The Star 94 Petapalooza and Concert will be held at Town Center Park on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Check the website for additional details. No band announcement to date.

**3. Unveil New City Hall Design Competition Renderings**

City Manager Hardin Watkins introduced Mark Guleserian, Capital projects manager, who provided an overview of the 3 finalists in the design competition for the New City Hall. The three finalists are BRPH, Rosser International, and Sizemore Group. Mark shared that these three finalists presented their plans to the City which illustrated floor plans, elevation, and

site plans. Rosser International had a Contemporary 3 level design. The first level is for parking, 2<sup>nd</sup> for offices/departments and the 3<sup>rd</sup> level for the financial department. This modern design has a glass atrium in the middle. BRPH designed a 2 level building. BRPH conducted research into the history of Suwanee and used the transportation/rail history in their theme. The 2<sup>nd</sup> level of this building illustrates council chambers, an arch, and clock tower. Sizemore Group used a single level dome structure. The Sizemore Group incorporated all of the space needs into 1 level with the option of expansion in the back. The City has a selection group of 8 individuals composed of City employees, councilmembers, Urban Collage, and Heery International. The design competition was open to the public. The committee contacted 42 firms. A total of 18 firms replied with notice of interest for the RFP. The statement of qualifications narrowed the competition to 10. A scorecard was conducted by the selection committee that brought the number down to 6. An interview took place and the selection committee chose 4 firms to be involved in the design competition. One firm decided not to participate. The final recommendation of which firm will be selected will be made by the selection committee who will then present their choice to council for their approval. The three finalists had to use the following criteria in their design: 1) 20,000 square feet; option for expansion, 2) construction budget of \$5.8 million, and 3) space needs program of the various departments. The proposed timeline is to break ground in September 2007 for completion in December 2008.

#### **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

Troop 518 from Shadowbrook Baptist Church presented colors and led the pledge.

#### **5. Approval of Minutes**

A. 6/19/06 Called Meeting

*Motion by Councilmember Brooks to approve the 6/19/06 Called Council Meeting Minutes, second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 6-0.*

#### **6. Adoption of Agenda as Presented**

*Motion by Councilmember Foster to Adopt the Agenda with one change - movement of consent agenda item D to New Business item C, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 6-0.*

#### **7. Special Recognition**

A. Staff Recognition: Promotions Approved in the FY 06-07 Budget

Chief Jones recognized Captain Janet Moon and her promotion to Deputy Chief. Hardin Watkins recognized Aimee Nobs and her promotion to Human Resources Manager.

#### **8. Audience Participation -None**

#### **9. OLD BUSINESS- None**

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Consideration of Ad Valorem Tax Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2006-2007

The required public hearings were held on July 3rd, 6th and 18th. The millage rate is proposed at 5.77 mills to be levied and assessed on property. This is the same rate as last year. ACTION: Consider the ordinance.

***Motion by Councilmember Brooks to approve the ordinance, second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 6-0.***

### B. Consideration of Issuance of a Temporary Alcohol Permit to Wild Wing Cafe for the August 19<sup>th</sup> “Star 94 Concert” and the August 26<sup>th</sup> “Jam for the Cure”

The City is co-sponsoring a concert event with Star 94 on August 19<sup>th</sup>. A private entity has applied to hold a Jam for the Cure event on August 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a concert event to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Both event sponsors have requested the sale of alcohol, which has to be approved by Council. The proposed license holder for both events is Wild Wing Café. ACTION: Consider issuing the temporary alcohol permit to Wild Wing Café.

***Motion by Councilmember Burnette to approve the alcohol permit, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0.***

### C. Accept Donation of Land: Property along Suwanee Creek in the Shadowbrook Subdivision

Bowen Family Homes would like to donate approximately 11.7 acres along Suwanee Creek in the Shadowbrook Subdivision. This is land where the pedestrian bridge will be constructed.

***Motion by Councilmember Burnette to table the donation of land, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0.***

## 11. CONSENT AGENDA

### A. Approve Change Orders 4 and 5 to the Interactive Fountain Project

Change Order #4 is for the amount of \$3,092. Changes had to be made to the steps and the troughs to allow for proper drainage. The center metal grate had a rust finish, so a black powder coated grate was requested for aesthetic reasons.

Change Order #5 is for the amount of \$3,843.25 for the addition of access points (clean-outs) and cover plates throughout the fountain. Six access points were added throughout to allow access to various pieces of the underground system for maintenance. A brass

cover plate was added to the center jets to eliminate spaces where things could get caught and to prevent easy access to damage the jets themselves. ACTION: Approve change orders 4 and 5.

- B. Adopt the Gwinnett County Body Art (Tattoo) Ordinance and Repeal the Existing City of Suwanee Tattoo Ordinance

Gwinnett County passed a Body Art Ordinance in November 2005 in regards to body art establishments. The Gwinnett County Board of Health is requesting that all cities adopt this same ordinance to allow health inspectors to write citations within the city limits and be handled in the municipal court. Suwanee City Council approved a Tattoo Ordinance in December 2004. This ordinance will need to be repealed. ACTION: Adopt the ordinance.

- C. Authorize the Mayor to Enter into Agreement with Gwinnett County for the Use of an Inmate Work Crew and Approve the Correlating Budget Adjustment

Staff has been contacted by Gwinnett County to let us know that inmate work crews are now available from the County Correctional Institute. We budgeted for this expenditure last year but the crews were never made available. No funds were allocated in this year's City budget document due our understanding of the County's staffing shortages. The County now has adequate staff and will also provide the vehicle, equipment, lunch and insurance for the fee the City would pay. We anticipate the use of a crew for 2.5 days per week. The projected cost is \$40,300 for 180 days of work. ACTION: Authorize the Mayor to enter into agreement with Gwinnett County for the use of an inmate work crew and approve of the correlating budget adjustment.

- D. Accept Donation of Land: Property along Suwanee Creek in the Shadowbrook Subdivision

**Moved to New Business Item C**

- E. Approve a Resolution to Adopt the Gwinnett County Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan

Gwinnett County's Homeland Security Director has requested a resolution to adopt this plan from all cities. Each City must adopt this plan if they wish to be eligible for federal funding post-event, should a disaster strike.

***Motion by Councilmember Brooks to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Mayor Pro Tem Risipin and so carried 6-0.***

**12. City Manager's Report -None**

**13. Executive Session- Personnel Matters**

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Rispin to ENTER Executive Session, second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 6-0. Time: 8:00 P.M.**

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Rispin to EXIT Executive Session, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0. Time: 8:50 P.M.**

No action taken.

**13. Adjournment**

**Motion by Councilmember Burnette to Adjourn, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 6-0. Time: 8:50 P.M.**

Approved 08/15/2006