

**MINUTES  
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA  
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING  
AUGUST 25, 2009**

*Meeting Location: City Hall, (330 Town Center Avenue)*

Attendees: Dave Williams, Mayor  
Jimmy Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem  
Jace Brooks, Councilmember  
Daniel F. Foster, Councilmember  
Kevin McOmber, Councilmember  
Marty Allen, City Manager  
Elvira Rogers, City Clerk  
Gregory Jay, City Attorney

Absent: Jeannine Rispin, Councilmember

---

**5:30 P.M.  
DINNER SESSION  
Room 2302**

**City Council Informal Session**

*Informal discussion among City Councilmembers and staff. Food provided for Elected Officials and staff. No action to be taken during session.*

**6:30 P.M.  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Council Chambers – Room 2101**

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 6:35 PM and read the Procedures for Public Meetings for the record.

**1. 2009 Millage Rate**

Marty Allen, City Manager stated the City has advertised two public hearings on the 2009 millage rate. This is the second meeting. The first was held on August 19 at 11:00 am. As directed by Council, the advertisement listed a proposed 5.77 millage rate - no change from last year. There was no audience comment.

**2. AMD 2009-007 Rezoning and Special Use Permit Request Amended Process**

Staff has prepared a proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to modify Article XXI (Amendments) by creating Section 2107 (Support of Comprehensive Planning). This section will require rezoning and special use permit applicants to explain how their proposal is consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan. This project is included on the Short Term

Work Program. Planning Commission reviewed this amendment on August 4 and recommended 5-0 to adopt it as proposed. There was no audience comment.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:39 P.M.

**7:00 P.M.**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Council Chambers – Room 2101**

**3. Call to Order**

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

**4. Announcements**

- a. *Be sure you don't miss this weekend's Paddle in the Park for a unique opportunity to enjoy Sims Lake Park from a whole new vantage point. The City is teaming with Up the River Outfitters to provide kayaks for rent on Saturday and Sunday, August 29 and 30. From 10 a.m.-7 p.m., one- and two-person kayaks will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. The fee is \$10 per person for a 30-minute rental. Life vests will be provided.*
- b. *We welcome Catherine Dixon as the City's new Downtown Manager. Catherine started in early August and will be busy building connections among business owners and between the two distinct areas that comprise downtown Suwanee.*
- c. *If you're a fan of Whole Foods Market, be sure to shop the John's Creek store on Tuesday, September 8. The store will donate 5% of their sales that day to support the City's planned community garden. There is no maximum donation amount, so the higher their sales that day, the more money the garden will receive! The store is also sponsoring several activities that day, including a kid's planting workshop and a cooking demonstration of fresh garden veggies. The John's Creek store is located at 5945 State Bridge Road.*
- d. *The City of Suwanee has received a \$7,500 matching grant from the Georgia Forestry Commission through the 2009 Urban and Community Forestry Program. Suwanee will use the grant to help conduct an inventory of trees located on public property throughout the City. Suwanee is proud of its urban forestry program, having earned the distinction as a National Arbor Day Foundation Tree City USA for the past 19 years.*
- e. *Our annual Suwanee Day celebration will take place on Saturday, September 19, at Town Center Park. This year's festival includes 27 food vendors, nearly 100 arts and crafts exhibitors, a giant slide and other inflatable fun for kids. The evening entertainment includes a free concert headlined by Blessid Union of Souls at 8 pm, followed by a fireworks display. An addition to this year's festival includes free*

*trolley tours of the historic Old Town area, running to and from Town Center Park. Admission to Suwanee Day is free.*

**5. Pledge of Allegiance & Flag Ceremony**

Cub Scout Pack 608 from Epiphany Lutheran Church conducted the flag ceremony and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**6. Approval of Minutes**

**a. July 28, 2009 City Council Meeting**

*Motion to approve by Councilmember McOmber, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.*

**7. Special Recognition**

**a. Annandale Village Special Olympians**

Staff, coaches and villagers from Annandale Village were present. Annandale is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. This is a residential community sitting on approximately 55 acres between McGinnis Ferry and Lawrenceville Suwanee Road. There are approximately 68 registered athletes participating in the following events: Softball, swimming, track & field, bocce ball, bowling, and basketball. Mayor Williams presented the group with a Proclamation recognizing the Special Olympians and announced that August 26, 2009 will be Annandale Village Special Olympics Athletes Day.

**b. Principal Wanda Law, North Gwinnett Middle School**

Mayor Williams presented Ms. Law a certificate naming her an honorary citizen of the City of Suwanee.

**8. Adoption of Agenda as Presented**

Motion by Councilmember Brooks, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 5-0.

**9. Audience Participation – None.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**10. Consider Adoption of 2009 Millage Rate**

*Motion by Councilmember Foster to adopt the 2009 Millage Rate at 5.77, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.*

**11. Consider Adoption of AMD 2009-007 Rezoning and Special Use Permit Request Amended Process**

*Motion by Councilmember Brooks to approve adoption of AMD-2009-007 Rezoning and Special Use permit Request Amended Process, second by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette and so carried 5-0.*

**12. Consider Adoption of OR-2009-003 - Sidewalk Cafe Ordinance**

*Council asked staff to explore an ordinance to modify the City's approach to sidewalk cafés within the Town Center area. Staff looked closely at the Athens Clarke County Sidewalk Café Ordinance and has proposed a similar ordinance. The ordinance would allow for a more open outdoor dining area and ensure that permitted establishments take the proper steps to maintain those areas.*

***Motion by Councilmember Foster to adopt OR-2009-003 – Sidewalk Café Ordinance, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.***

**13. Consider Adoption of OR-2009-004 - Open Air Event Ordinance**

*Council requested staff to identify options to relax some of the regulations regarding sales of alcohol in Town Center. Staff proposes adding a section to the Alcohol Beverage Ordinance to allow for Open Air Events, which would allow patrons of Town Center establishments to leave the premises with a beer or wine and also allow the City to issue a caterers license. Staff has also drafted some amendments to other areas of the alcohol beverages ordinance and the Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions of the Code of Ordinances for consistency with this new section.*

***Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette to adopt OR-2009-004 – Open Air Event Ordinance, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.***

**14. Consent Agenda**

**a. Approval of Issuing a Special Event Alcohol Permit to Ippolito’s for the October 10, 2009 Festa della Pasta**

*Council must issue a Special Event Alcohol Permit for the October 10 Festa della Pasta. Ippolito’s has submitted an application and staff recommends issuing them the permit.*

**b. Adoption of City Social Media Policy**

*Staff has prepared a policy to establish basic guidelines for how the City uses its official social media outlets.*

**c. Adoption of Employee Internet and Social Media Posting Policy**

*Staff has prepared a policy to establish guidelines for employees who post information to and access social media technologies.*

**d. Approval of Catering Logistics for October 13, 2009 Gwinnett Municipal Association Meeting**

*Per discussion at the August workshop, approval of this item will authorize staff to proceed with arranging for cash sales of beer and wine at the October 13, 2009 Gwinnett Municipal Association meeting at City Hall.*

*Motion by Councilmember McOmber to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette and so carried 5-0.*

**15. City Manager's Report – None.**

**16. Executive Session: Legal, Personnel**

*Motion by Councilmember Brooks to ENTER Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues, second by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette and so carried 5-0. Time: 7:31 PM*

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette to EXIT Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel matters, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 5-0. Time: 7:40 PM*

**17. Adjournment – Time: 7:41 PM**

*Motion by Councilmember McOmber to Adjourn, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.*

*Approved 09/22/2009*