

**MINUTES
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009**

Meeting Location: City Hall Room 2302, 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

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

1) 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 6:37 P.M. and read the procedures for public meetings.

2) Alcohol Beverage License for Pearl's Garden BBQ, 45 Satellite Blvd, #3-B & C

Ms. Hyon Suk Kim has applied for on-premise consumption of beer, wine, and distilled spirits for Pearl's Garden BBQ, located at 45 Satellite Blvd, #3 B & C. Staff recommends approval of this license.

Mr. Allen stated this is an existing establishment that is changing ownership. Staff has informed there are no findings that would not allow the license to be issued. The applicant was not present. There was no audience comment.

3) AMD 2009-006: A Proposed Amendment to the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to Modify Article III Definitions and Article V Zoning District Development and Use Regulations in order to Modify the Permitted, Special and Conditional Uses in

All Zoning Districts and Amend Definitions to Clarify Some Uses

Staff has completed an analysis of the land uses included in the City's Zoning Ordinance and prepared a comprehensive update to the permitted and special uses allowed in the City. This includes updating terminology, adding land uses that are not currently listed, and evaluating where specific uses should or should not be permitted. This was scheduled to be presented to the Planning Commission in early September, but the Planning Commission meeting had to be cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Staff recommends proceeding with the previously advertised public hearing and postponing the vote until the October 27 Council meeting so the Planning Commission can consider it at their October meeting.

Josh Campbell, Planning Director, stated the Planning Commission did not meet this month and the Amendment will be heard next month. There was no audience comment.

The Public Hearing closed at 6:41 P.M.

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

4) Call to Order

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

5) Announcements

- *Downtown Suwanee now has its own website address, with this past Saturday's launch of www.downtownsuwanee.com by the Downtown Development Authority. The new website is the go-to site for information about downtown Suwanee shopping, eating, and activities, both Town Center and historic Old Town. The site also includes information about how to open a business in downtown Suwanee, a directory of downtown businesses, and Downtown Development Authority agendas and minutes. The site is designed to be highly interactive, allowing users to upload photos or information about their events. In the future, users will also be able to load listings for available properties in the downtown district.*
- *The City of Suwanee is proud to be a recent recipient of two Nickelodeon 2009 Parents' Picks Awards. Suwanee's Farmer's Market was named the best market in metro Atlanta, while PlayTown Suwanee was also named the top metro playground. From May 5 – July 15, parents all over the country were invited to vote online for their favorite local family-friendly places. Suwanee's locales were included in those two categories and took the top vote in each.*
- *The City of Suwanee also has garnered two Voice of the People Awards for Excellence in parks and recreation programs/classes from the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) and National Research Center.*

The Voice of the People Awards recognize those jurisdictions that have the very highest level of service each year, based on responses from their citizens. Community ratings are derived from the National Research Center's Citizen Survey, which the City of Suwanee administered for the first time last November. Among the findings of the Suwanee survey: 95% of respondents reported visiting a neighborhood or City park and 97% rated City parks as good (21%) or excellent (76%). The Voice of the People Awards were presented last week during ICMA's annual conference in Montreal. Thank you to our citizens for both the Nickelodeon and ICMA awards!

- *If you'd like an opportunity to become more involved in our award-winning community, we have openings on both the Public Arts Commission and the Downtown Development Authority. If you are a city resident or have a business in the city, and are interested, please contact Denise Brinson at 770-945-8996 or denise@suwanee.com or forward a letter of interest and/or resume. The deadline for submission is September 30.*
- *Finally, congratulations to Police Chief Mike Jones and his staff for their recognition by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The Suwanee Police Department was the only finalist among communities with populations less than 20,000 in the 2009 International Association of Chiefs of Police/CISCO Community Policing Award. The award recognizes best practices among law enforcement agencies that have truly implemented community policing as a philosophy. The Police Department will receive its Community Policing Award at the IACP Conference in Denver next month.*
- *Mayor Williams stated that Suwanee Day was success with great fireworks. The highlight of the day was the soldiers from 269 Armored Division from Fort Benning who are being deployed next month to Iraq. The most activated unit in the armed forces.*

6) Pledge of Allegiance

Troop 1830 from the Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints

7) Approval of Minutes

- **August 25, 2009 City Council Meeting**
Motion by Councilmember Foster to approve the August 25, 2009 Minutes, second by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette and so carried 5-0.

Mayor Williams informed the audience that Councilmember Rispin has resigned her position on the Council after 16 years of service. Well wishes are extended to Ms. Rispin as she opens a new chapter in her life, where she will be moving outside the City.

8) Special Recognition

- **Suwanee Performing Arts**

Members of Suwanee Performing Arts were recognized for their contribution to the community for the past 6 years. Mayor Williams presented a Proclamation and declared Wednesday, September 23, 2009 as Suwanee Performing Arts Day.

- **Ambiance Interiors**

Pam Reeves and Kristi Tullis were recognized for placing in a recent arts award. Ms. Reeves stated she is proud of the community and proud she was able to help in the planning. Mayor Williams presented a Proclamation and declared Friday, September 25, 2009 as Ambiance Interiors Day.

- **McGinnis Reserve PACT**

Officer Elias Casanas and Officer Kevin Skinner presented the PACT plaque to residents of McGinnis Reserve. They have met the requirements to become a PACT community. Officer Casanas stated that the Southern Command of the Australian Police has contacted Suwanee PD about the PACT program.

9) Adoption of Agenda as Presented

Motion by Councilmember McOmber to Adopt the Agenda including Item #19 Executive Session for the purpose of Personnel Matters, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.

10) Audience Participation – None.

NEW BUSINESS

11) Consider Issuing Alcohol Beverage License for Pearl's Garden BBQ, 45 Satellite Blvd, #3-B & C

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette to approve issuing an Alcohol Beverage License for Pearl's Garden BBQ, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 5-0.

12) Consider AMD 2009-006: A Proposed Amendment to the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to Modify Article III Definitions and Article V Zoning District Development and Use Regulations in order to Modify the Permitted, Special and Conditional Uses in All Zoning Districts and Amend Definitions to Clarify Some Uses

Staff recommends postponing the vote on this item until the October 27 Council meeting so the Planning Commission can consider it at their October meeting.

Motion by Councilmember Brooks to postpone AMD 2009-006 to the October 27, 2009 Council Meeting, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

13) Consider Authorizing Mayor to Execute Contract with URS in an Amount Not to Exceed \$42,000 for the Buford Highway Concept Plan

The City issued an RFQ for this project and received five submittals. Staff interviewed the top three-ranked firms on September 11 and recommends awarding the contract to

URS. Staff has been in continuing discussions with URS since the interview and has checked their references.

Motion by Councilmember McOmber to authorize the Mayor to Execute a contract with URS in an amount not to exceed \$42,000 for the Buford Highway Concept Plan, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.

14) Consider Authorizing Mayor to Execute Contract with Blue Frog Construction, LLC of Suwanee in an Amount Not to Exceed \$165,321.00 for Construction of the Police Department Expansion and Crossroads Center Renovation

The City received nine submittals for this RFQ, ranging in price from \$154,510 to \$279,250 for the base contract. Staff recommends awarding the contract, subject to attorney approval, to the apparent low bidder, Blue Frog Construction, LLC. The amount of \$165,321.00 is the base bid plus all alternates, which will allow staff flexibility in evaluating the various alternates.

Motion by Councilmember Foster to authorize the Mayor to execute a contract with Blue Frog Construction, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$165,321 for Construction of the Police Department Expansion and Crossroads Center Renovation, second by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette. Councilmember Brooks called for discussion and asked the budget amount. City Manager Allen stated \$328,000 that is good. Due to the economy, this is a good time to bid. In addition, due to value engineering we were able to meet the needs. The vote carried 5-0.

15) Consider Resolution Calling November 3, 2009 Special Municipal Election to Fill the Unexpired Term of Post #2 and Establish Qualifying Dates

Jeanne Rispin resigned from her post on September 18, effective immediately. Staff has prepared a resolution to call for a special election to fill her unexpired term. The election will be on November 3, with qualifying beginning at 8:30 am on Monday, September 28 and closing at noon on Wednesday, September 30.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette to adopt the Resolution for the Calling of a Special Election to be held in conjunction with the November 3, 2009 Election, second by Councilmember Foster. Mayor Williams clarified the qualifying dates would be September 28 beginning at 8:30 a.m. and conclude September 30 at Noon. The vote carried 5-0.

16) Consider Authorizing Mayor to Execute Contract with a Consultant to Prepare the Tree Inventory Study

The City issued an RFQ for this study and received five proposals. Staff is evaluating the submittals now and will have a recommendation ready by the dinner session on September 22.

Motion by Councilmember McOmber to execute a contract with ArborPro, Inc., to prepare the Tree Inventory Study in an amount not to exceed \$15,000, second by

Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.

17) Consent Agenda

- **Authorize Mayor to Execute Contract with Minton Jones of Norcross in an Amount Not to Exceed \$60,099.70 for Furniture Related to the Police Department Expansion and Crossroads Center Renovation**
Staff recommends awarding a contract to Minton Jones for the purchase of the furniture needed for the police department expansion and Crossroads Center renovation. We have specified Hon furniture, in order to match the existing furniture in those buildings. Minton Jones is a Gwinnett County Hon dealer who is authorized under the State of Georgia contract. The total contract is \$60,099.70.
- **Adoption of Resolution in Support of GEFA Requirements for Water System Loan**
GEFA has placed a condition on the water system improvement loan that the City must transfer \$150,000 annually to the Water Fund. They have requested that the City submit a resolution stating this in order to close the loan.

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

18) City Manager's Report

Mr. Allen stated the City did not have widespread damage. There were two roads closed (Martin Farm Road and Stonecypher Road). He stated the Greenway is still under water.

Mayor Williams and Councilmember Foster applauded staff for their commendable efforts for Suwanee Day in spite of the weather preceding Suwanee Day.

19) Executive Session: Personnel Matters

Motion to ENTER Executive Session by Councilmember Foster to discuss Personnel Matters, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

Motion to EXIT Executive Session by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

No Action Taken.

20) Adjournment – 7:50 P.M.

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

Approved 10/27/2009