

**MINUTES
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING
JUNE 22, 2010**

Meeting Location: City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue

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

**5:30 P.M.
DINNER SESSION
Big Splash Room - 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 read procedures for the public comment session.

2) Public Hearing on FY 2011 Budget and 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Mayor Williams stated this is the second required Public Meeting. Marty Allen, City Manager presented a PowerPoint presentation of the FY 2011 Budget. Copies of the PowerPoint presentation were made available for the audience. There was no Council comment.

Public Comment

• **Brad Alexander 3420 Smithtown Road, Suwanee GA**

Mr. Alexander stated, on the positive side, overall it is encouraging that income/revenue is stable compared to other government entities. He stated his concerns are related to capital projects. One of the issues with governments is that they build up an infrastructure

and they're not able to manage them moving forward. The particular projects include the following: 1) Parking deck – a number of people don't know about the project and many who do know don't see a need. Parking needs for events is acknowledged. Funds could better serve alternate transportation; 2) Town Center - a large amount of money has been spent in the Town Center area versus the amount spent in surrounding areas; 3) Community Garden – he stated he has been tracking this project and has not seen the White Street Park budget in other budget documents. He is interested in seeing the final tally on the third project. He asked about obtaining actual project numbers - are these numbers the actual budget. Final comment, be cautious about capital project spending. "We are a blessed community and I hope we stay that way."

- **Maurice Cook, 1342 Riverview Run Lane, Suwanee, GA**

Mr. Cook began his comments by reading Section 2, Paragraph 1 from the Georgia State Constitution. Mr. Cook referenced Mayor Williams reading of procedures for public comment that the public comment session was not a time for question and answers. He continued reading excerpts from 2009 Minutes from the Budget Public Hearing where there were questions and answers and asked why it was ok for questions and answers last year and not in 2010.

Next, Mr. Cook read an excerpt from the City Charter regarding members of appointed boards cannot hold elected office in the City. He stated a member of the Public Art Commission is on Council. He stated he attempted to go to the Public Arts website today and it has been "disabled".

Mr. Cook referenced the following dates where he made requests of Council: November 25, 2008 – stated concern of budget and artwork and requested a bi-monthly meeting to discuss budget issues essential for citizens; June 25, 2009 – budget document should focus on more understandable information and tell the City story; June 22, 2010 – asking for an open Town Hall type meeting where the City Council and citizens can get answers and information regarding budgetary questions.

He stated that he has many questions on the current proposed budget. He continued to comment on a number of other capital projects their estimated (proposed) budget and actual budget.

Mr. Cook stated the Council's refusal to accept and answer questions, the lack of adequate data posted on the websites, the unwillingness to hold a town hall meeting makes it almost impossible for the average citizen to evaluate the budget. Mr. Cook stated, "I guess the question has to be asked, do we continue to uphold the Georgia Constitution and the City of Suwanee Charter?"

- **Dan Pittman, 1373 Riverview Drive, Suwanee, GA**

Suwanee resident for 13 years. States he and his family have enjoyed living in Suwanee but expressed concern with budgets. He expressed he is worried about future costs associated with capital projects. He would like to see projects more diversely divided.

- **Jimmy Spiro, 895 Landover Crossing, Suwanee, GA**
Suwanee resident for 17 years. Concerns about Old Town – it’s a hodge-podge. There are abandoned foundations with high grass growing up (it’s been cut), buildings boarded up; buildings for rent. Mr. Spiro asked questions about several projects: Pierce's Corner renovation – questioned why the building is being renovated; Metal Products - why would the City want them moved out? He stated since questions can’t be asked in these forums - where do you get answers? Mr. Spiro ended his comments with “we’re going to spend ourselves out of a nice place.”

3) Occupational Taxes for FY 10-11 in Accordance with Georgia Law 48-13-28

Amie Sakmar, Finance Director, stated this item is normally on the agenda based on State Law which requires a hearing in any fiscal year where you have more revenue in this category than the previous year. Based on calculations revenues are down and this hearing is not necessary.

Public Hearing closed with a 10 minute recess prior to the City Council Meeting.

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

4) Call to Order

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:35 P.M.

5) Announcements

- a. *We offered a first last year at Sims Lake Park with a chance to paddle across the lake. This weekend, we’re offering another first – the opportunity to camp out at Sims Lake Park. Join our City staff and representatives from Boosterthon for a family camp-out, beginning at 7:00 pm this Saturday. The \$25.00 registration fee includes a light snack and family games. Campsites must be reserved in advance – visit www.suwanee.com to register.*
- b. *Thursday, July 8 is Suwanee night at the Gwinnett Braves game! Join your neighbors at Coolray Field for the 7:00 pm game versus the Charlotte Knights. For this game, anyone with a Suwanee mailing address may purchase discounted tickets. Suwanee businesses may also purchase a corporate package and set up a booth during the game. Visit www.suwanee.com for more details.*
- c. *We are pleased to be the recent recipient of a tourism grant from the Gwinnett Convention & Visitor’s Bureau. The \$4,000 grant will be used to help fund SculpTour, Suwanee’s coming exhibit of outdoor art sculptures. Installation of the exhibit is targeted for spring 2011. To make a contribution to SculpTour, please contact Denise Brinson.*

- d. *The Suwanee Downtown Development Authority is currently accepting applications for its matching façade grant program to help business owners and residents preserve, restore, and improve downtown structures. The DDA will match 50% of the cost for eligible improvements, but not more than \$1,500 for commercial properties and \$500 for residential properties. Applications for this round are due by June 30 and can be obtained at www.downtownsuwanee.com.*

6) Pledge of Allegiance

7) Approval of Minutes

a. May 25, 2010 Council Meeting

Motion to approve by Councilmember Goodman, second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 6-0.

8) Special Recognition

a. Collins Hill H.S. Boys Soccer Team

Mayor Williams was joined by members of the Collins Hill Boys Soccer Team who are the State of Georgia 5-A Champions (back-to-back). The Coach and team members were presented a Proclamation and Wednesday, June 23, 2010 was declared Collins Hill H.S. Boys Soccer Team Day in the City of Suwanee.

9) Adoption of Agenda as Presented

Motion to adopt the agenda removing Item. 15. Executive Session by Councilmember Foster, second by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks and so carried 6-0.

10) Audience Participation

• Maurice Cook, 1342 Riverview Run Lane, Suwanee, GA

Mr. Cook provided photos and explanation of road conditions in need of repair in the Chattahoochee Run Subdivision. He stated these items have been reported to the City and need to be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

11) Consider Adoption of FY 2011 Budget and 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Motion to approve by Mayor Tem Brooks, second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 6-0.

12) Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract with Moreland Altobelli for Program Management Services of Capital Projects Beginning July 1, 2010

The City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for program management services. Fifteen proposals were received on May 6. Staff has reviewed the proposals and interviewed the highest-ranked firms. Staff recommends awarding this contract to Moreland Altobelli of Norcross. This will be a one-year contract with an option to renew for two additional one-year terms.

Motion to approve by Councilmember Goodman, second by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks and so carried 5-0-1 (Councilmember McOmber abstained).

13) Consent Agenda

A. Adopt Updates to Employee Handbook

Staff has completed a recent update to the Employee Handbook to incorporate various policy changes and to comply with the Police Department's CALEA certification process.

B. Authorize Mayor to Renew the Contract with Southeast Corrections to Provide Probation Services for One Additional Year

Staff recommends renewing the existing contract for probation services with Southeast Corrections for one year (the last year of the contract).

C. Adoption of 4th Quarter FY 2010 Budget Adjustments

These are the final adjustments to the FY 2010 budget. The overall budget is not proposed to change; these are adjustments to line items within the budget. Also included are adjustments to various capital budgets, as discussed at the recent capital review workshops.

Motion to approve by Councilmember McOmber, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0.

14) City Manager's Report – No Report.

15) Executive Session: Legal, Personnel, and/or Real Estate Issues - *Removed from Agenda*

16) Adjournment – Time: 7:48 P.M.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilmember McOmber, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0.

Approved 07/27/2010