

**MINUTES
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA
PUBLIC HEARING & CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 26, 2011**

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, #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**

2. Request for Alcohol Beverage License: American Ale

American Ale, located at 3463 Lawrenceville Suwanee Road, Suite 100 & 101, is under new management. The business has applied for Eric Siegrist to be the licensee for its on-premise consumption license.

No Audience participation on this item.

**7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

3. Call to Order

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

4. Announcements

- a. The Suwanee **Farmers Market** opens for the season Tuesday, May 3. It will be open at Town Center Park from 4-7 p.m. Tuesdays through August 2 and 8 a.m.-noon every Saturday (except September 17) through October 1. The market will feature up to 28 vendors offering fresh produce as well as meat and eggs, bread, granola, spices, baked goods, canned sauces and jellies, and honey.
- b. According to a March 3 article in the *New York Times Magazine*, “Cities across America are facing dire financial distress” and are in danger of defaulting on bonds. According to **Standard & Poor’s**, the City of Suwanee is bucking that national trend. On April 1, Standard & Poor’s raised its rating on Suwanee’s general obligation debt one notch to AA from AA-. The international financial-market intelligence company based its upgrade on the City’s historically strong financial position and solid economic foundation. In its rationale for the upgrade, S&P noted Suwanee’s inclusion in the deep and diverse Atlanta metropolitan market; the City’s historically strong financial performance, including maintenance of “very strong” operating reserves; implementation of several key financial management policies; and low overall net debt levels. With this upgrade, the City of Suwanee’s rating from both leading international financial rating agencies stands at AA. Last year, Fitch Ratings recalibrated its rating of the City to AA.
- c. Once again this year, the City of Suwanee and Town Center merchants are putting together good meals...good deals...and good times to entice folks to come out for the monthly **Toast @ Town Center** street festival. Toast @ Town Center is a regular event through which merchants offer special deals, entertainment, and in-store events from 6-10 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month, April through October. Town Center Avenue is closed and a street-festival atmosphere is created. Patrons may purchase drinks at Town Center restaurants – coffee, sodas, beer, and wine – and take them from shop to shop and within the park. The first Toast @ Town Center event of 2011 will be held on Thursday, April 28. The April event has a Paint the Town Purple theme, and 10 percent of each participating Town Center merchant’s proceeds from the evening will be donated to support the City of Suwanee team taking part in the Gwinnett County Relay for Life on May 6.
- d. The Suwanee Police Department is once again participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration’s “**Take Back**” event. The Suwanee Police Department and law enforcement agencies across the country will accept – no questions asked – expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs for disposal from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, April 30. The Take Back campaign allows residents to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter medications in a safe, legal, and environmentally sound manner. Flushing prescriptions and other medications down the toilet or throwing them away in the trash pose potential safety and health hazards.

- e. It's that time of year again ... **Artt on a Limb** is back! Art on a Limb is the City of Suwanee's annual "finder's keepers" program designed to promote an appreciation for art as well as the Suwanee Creek Greenway and other City trails. Each day throughout the month of May, the City will place two pieces of original artwork along specific trails – the Suwanee Creek Greenway and trails at Sims Lake and White Street parks – to be discovered and claimed by those running, strolling, or rolling along. This year's Art on a Limb piece is a steel, ring-shaped candle lantern with an S-shaped hook created out of two horseshoes welded together. The artist is John Wareham, a relatively new Suwanee resident who moved to the community with his family last August.
- f. Gwinnett County recycling event at Lowe's this weekend.
- g. Councilmember Dick Goodman has been appointed to the Gwinnett County Public Library Board.

5. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was led by David Johnson, student at Gainesville State College.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. March 22, 2011 Council Meeting minutes

Motion to approve Minutes as amended by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember Goodman and so carried 6-0.

7. Special Recognition

a. CALEA Presentation

Louis Dekmar, Police Chief of the City of LaGrange and Chairman of the CALEA Commission, presented the City's accreditation award. A reception for this award was held at the conclusion of the Council meeting.

b. Peachtree Ridge Landscape Design Class

Mayor Williams recognized Rosalie Tubre and the special education classes at Peachtree Ridge H.S. for their contributions to the White Street Park – they have installed a planting area.

c. Lieutenant Matt Scott was recognized for 25 years of service. Lt. Scott is the longest tenured employee of the City.

8. Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Goodman to adopt the agenda tabling item #9, second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 6-0.

9. Consider Appointment of the Strategic Plan Steering Committee – Item Tabled

The City's consultant for the Strategic Plan, Interface Studio, plans to begin working

with the steering committee in early May. The Council will be appointing this committee.

10. Consider City Solicitor Appointment

The Municipal Court currently has a vacancy in one of its solicitor positions. Staff has interviewed for this position and recommends appointment Ramon Alvarado for a term to expire December 31, 2011.

Motion by Councilmember Burnette to appoint Ramon Alvarado to fill the Solicitor vacancy, second by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks and so carried 6-0.

11. Audience Participation

- Maurice Cook, 1342 Riverview Run Lane, Suwanee, GA. Mr. Cook expressed concern related to the following: Amount that was spent on the purchase of Pierce's Corner, there are no sidewalks in his neighborhood, curb and gutter needs repair in his neighborhood, Alternate Transportation Plan projects seem to all be within one mile of Town Center, and he feels the City does not support the citizens of his neighborhood (Chattahoochee Run).

OLD BUSINESS

12. Consider Adoption of Pedestrian Bicycle Plan (formerly known as Alternative Transportation Plan/ATP)

The City has been working with Pond and Company to produce an update to the Alternative Transportation Plan (ATP), now called the Pedestrian Bicycle Plan.

Motion by Councilmember Goodman to adopt the 4/11/2011 Draft Plan subject to amending Table 2 to match the rankings found in Tables 1, 4 and 6 and amend the cover to read 4/18/2011, second by Councilmember Foster. Mayor Pro Tem Brooks called for discussion to confirm date of Plan amendment. Goodman offered the following substitute motion: Motion by Councilmember Goodman to adopt the 4/18/2011 Draft Plan amending Table 2 to match the rankings found in Tables 1, 4 and 6 and amending the date on the cover to read 4/18/2011, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0. The original motion was rendered null.

Mayor Williams expressed thanks to the number of people who were involved in and contributed to the Plan process.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Consider Request for Alcohol Beverage License: American Ale

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

14. Consider Award of Contract to Hogan Construction Group for Construction Management at Risk Services Related to the Police Substation Design & Construction

The City received nine proposals to its recent RFP for Construction Management at Risk services for design and construction of the police substation. The City short-listed the top five ranked firms and then interviewed the top three on the short list. Staff recommends awarding this contract to Hogan Construction Group of Norcross.

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

15. Consider Adoption of FY 11 3rd Quarter Budget Adjustments

Staff has prepared the recommended 3rd quarter budget adjustments. Briefly, these include the following:

- *Suwanee Day – Reclassification of several line item expenditures for individual accounts, totaling \$3,200. This does not increase the budget in total.*
- *Community Garden - Reclassification of several line item expenditures for individual accounts, totaling \$2,000. This does not increase the budget in total.*
- *Water Fund - \$16,550 increase to budget for ongoing water system improvements. This adjustment is funded by current consumption charges.*

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

16. Executive Session: Legal, Personnel, and/or Real Estate Issues

Motion to ENTER Execution Session for Legal, Personnel and Real Estate Issues by Councilmember Goodman, second by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks and so carried 6-0.

Motion to EXIT Executive Session by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember Goodman and so carried 6-0.

No Action Taken

17. Adjournment – Time : 8:43 P.M.

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember Goodman and so carried 6-0.

Approved 05/24/2011