

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2015**

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

Attendees: Jimmy Burnette, Mayor  
Beth S. Hilscher, Mayor Pro Tempore  
Richard I. Goodman, Councilmember  
Daniel F. Foster, Councilmember  
Doug Ireland, Councilmember  
Linnea Miller, Councilmember  
Marty Allen, City Manager  
Elvira Rogers, City Clerk  
Gregory Jay, City Attorney

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**5:30 P.M.**  
**DINNER SESSION**  
**BIG SPLASH 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.**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Burnette called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**2. Public Hearing**

**a. RZ 2015-001**

**The City of Suwanee is initiating a rezoning from M-1 (Light Industry District) and PMUD (Planned Mixed Use Development District) to PMUD with conditions to allow for mixed-use development including multi-family and commercial uses. The tracts are located in Land Lot 236 of the 7th District on the southeast corner of Buford Highway and Chicago Street.**

Mayor Burnette stated the City has been contacted by a group of concerned citizens and they have requested this rezoning be postponed in order to obtain additional information regarding the rezoning.

*Motion by Councilmember Goodman to postpone RZ 2015-001 and any action regarding this item until September 8, 2015 at 6:30 PM, second by Councilmember Ireland and so carried 6-0.*

**b. 2015 Millage Rate**

Marty Allen City Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation was made available for the audience. We have received our 2015 tax consolidation information from Gwinnett County. After analyzing the data provided from Gwinnett County, staff recommends a proposed millage rate of 4.93 mills, the same proposed millage rate used in the adopted FY 2016 budget and the same millage rate as the past three years. In accordance with state law, three public hearings have been scheduled on the proposed millage rate. This is the third of three total hearings. There was no audience comment.

Mayor Burnette closed the Public Hearing.

**3. Announcements**

- a. This Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, is our final **Movies Under the Stars event for 2015** and will once again include double-feature presentation. Paddington, based on the beloved childrens' novels by Michael Bond, will be shown on a digital screen at Town Center Park beginning at 7 p.m. At about 8:45, Guardians of the Galaxy, starring Chris Pratt, will be shown on a large inflatable screen. Movies Under the Stars is free and open to the public. For more details, please visit [suwanee.com](http://suwanee.com).
- b. **Qualifying for City Council positions** on the ballot in November will take place August 31-September 2. Anyone interested in running must first officially qualify at City Hall between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on one of these dates. The mayor's position and City Council posts #1 and #2 are up for election this fall. For more information, contact Election Supervisor Elvira Rogers.
- c. Registration is now open for the 15th annual **Suwanee Fest Superhero 5K & 10K Classic** on Saturday, September 12. Presented by Georgia Fitness to benefit Cure Childhood Cancer, the annual Suwanee Fest races, including a 5K, 10K, and children's 1K fun run, begin and finish at Town Center Park. Superhero costumes are strongly encouraged. Registration is available at [active.com](http://active.com). All participants who register before September 1 will receive a finisher's medal, race shirt, and goodie bag.
- d. The community's favorite **Suwanee Fest** returns next month on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 20<sup>th</sup>. Some of the festivities include:
  - The parade, with a theme of "For the love of Suwanee," begins at 9am Saturday morning and will travel up Main Street to Suwanee Dam Road and then down Buford Highway, ending at Chicago Street.
  - More than 100 arts and crafts vendors will offer an array of handmade items in the park from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday and 12-5 p.m. Sunday.

- Face-to-Face, a Billy Joel and Elton John tribute band, will headline the festival entertainment with a 5:30 p.m. performance Saturday.

For full details, including the two-day entertainment schedule, visit [suwaneefest.com](http://suwaneefest.com).

- e. A dual-head, level three, fast-**charging station for electric vehicles** is now operational at Suwanee Town Center. This is the first fast-charge station to be installed by a municipality in Gwinnett County. Located along Savannah Square Street at the back corner of City Hall, the station is capable of providing an 80 percent charge to most electric vehicles in less than half an hour. The current rate is \$1.50 to connect plus 10 cents per minute. Only credit card payments are accepted; electric vehicle network membership is not required.
- f. As part of its growing public art program, the City of Suwanee has installed a temporary interactive public art experience – **a street piano** – at Town Center Park. The donated piano, painted with a colorful tree theme by the North Gwinnett Arts Association, is located at the back of the park near the Farmers Market. Area residents are invited to view and especially play the piano and then post photos or video to the City of Suwanee's Facebook and/or Instagram pages. Use the hashtag #letsplaysuwanee. The project was coordinated by Suwanee's Public Art Commission and is inspired by British artist Luke Jerram's Play Me, I'm Yours program, through which more than 1,450 pianos have been installed in public places in 46 cities across the globe.

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

#### **5. Approval of the Agenda**

*Motion by Councilmember Goodman to adopt the agenda removing Item 11, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Hilscher, and so carried 6-0.*

#### **6. Approval of Minutes**

- a. **July 16, 2015 Council Workshop**
- b. **July 28, 2015 Council Meeting**

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

#### **7. Presentation: Public Art Master Plan**

*The City is finishing a six-month process to develop Suwanee's first Public Art Master Plan. The plan was developed in consultation with Todd Bressi, an independent art consultant from Philadelphia, and Meridith McKinley, a public art planning and programming professional in St. Louis. Mr. Bressi presented the recommended plan.*

**8. Special Recognition: “For the Love of Suwanee” Essay Contest Winners**

*Mayor Burnette recognized the three middle school students that were finalists in the “For the Love of Suwanee” essay contest: Sarah Larkin; Iman Poyan; and Ramey Salyer.*

**9. Consider Board Appointments**

- *Appointment of Michelle Budd to the Planning Commission to replace Elizabeth Sawicki, term to expire 12/31/2015*
- *Appointment of Robert Michener to the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace Michelle Budd, term to expire 01/31/2017*

***Motion by Councilmember Foster to appoint Michelle Budd to the Planning Commission and Robert Michener to ZBA, second by Councilmember Goodman and so carried 6-0.***

**10. Audience Participation**

- Lew Peppetti, 3360 Smithtown Road, expressed concern for the proposed sidewalks on Smithtown Road. He stated he has a petition that is not complete but will be bringing it forward. He stated he has 94% of people on Smithtown sign and say they are not in favor of the sidewalks. He requested a future meeting to discuss further.
- John Holden, 3322 Smithtown Road, expressed concern for the proposed sidewalks. He stated his house sits close to street and property values will be impacted.
- Connie Dillon, 3390 Smithtown Road, expressed concern for the proposed sidewalks. She stated she is not interested in being part of the Duluth-Suwanee trail path. She has lived on Smithtown 25 years and love the quaint community.
- Craig Oakes, 3408 Rising Fawn Trail, stated there are no sidewalks in their area. They cannot walk to a park in their neighborhood, because there are no sidewalks. The citizens of Suwanee Creek would be happy to send the city a proposal.
- Charlotte Trawick, 4643 Moore Road, expressed concern for speeding issues along Settles Bridge & Short Street. There had been previous police presence. Also, sidewalks between Settles Bridge and Short Street there is no curbing along the sidewalks. This is a safety hazard. Would a round- about be a consideration for this area?
- June Crowe, 3315 Smithtown Road, concerned for speeding along Smithtown and concerned for proposed sidewalks. She states she does not think sidewalks will be good in the area.

- Jimmy Spiro, 895 Landover Crossing, expressed concern for speeders on Moore Road, questions on police jurisdiction on Moore Road and a drainage problem at Moore Road and Landover Crossing.
- Wanda Law, Principal at North Gwinnett Middle School, thanked the Council for recognizing the students tonight and encouraging literacy and real life application. Also, she thanked the City for being a community to allow students to express themselves and give back to the community. The students have been involved in the art program, SculpTour, writing and many other avenues. The students have a sense of belonging and know they can make a difference.
- Earl Mitchell, 4120 Lansfaire Terrace, expressed concern about vehicle noise at his home. He reports 85 decibels coming from enhanced motorcycles and mufflers. He states if the speeding problem were controlled, the noise problem would be controlled. Mr. Mitchell thank Council for their service.
- Robert Michener, 3656 Martin Farm Road, shared information regarding the “Gr8 Exchange” of Information related to transportation initiative in Gwinnett County.
- Margie Cook, 1342 Riverview Run Lane, stated she thinks the City loves to do consultants. She highlighted recent consultant projects – In 2006 a consultant was hired on a project that was implemented in 2013. Recently a consultant provided the 2020 Plan. Art was the last thing on the list in this Plan and today art is about all we hear. Maybe the City can cut the consultant budget and hire fewer consultants if the City is not going to listen to what the citizenry wants.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **11. Consider RZ 2015-001 – ~~Removed from Agenda~~**

### **12. Consider Adopting 2015 Millage Rate**

*Motion by Mayor Pro Tempore Hilscher to adopt the 2015 Millage Rate, second by Councilmember Goodman and so carried 6-0.*

### **13. Consider Adopting Downtown Master Plan**

*The City has completed a nearly year-long community engagement and planning process to develop an updated Downtown Master Plan. The updated plan memorializes community goals and vision for Town Center and Old Town. The City updates this master plan approximately five years and it is one of the criteria for eligibility for funding from the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Livable Centers Initiative program.*

*Motion to adopt the Downtown Master Plan by Councilmember Miller, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Hilscher and co carried 6-0.*

**14. Consider Agreement with North Gwinnett Arts Association**

*This agreement is a contract with NGAA to operate a Suwanee Arts Center, which will include a welcome center and visitors' services on behalf of the City. The agreement is for a 12-month period.*

*Motion to approve the Agreement with NGAA for a 12-month period by Councilmember Goodman, second by Councilmember Ireland and so carried 6-0.*

**15. Executive Session: No Executive Session**

**16. Adjournment**

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

**Approved September 22, 2015**