

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2018

Meeting Location: City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue

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

DINNER SESSION – 5:30 PM
BIG SPLASH ROOM

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.

COUNCIL MEETING – 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

A. Call to Order

Mayor Burnette called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM and read the procedures for Public Hearings for the record.

B. Public Hearing

1. Alcohol Beverage License – Courtyard Marriott

Courtyard Marriott, located at 310 Celebration Drive, has applied for a new licensee to serve beer, wine and distilled spirits. Mr. Rajendra Patel is the licensee and was present at the meeting. The Business Services department recommends approval.

- 2. RZ-2017-009 – Owner: Karen Williams. Applicant: Jennifer Spencer. The applicant requests a rezoning from R-100 (Residential Single Family District) to OTCD (Old Town Commercial District) to allow for a reception hall. The site is located along White Street across from White Street Park and contains approximately 1.5 acres**

Josh Campbell, Planning Division Director, presented the staff analysis. The request is to allow for the development of an approximately 6,000 sq. ft. reception hall and associated parking on the subject property. The building would be a rustic style, white farmhouse that sits approximately 30 feet tall with a large covered side porch facing a garden area. The developer of the new adjacent Harvest Park neighborhood is extending White Street to intersect with Buford Highway just past White Street Park. This new public road will serve as the primary access for the proposed reception hall.

The property is located across the street from White Street Park which includes the Harvest Farm community garden, Harvest Farm barn and the newly completed Orchard. The Downtown Suwanee Master Plan calls for White Street to preserve its semi-rural character while incorporating a mix of small lot single family housing types. The OTCD rezoning is appropriate for the subject property for the proposed use of a reception hall.

The Planning Department recommends approval with conditions. There is no recommendation from the Planning Commission.

Support:

- Clinton Kurtz ?? 2475 Northolt Parkway
(Note: recording audio low.)

Mr. Kurtz provided detail related to the proposed events venue. He stated there will be minimal traffic impact to the area. There have been concerns related to alcohol at events, all caterers will be permitted. There have been concerns related to noise, there will be no outside speakers. A tree buffer is proposed. All events to be terminated no later than 11 PM.

Council asked questions related to grading and disturbance along railroad, retaining walls on the site, alcohol use, tree buffers, ingress/egress to the site, operating hours and staffing, etc.

- Tonya Christiano, 1300 Peachtree Industrial Boulevard, Suwanee, GA
Ms. Christiano stated events will take place on evenings & weekends. During the week there may be classes and/or corporate meetings, etc. Weekday events are unlikely.

Opposition:

- Will Mashburn, 712 White Street, Suwanee, GA, expressed concern for events serving alcohol and the impact on park usage and liability with children being in the area using Harvest Farm Park. He also expressed concerns related to increased traffic in the area.
- Kristen Nielsen, 763 Cambron Commons Trace, Suwanee, GA, expressed concerns related to traffic along White Street and asked if a traffic study

has been conducted. She also expressed concerns related to water run-off due to grading the site.

- Roger Grant, 4015 Dollar Circle, Suwanee, GA, stated he liked the architectural concept and it seemed the applicant was trying to fit in Suwanee's vision. The site plan did not look realistic. He stated the site grade change seemed to be 38-41 feet. There seemed to be a reasonable amount of cut & fill work to be done and it will be expensive to haul off the dirt from site.
- Jill Mashburn, 712 White Street, Suwanee, GA, expressed concern that the facility would be so close to the church.
- Angela Isom, 673 White Street, Suwanee, GA, stated she is the oldest property owner on White Street. She is concerned with traffic.

Applicant Rebuttal

- Jason Spencer, 3749 Baxley Ridge Drive, Suwanee, GA, stated this is not a rural area and is designated mixed-use.

C. Announcements

1. Our popular **Glow in the Park** community lantern parade returns on Saturday, April 14! Join us as a strolling jazz band leads an illuminated pageant of light, music, and color around Town Center Park, ending at a concert starring The Glow Band at the park stage.

This event is a community celebration of creativity; everyone is strongly encouraged to create illuminated costumes and carry their pre-made lanterns to parade together! The North Gwinnett Arts Association is hosting multiple make-and-take lantern workshops.

2. Our next **Citizens Police Academy** begins on April 16th and will be hosted on Monday evenings through June 28 at the Suwanee Police Training Center.

The academy offers classroom training and hands-on experiences in crime scene processing, traffic stops, building searches, crime prevention, and narcotics identification and provides an understanding of the risks and responsibilities of officers.

Classes are free and open to the public. For additional information and an application, contact Officer Richard Pope at rpope@suwanee.com or 770-904-7641. Notarized applications are due Friday, April 12, 2018.

3. The City is looking for designers, artists, and creative people in general to submit **logo designs for Suwanee Fest 2018**. The designer of the winning logo will see his or her design on official festival t-shirts and marketing posters, as well as receive a \$500 prize.

The competition is open to professional and amateur designers of all ages. In celebration of the bicentennial anniversary of the founding of Gwinnett County, this year's Suwanee Fest will have a vintage Americana theme. The deadline for submissions is April 13; see SuwaneeFest.com for additional guidelines and an entry form.

4. Join us for our final **Winter Farmer's Market** of the season on Saturday, April 14th from 9-11 a.m. Stop by and enjoy fresh local winter produce, such as lettuces, greens, potatoes, carrots, Brussels sprouts, baked goods, and a variety of other delicious, local flavors. The weekly summer market will return on Saturday, May 12th.
5. The Sarcoma Foundation of America has been producing Race to Cure Sarcoma events in cities across the United States and has chosen Suwanee as the location for its **inaugural Race to Cure Sarcoma Atlanta on April 14**. This 5K Walk/Run is a family friendly event, with a goal to raise both awareness and resources for sarcoma research nationally.
6. We're unleashing a brand-new pet-friendly event! Proceeds our **April 21st Race for the Rescues 5K and Fun Run** benefit various animal rescue organizations across metro Atlanta. Man will receive a medal, and man's best friend will earn a bandana. Register at Suwanee.com.
7. Congratulations to our own Chief Mike Jones for receiving a **Leadership Award** from the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce during last week's Valor Public Safety Awards ceremony. The Leadership Award recognizes an individual who has excelled in community-oriented engagement and activities that are collaborative, cooperative, and proactive. Suwanee's PACT program was highlighted as part of Chief Jones' award.

We also want to recognize Officer Chance Belcher who was nominated for a Lifesaving Award. Officer Belcher was nominated for his response to a serious accident in 2017. His successful tourniquet application has been credited with saving the victim's life.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

E. Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the Agenda as presented by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember Miller and so carried 6-0.

F. Approval of Minutes

1. February 15, 2018 Called Meeting
2. February 15, 2018 Council Workshop
3. February 27, 2018 Council Meeting

Motion to approve by Mayor Pro Tempore Goodman, second by Councilmember Hilscher and so carried 6-0.

G. Council Recognition

1. Bryan Hickey – 20 years of service
2. Suwanee Park Ambassadors

H. Audience Participation

- Will Mashburn, 712 White Street, Suwanee, GA, expressed concern for Buford Highway project utility trucks causing sight distance problems.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Consider RZ-2017-009 from R-100 to OTCD on White Street

Motion to Deny RZ-2017-009 by Mayor Pro Tempore Goodman, second by Councilmember Ireland and so carried 5-1 (Councilmember Miller voted against).

NEW BUSINESS

J. Consider Alcohol Beverage License for Courtyard Marriott

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

K. Consider Award of Contract for Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Median Project

Staff has released a bid for modifications to the Peachtree Industrial Boulevard medians.

Motion by Councilmember Ireland to award contract to BrightView Landscape Services in the amount of \$126,534.81 for Peachtree Industrial Boulevard Median Landscape Modifications and Right-of-way Maintenance and authorize the Mayor to execute contract documents, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Goodman and so carried 6-0.

L. Arbor Day Proclamation

The City will announce details for the annual Arbor Day celebration.

Motion to adopt by Councilmember Hilscher, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Goodman and so carried 6-0.

M. Consider Short Term Work Program

Staff will present the draft STWP, that was developed at the City Council retreat.

Motion to adopt by Councilmember Miller, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Goodman and so carried 6-0.

N. Consent Agenda

1. Approve Surplus Sale List

Staff has scheduled a surplus sale for early May.

2. Approve Indemnification Agreement with Georgia DOT

As part of the Solis Town Center Project, Terwilliger Pappas installed a water quality device in the Buford Highway right-of-way. The state has asked the City to sign an indemnification agreement with GDOT.

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

O. Executive Session: Property Acquisition

Motion to ENTER Executive Session for Real Estate by Mayor Pro Tempore Goodman, second by Councilmember Miller and so carried 6-0.

Motion to EXIT Executive Session by Councilmember Ireland, second by Mayor Pro Tempore Goodman and so carried 5-0 (Councilmember Miller not in the room).

P. Adjournment

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

Approved April 24, 2018