

MINUTES
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2013

Meeting Location: City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue

Attendees: Jimmy Burnette, Mayor
Richard I. Goodman, Mayor Pro Tem
Daniel F. Foster, Councilmember
Beth S. Hilscher, Councilmember
Doug Ireland, 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

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

A. Call to Order

Mayor Burnette called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. and read the procedures for public meetings for the record.

B. Public Hearing

- 1. AMD 2013-001: A proposed amendment to the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to modify Article III Definitions and Article XVI Signs to address the use of lighting in or as signage.**

Josh Campbell, Planning Director, presented the staff analysis as follows: The proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance prohibits the use of LED light strips for signage. The Planning Commission unanimously recommended approval of the amendment with one change – Section 1611 adding the word “exposed”.

C. Announcements

1. Events

Farmers markets and food trucks have become two of metro Atlanta's most popular ways to access fresh ingredients and ready-made meals and you'll find both in Suwanee this season. Beginning Saturday, May 4, the Suwanee Farmers Market will open for the season. Through the twice-weekly market, area residents may purchase fresh produce as well as jams, breads, honey, meat products, eggs, flowers, and more from a variety of vendors. The market is open at Town Center from 8 am-noon Saturdays through October 5 and from 4-7 p.m. Tuesdays through August 6.

On the first Friday of each month from May through September, Suwanee will host some of Atlanta's favorite food truck vendors. Food truck vendors on May 3 will include Chay J's New Orleans Candies, King of Pops, Mac the Cheese Truck, Mighty Meatball Mobile, Nana G's Chicken and Waffles, One Love Jerk Grill, and Pressed for Time. Dinner will be served up about 7 p.m., and the Peachtree Ridge, North Gwinnett, and Collins Hill high school jazz bands will perform on the Town Center stage.

We'll round out our fun first weekend of May with B at the Movies on Saturday night, May 4th. B98 will show Men in Black 3 on the big screen at Town Center Park. Released last year, this time-travel, sci-fi comedy is rated PG-13. The movie screening will begin shortly after dusk. Bring snacks, blankets, and lawn chairs, but no alcohol may be brought into the park.

Suwanee's annual finders-keepers, month-long Art on a Limb program will bloom along the Suwanee Creek Greenway as well as Sims Lake and White Street parks throughout the month of May. Two pieces of original artwork are hidden each day; those who find a piece of art along one of Suwanee's trails get to keep it. This year's Art on a Limb pieces are clay birds and tiles created by Suwanee artist Judy Isaak. On the tiles are representations of nature and Suwanee landmarks. The pieces are created from red clay, which Isaak chose to represent the ubiquitous red Georgia soil.

2. SculptTour

The new 2013-2015 pieces will go up the first week of May in time for the official launch during "Arts in the Park" on May 18. Two pieces from the 2012-2013 Tour are being purchased by the PAC: "Wind Sculpture Weathervane" by Al Garnto as the "people's choice" and "Audubon Watcher" by Jim Collins.

We's also like to thank Scott and Debbie Dovel for making a donation to purchase "Pilgrim" by artist Charlie Brouwer. "Pilgrim" is currently located in front of the Suwanee library. Library officials have agreed to have it remain there and as part of the permanent pieces displayed for SculptTour.

3. Video Contest

Make Suwanee the star of your original 1-3 minute video and you could be the winner of up to \$1,000. The deadline for submissions to the City of Suwanee's 2013 video competition is May 24. We're looking for fun (and funny) videos about why it's great to live in Suwanee. The City hosted its first video competition last year and received seven entries. For more details on the contest, visit suwanee.com.

D. Pledge of Allegiance

E. Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Councilmember Foster to approve the Agenda, second by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber - yes

F. Approval of Minutes

- 1. March 14, 2013 Council Workshop**
- 2. March 26, 2013 Council Meeting**

Motion to by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman to approve, second by Councilmember Hilscher and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber - yes

G. Special Recognition

1. Hope Norris

Mayor Burnette recognized artist Hope Norris from Annandale Village for donating a painting to the City.

2. Police State Certification

Chief Jones recognized Mark Bender, Director of State Certification of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. Mr. Bender recognized Suwanee's recent re-certification by the State and presented a plaque. In addition, Lieutenant Dan Clark was presented a plaque for his work during the re-certification process.

3. North Gwinnett Ladies Basketball Team

Mayor Burnette recognized the team for competing in the state championship.

H. Audience Participation

- Linda Fleming – 527 Main Street, Suwanee, GA
Ms. Fleming addressed Council regarding the recent National Registry meeting conducted by State staff. She expressed concern that during the question and answer session the State staff exhibited inappropriate behavior and she felt they did not answer questions. She posed a question to elected officials – “What is driving the National Registry process?” It seems to have moved away from saving Pierce's Corner. She stated the consultant map has been revised three times and there seemed to be some discrepancies on the map (i.e., Russell Street



does not cross Buford Highway, structures east of Buford Highway not marked contributing and non-contributing, etc.). Two homes built in 1800 were not included. Ms. Fleming also expressed concern that the African American community on Scales Road and the African American cemetery were not included. She stated she has visited the Jackson Street cemetery and is concerned about the upkeep and inability to locate graves.

She stated the Main Street area has a low amount of rental property and the Main Street neighbors are still united and are requesting not to be included. She asked Council to “please listen to and respect the residents.”

- Jimmy Spiro – 985 Landover Crossing, Suwanee, GA
Mr. Spiro stated he attended the National Registry Meeting and expressed concern for the elderly people who are not interested in participating. He stated the first map did not include the people who are against the Registry. Mr. Spiro also commented on the State Registry staff and that he felt they did not answer questions.

NEW BUSINESS

- I. Consider AMD 2013-001: A proposed amendment to the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to modify Article III Definitions and Article XVI Signs to address the use of lighting in or as signage**

Motion to approve AMD-2013-001 with P&Z changes by Councilmember Hilscher, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber - yes

- J. Consider Authorizing Gwinnett County to Install an Upgraded Traffic Signal at McGinnis Ferry Road and Scales Road**

The City is coordinating with Gwinnett County to install a traffic signal at McGinnis Ferry Road and Scales Road. The County’s standard installation includes concrete poles with wires spanning the intersection. In the past, the City has paid to upgrade such signal installations to include mast arms and underground utilities. The County has estimated a cost not to exceed \$25,000 for this upgrade.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman to authorize Gwinnett County to install an upgraded traffic signal at McGinnis Ferry Road and Scales Road, second by Councilmember Ireland and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber – yes

- K. Consider Adoption of 2013-2017 Short Term Work Program**

Motion to adopt the 2013-2017 Short Term Work Program by Councilmember Foster, second by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber – yes

L. Consider Adopting a Resolution for Presentation of Service Award Upon Retirement

Staff recommends adopting a procedure to allow for the recognition of long-term retiring employees.

Motion to adopt a Resolution for Presentation of Service Award Upon Retirement by Councilmember Foster, second by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber - yes

M. Consider Intergovernmental Agreement with Gwinnett County for Use of Election Equipment

In order to use the County's election equipment, the City needs to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with the County.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman to enter an Intergovernmental Agreement with Gwinnett county for Use of Election Equipment, second by Councilmember Ireland and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber - yes

N. Executive Session: Legal, Personnel, and/or Property Acquisition Issues (if necessary)

Motion by Councilmember Ireland to Enter Executive Session for Property Acquisition Issues, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber - yes

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Goodman to Exit Executive Session, second by Councilmember Ireland and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber – yes

No Action Taken

O. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 6-0. Vote: Burnette – yes; Foster – yes; Goodman – yes; Hilscher – yes; Ireland – yes; McOmber - yes

Approved 5/28/2013