

**MINUTES  
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA  
PUBLIC HEARING & CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 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  
Phyllis Edmond, HR Manager  
Gregory Jay, City Attorney

Absent: Elvira Rogers, City Clerk

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**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.*

**PUBLIC HEARING  
Council Chambers  
6:30 P.M.**

**2. Request for Change in Alcohol Beverage Licensee: Applebee's, 125 Celebration Drive (Gwinco Blvd.)**

Applebee's has applied for a change in the licensee for their alcohol beverage license. Stanley D. Klaus is the applicant. The Finance Department recommends approval.

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Council Chambers  
7:00 P.M.**

**3. Call to Order**

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### 4. Announcements

- *The Downtown Development Authority is hosting their annual **Festa della Pasta** on Friday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. The al fresco Italian dinner will be served under a festive tent on Main Street in historic Old Town and makes for a great date night. Tickets are \$10 per person and are available for purchase at either City Hall or Ippolito's.*
- *Suwanee has once again been highly rated by its citizens through the National Citizen Survey, which was conducted last fall. The City was recognized at last week's conference of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) with two **Voice of the People awards**, given to the jurisdictions with the highest rated services in the survey.. Suwanee received Excellence awards for City parks and overall quality of services, one of only nine jurisdictions in the country to win an Excellence award, and the only one in Georgia.*
- *Suwanee's **bond rating** was recently upgraded by Fitch Ratings from AA to AA+, representing the third time the City's rating has been raised in the past 17 months. The upgrade was issued following a routine review. Fitch Ratings states the upgrade was based on, "the City's very strong financial profile, marked by the consistency of operating results and maintenance of robust reserves and liquidity over a prolonged period of time."*
- *The City was also recognized recently with an award from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its first-ever **Popular Annual Financial Report**. Suwanee's report was recognized for being readily accessible and easily understandable, as well as its creativity and reader appeal.*
- *Applications for the 2012 season of the Harvest Farm community garden are available for download at [www.suwanee.com](http://www.suwanee.com) and will be accepted from 6:30-7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at the White Street Park barn. Harvest Farm opened in 2010 as Georgia's largest organic community garden and has been at 100% capacity for its first two seasons.*

#### 5. Pledge of Allegiance

*Earl Mitchell, who serves on Zoning Board of Appeals and Public Arts Commission led the Pledge.*

#### 6. Approval of Minutes

- August 11, 2011 Called Council Meeting**
- August 23, 2011 Council Meeting**

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

## 7. Special Recognition

### a. Dance Art Centre

*Suwanee's Dance Art Centre recently competed in the 2011 World Dance Championship Series in Dallas, TX and was the highest-ranked studio in Georgia.*

### b. Vickie Johnson and North Gwinnett Arts Association

*Recognition for Vickie Johnson and the NGAA for the work they have done in advancing Suwanee's arts culture.*

### c. Denise Brinson, Economic Development Director

Marty Allen, City Manager presented Denise with the Hardin Watkins Star Award. "There are some employees who go above and beyond and add value to the City" per Marty, "and Denise is one of them". Mayor Williams wanted to see her get this award before he left office.

## 8. Adoption of Agenda

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

## 9. Audience Participation

- Maurice Cook, 1342 River View Run Lane, Suwanee, GA mentioned that he had attended the Regional Referendum for Transportation for Gwinnett County the previous night. Mr. Brian Allen stated sections of McGinnis Ferry had sidewalks. He corrected him later that all areas didn't have sidewalks. He complained that old maps and out-dated information is being used. Another complaint he had was that previously council members were not allowed to run for mayor. That has now been removed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 10. Consider Request for Change in Alcohol Beverage Licensee: Applebee's, 125 Celebration Drive (Gwinco Blvd.)

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

### 11. Consider Award of Contract for Suwanee Creek Greenway Rehabilitation

Bids are due for this project on September 25th and staff anticipates being able to recommend an award of contract by the Council meeting.

*Motion to postpone to October 13, 2011 by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 6-0.*

## 12. Consent Agenda

### a. Appoint Billie Marshall as Absentee Ballot Clerk for November 8, 2011 Municipal Election

State law requires the City to appoint an absentee ballot clerk for the November 8<sup>th</sup>

election. Staff recommends appointing Billie Marshall.

**b. Adopt Resolution of Commitment for the Tourism Product Development Grant**

Staff recommends applying for a \$20,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Economic Development Tourism Division and the Georgia Council for the Arts. The grant will be used to install the public display of the World Trade Center artifact the City received. This grant requires a local dollar-for-dollar cash match.

**c. Adopt Resolution of Commitment for the Gwinnett Convention & Visitors Bureau 2011 Tourism Grant**

Staff recommends applying for a \$3,500 grant from the Gwinnett Convention and Visitors Bureau that will be used to produce electronic audio for the 2011/2012 SculpTour. This will enhance the SculpTour experience by creating electronic audio for self-guided tours of the walkable exhibit. Staff plans to contract with a media outlet for the creation of a podcast or downloadable application. There is no match required for this grant.

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

**13. Executive Session: Legal**

*Motion to enter Executive session by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 6-0.*

*Motion to exit 5-0. Councilmember McOmber not in the room.*

No action taken.

**14. Adjournment 8:10 p.m.**

**Approved 10/25/2011**