

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA**  
**CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING & MEETING**  
**AUGUST 24, 2010**

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 McOmer, 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 - 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 – Room 2101**

**2. 2010 Millage Rate**

*This is the second and final public hearing on the 2010 millage rate; the first was held on August 12. The City has advertised a proposed rate of 5.77 mills, which is the same rate as last year.*

City Manager, Marty Allen, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Millage Rate and stated the millage rate is proposed to be reduced to 5.70, due to the current tax digest from Gwinnett County. Councilmember Brooks asked if the recommendation takes into consideration the appeals. Mr. Allen stated that the appeals are an unknown, but based on the information a millage reduction is proposed.

**Audience Comment**

- Mr. Jimmy Spiro, 895 Landover Crossing, Suwanee, GA. Mr. Spiro stated he has posed his question several times without an answer. He stated the bond portion of the tax bill is the only increase in the past 8 years. Why does this change every year? Why can't the bond be paid off? There was no additional audience comment.

**3. Request for Change in Licensee for Alcohol Beverage License: Olde Towne Tavern & Grille, 340 Town Center Avenue**

*Olde Towne Tavern & Grill has applied for a change in licensee for its alcohol beverage licensee. The new licensee is Franklin G. Merriam. The finance department has reviewed the application and recommends approval.*

Mayor Williams stated that the request results from the previous licensee no longer being associated with the restaurant. There was no audience comment and the Public Hearing concluded to restart at 7 P.M.

**7:00 P.M.**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Council Chambers – Room 2101**

**4. Call to Order**

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

**5. Announcements**

- *Help us build a “magical classroom in the trees” at the new White Street Park - a place where all Suwanee children can learn about nature, sustainability, and gardening. A proposed project to build a handicapped-accessible, eco-friendly treehouse has been accepted as one of 1,000 programs nationwide on which people can vote to fund through Pepsi’s Refresh Project. Suwanee’s project was accepted in “The Planet” category of the Refresh Project at the \$250,000 level. In order to be funded, the project must be one of two top vote-getters in September at the \$250,000 level. We need you to vote! Please consider voting daily throughout the month of September for Suwanee’s treehouse project. Vote at [www.refresheverything.com](http://www.refresheverything.com) beginning September 1.*
- *A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), will arrive in Suwanee Saturday, August 28, to begin examination of all aspects of the Suwanee Police Department’s policy and procedures, management, operations, and support services as the department seeks national accreditation. As part of the four-day on-site assessment, members of the community are invited to offer comments about the Police Department at a public information session at 6:30 p.m. Monday, August 30 at City Hall. Or, feel free to phone in comments from 1-3 p.m. the same day to 770-904-7658.*
- *We want to make our award-winning parks even better and we need you – our residents and park-users – to give us your ideas about how to do that. As your children have romped through one of Suwanee’s playgrounds or as you’ve strolled along one of the trails, have you ever thought “This park needs a ....” or “It’d be so cool if this park had a ....”? Send suggestions to Jessica Roth at [jroth@suwanee.com](mailto:jroth@suwanee.com).*

- *Applications are currently available for the fall Citizens Police Academy. This popular eight-week program will begin October 5 and offers participants a hands-on, real-life glimpse of life behind the badge. Completed, notarized applications must be submitted by Friday, September 24; applications are available online at [www.suwanee.com](http://www.suwanee.com).*
- *Want a duck's eye view of Sims Lake Park?! Kayak rentals will be available at the park over two upcoming weekends. Up the River Outfitters will offer rentals from noon-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25 and October 23 and 24.*
- *The first phase construction of White Street Park is now finished and open to the public. This phase includes an approximately half-mile looping trail that meanders along the creek, cuts through the forested area, and runs along the perimeter of the south pasture at Suwanee's newest park. The rehabilitated barn is also available for birthday parties and other rentals. Contact our Public Works department at 770-945-8996 to reserve it.*
- *Last, but certainly not least, our annual celebration of community, Suwanee Day, is just around the corner! Town Center Park is definitely where you'll want to be on Saturday, September 18. The day will kick off at 10:00 am with a parade, followed by a variety of entertainment, arts & crafts exhibits, inflatables, and children's activities lasting throughout the day. John Berry will take the stage at 8:15 p.m. and a fireworks show will round out our annual celebration. For more details, please see [www.suwaneeday.com](http://www.suwaneeday.com).*

**6. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge was led by City Attorney, Gregory Jay.

**7. Approval of Minutes**

**a) July 27, 2010 Council Meeting**

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

**b) July 30, 2010 Called Council Meeting**

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

**8. Adoption of Agenda as Presented**

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

**9. Consider Appointment to Public Arts Commission**

*Public Arts Commission (PAC) member Alison Starnes has resigned from the PAC. The PAC has nominated John Peed to fill Ms. Starnes' unexpired term. Mr. Peed's term will*

*expire December 31, 2010. Mr. Peed currently serves as the Director of Fine Arts at the Wesleyan School.*

***Motion to appoint John Peed to fill the unexpired term of Alison Starnes by Councilmember Goodman, second by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks and so carried 6-0.***

## **10. Special Recognition**

### **a) Julie Scott**

Mayor Williams recognized Ms. Scott, a Suwanee resident, for her work in Haiti. The audience viewed photos of this work in a video presentation. Mayor Williams presented Ms. Scott with a Proclamation acknowledging her contribution at home and abroad and proclaimed Wednesday, August 25, 2010 as Julie Scott Day.

## **11. Audience Participation**

- Mr. Dn Trawick, 4643 Moore Road, Suwanee, GA. Mr. Trawick thanked the Council for settling the lawsuit on Moore Road corridor to keep the area residential and also thank you for reducing the millage rate.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **12. Consider Adoption of the 2010 Millage Rate**

***Motion by Councilmember Goodman to adopt the millage rate of 5.70 as recommended by staff, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0.***

### **13. Consider Request for Change in Licensee for Alcohol Beverage License: Olde Towne Tavern & Grille, 340 Town Center Avenue**

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

### **14. Consider Adoption of Dynamic Driver Feedback “Radar” Sign Policy**

*The City’s Short Term Work Program (STWP) recommends the installation of radar signs in strategic locations throughout the City. Funding for these signs has been planned for each of the next three years in the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP), proposed to come from the 2009 SPLOST program. The purpose of this policy is twofold: 1) to set goals and procedures guiding the location of signs identified by the City; and 2) to establish a procedure for citizens to initiate requests for installation of these signs.*

***Motion to adopt by Councilmember Foster, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 6-0.***

### **15. Consider Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Contract with Radarsign, LLC in the Amount of \$32,649.00 for the Installation of Radar Signs**

*The City released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the installation of radar signs. Two proposals were received. Staff has reviewed the proposals and recommends awarding the contract to Radarsign, LLC of Alpharetta in the amount of \$32,649.00. This will include the installation of five signs in the City: 1) Lawrenceville-Suwanee Road near*

*Suwanee Creek; 2) Smithtown Road between Leaf Lake Dr. and Timberlost Tr.; 3) Main Street near PlayTown Suwanee; 4) Settles Bridge Rd. between Barony Dr. and Short St.; and 5) McGinnis Ferry Rd. near McGinnis Reserve. This project is included in the Short Term Work Program, with funding budgeted from the 2005 SPLOST program.*

***Motion to approve the contract with Radarsign, LLC in the amount of \$32,649.00 by Councilmember Goodman, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 6-0.***

**16. Consider Authorizing the Staff to Negotiate a Contract with Advergens in an Amount Not to Exceed \$65,000.00 for the Installation of a Park Video Surveillance System and Authorizing the Mayor to Execute Said Contract**

*The City released an RFP for the installation of video surveillance cameras in the parks and along the Greenway. Staff proposes a staggered implementation of the cameras in order to test available technologies, with initial installation at George Pierce Park, along the Suwanee Creek Greenway, and in Suwanee Creek Park. Two proposals were received for this project. Staff has reviewed the proposals and would like to negotiate a contract to Advergens of Lawrenceville in an amount not to exceed \$65,000.00.*

***Motion to approve the contract with Advergens in an amount not to exceed \$60,000 by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 6-0.***

**17. Council Consent Agenda**

**a) Adoption of Updated Speed Zone Ordinance**

*Every three years the City must adopt an updated speed zone ordinance, which includes a list of streets and highways on which Police may use speed detection devices. The City's current list expires on December 31, 2010. Upon adoption by Council, this will be forwarded to the State Department of Public Safety for review and approval.*

**b) Approval of Adjustments to Downtown Manager Position**

*With the recent vacancy in this position, staff reviewed this position to determine if any adjustments need to be made prior to filling it. Staff recommends changing this to a full-time position, in addition to changing the title to Downtown and Business Development Manager.*

**c) Adoption of Amended Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Ordinance**

*The City adopted an amendment to the Soil Erosion, Sedimentation, and Pollution Control Ordinance in December 2009 and forwarded this to the State Environmental Protection Department (EPD) for review and acceptance. EPD has forwarded comments requesting revisions to the adopted ordinance. Staff has updated the ordinance accordingly.*

**d) Adoption of Urban Camping Ordinance**

*Staff recommends that Council consider adopting an urban camping ordinance, which would address people sleeping and living in parks, under bridges, and in other outdoor areas. Staff has worked with the City Attorney to prepare a draft ordinance, modeled after Norcross's ordinance.*

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

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

*Motion to ENTER Executive Session for Legal and Real Estate matter by Councilmember Foster, second by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks and so carried 6-0.*

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

**19. Adjournment**

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

**Approved 09/28/2010**