

**MINUTES
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA
PUBLIC HEARING & CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

Meeting Location: 330 Town Center Avenue, Room 2101

Attendees: Dave Williams, Mayor
Jimmy Burnette, Mayor Pro Tem
Jace Brooks, Councilmember
Kevin McOmber, Councilmember
Jeannine Rispin, Councilmember
Marty Allen, City Manager
Elvira Rogers, City Clerk
Gregory Jay, City Attorney

Absent: Daniel F. Foster, Councilmember

**5:30 P.M.
DINNER SESSION
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.

The DDA has nominated Scott Spooner to fill their vacant position. Scott has been invited to attend the dinner session to meet the Council.

**6:30 PM
PUBLIC HEARING
Council Chambers – Room 2101**

Mayor Williams opened the Public Hearing at 6:40 PM and read the Procedures for Public Meetings for the record. He also welcomed everyone to the first meeting in the New City Hall.

- 2) **SUP-2009-001: Applicant: AJC Construction, LLC. Owner: National Guarantee Insurance**
Josh Campbell, Planning Director, presented the staff analysis as follows: The applicant requests a special use permit on an approximately 3.11 acre site to allow for four executive suites totaling 4,400 sq. ft. approximately in the PMUD zoning district. The property is located in Suwanee Station. They are proposing a building totaling about 56,000 sq. ft. The Special Use Permit process was created in 2001 to allow for an added layer of regulation for certain uses. An executive quarter suite is different from a residential unit or hotel and is defined as an accessory residential use within a non-residential building that is clearly subordinate and incidental to the primary use of the building. Is not used as a permanent residence. It is used only by employees or clients of the primary building occupant. No traditional hospitality services are provided. The structure is built to the same standard as the rest of the building. No rent or fees are charged, collected or paid for it's use. Because this is not a use specifically listed in the Zoning Ordinance, a Special Use Permit is required. The subject property as mentioned is located in Suwanee Station and is surrounded by vacant parcels and open space. The

2030 Comprehensive Plan recommends mixed use center on the property. The existing zoning on the site is consistent with this designation. The applicant states they do not intend to use the structure as permanent residence to charge rent or fees and are not providing cooking facilities. The proposed executive quarters suites will be appropriate at this location, therefore staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval with conditions.

There was no audience participation.

3) AMD 2009-001: Proposed Amendment to the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to Modify Article III Definitions and Article XVI Signs Including but not Limited to Sections 1604 and 1612 to Amend the Regulations Regarding Blade, Projected, and Wall Signs

Josh Campbell, Planning Director, presented the staff analysis as follows: This amendment to the Sign Ordinance is regarding blade signs and projecting signs, with the intent of permitting these signs subject to certain additional regulations. Current regulations require signs to lie flat/parallel to the building. The proposed amendment would allow signs to project out from the building. The blade signs would be more pedestrian friendly and smaller to clearly identify entrances to individual facilities. The projecting sign would act as a replacement for ground signs allowing buildings to identify themselves. The Planning Commission reviewed this amendment on February 3 and recommended 4-0 to approve the amendment with one revision: To allow projecting signs on buildings less than 2 story with the multi-tenant building being at least 20 feet tall.

There was no audience participation.

Public Hearing closed at 6:43 PM

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

4) Call To Order

Mayor Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

5) Announcements

- a) February is a big month for the completion of important projects. In addition to the opening of our new City Hall, we also held a ribbon cutting for our long-awaited pedestrian tunnel. The 62-foot long, 13-foot wide tunnel connects Main Street and Old Town with the Town Center. This pedestrian tunnel is an important element in Suwanee's efforts to enhance connectivity among various destination areas throughout the City. The tunnel can be accessed from Main Street across from the library or from behind the Police Department. A newly-constructed sidewalk and crosswalk across Buford Highway link the tunnel to Town Center. Construction is currently underway to upgrade the crosswalk to a "pedestrian hawk" system, where pedestrians will be able to control a light to allow for a safe crossing across Buford Highway. The "pedestrian hawk" will be the first one in Georgia and possibly the first east of the Mississippi River. Construction of the tunnel is funded in part by a nearly \$1 million Livable Cities Initiative Grant received from the Atlanta Regional Commission. Revenues from the 2005 SPLOST program were also used for both the tunnel and pedestrian hawk project.*

b) *The City of Suwanee received four Kaleidoscope Awards from the Southeast Festivals and Events Association for its 2008 events. The awards, presented February 17, also recognize the programming and marketing related to those events. Suwanee received two gold and two bronze awards in the annual competition that recognizes the “best of the best from the Southeast region. One of the City’s gold awards was in the Best Event within an Event category for BodyPlex’s World’s Largest Outdoor Spin Class, which was part of the Party in de Park celebration of last year’s Tour de Georgia stage five start at Town Center Park. Suwanee Day Chairperson Melissa Fernandez won the other gold award in the Best Volunteer category (for events under \$75,000). Mayor Williams expressed thanks and appreciation to the Economic Development Team.*

c) *Councilmember Brooks recognized his family in attendance.*

6) Pledge of Allegiance with Boy Scout Flag Ceremony

7) Approval of Minutes

a) January 15, 2009 Called City Council Meeting

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette to approve the January 15, 2009 Called City Council Meeting Minutes, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.

b) January 22, 2009 Called City Council Meeting

Motion by Councilmember Brooks to approve the January 22, 2009 Called City Council Meeting Minutes, second by Councilmember Rispin and so carried 5-0.

c) January 27, 2009 City Council Meeting

Motion by Councilmember McOmber to approve the January 27, 2009 City Council Meeting Minutes, second by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette and so carried 4-0-1 (Rispin abstained).

8) Adoption of Agenda as Presented

Motion by Councilmember Rispin to adopt the agenda with the following changes: Add Item 16. Consider authorizing the mayor to execute the Sign Easement Agreement with Madison Retail LLC for additional signs at Town Center Park; and, the deletion of Item 18. Executive Session, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.

9) Special Recognition

a) Eagle Scout Jordan Wisner

Jordan is a senior at North Gwinnett High School and recently completed a project in Suwanee to help him earn the rank of Eagle Scout. Jordan built a total of 24 bluebird houses for the Suwanee Creek Greenway and Suwanee Creek Park. Jordan logged a total of 217 hours for this project and raised \$419 to fund it.

Jordan is the son of Mike and Kristi Wisner. He is with Troop 1830, out of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. After graduation from North Gwinnett this year, he will attend Brigham Young University. Mayor Williams presented Jordan with a certificate in appreciation of his service to the City.

The City welcomes the opportunity to support Scout and other community service projects. For more information on projects currently available, please contact Bill Barnes, Assistant to the Public Works Director.

10) Presentation of Results from National Citizen Survey

Amie Sakmar, Finance Director, presented a Power Point presentation of the National citizen Survey results for the City of Suwanee.

11) Appointment to Downtown Development Authority

The DDA has nominated attorney Scott Spooner to fill the vacant four-year position that Karla Manners held. This term will expire in January 2013.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette to appoint Scott Spooner to the DDA with a term to expire in January 2013, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

12) Audience Participation

- Mohsen Sameie, 4945 Prestbury Drive, stated that Sims Like Park is beautiful but expressed concern there are no snacks/concession at Sims Lake Park (see attached).
- Maurice Cook, 1342 Riverview Run Lane. Mr. Cook congratulated legal counsel for the City. Mr. Cook asked the Council to have some compassion the next 30-60 days with people who are losing homes and losing their jobs and are struggling as the City celebrates the new facility.
- LaDonna Griner, 3410 Smithtown Road seconds Mr. Cooks opinion. In addition she wanted to ask Council to remember Pierce's Corner. A lot of funding was put into the New City Hall. More attention needs to be given to Historic Downtown Suwanee and Pierce's Corner.

NEW BUSINESS

13) SUP-2009-001: Applicant: AJC Construction, LLC. Owner: National Guarantee Insurance

Motion by Councilmember Brooks to approve SUP-2009-001, second by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette. Councilmember Rispin called for discussion and requested inclusion of conditions. Councilmember Brooks amended the motion to approve with staff and Planning Commission recommended conditions, Mayor Pro Tem amended the second and the vote carried 5-0.

14) AMD 2009-001: Proposed Amendment to the City of Suwanee Zoning Ordinance to Modify Article III Definitions and Article XVI Signs Including but not Limited to Sections 1604 and 1612 to Amend the Regulations Regarding Blade, Projected, and Wall Signs

Motion by Councilmember McOmber to approve AMD 2009-001 with staff and Planning Commission recommended conditions, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.

15) Consider Award of Contract to ISC, Inc. in an Estimated Amount of \$88,342.60 for Stormwater Improvement Projects Along Sharon Industrial Way and Burnette Road/Mill Creek Run and Authorize Mayor to Execute the Contract Document

Staff has solicited bids to complete stormwater improvement projects along Sharon Industrial Way and Burnette Road/Mill Creek Run. Five bids were received and staff recommends awarding to ISC, Inc. of Conyers as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Gregory Jay has reviewed the

proposed contract. The proposed contract is within budget and will be funded from revenues of the 2005 SPLOST program.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Burnette to award a contract to ISC, Inc. in an estimated amount of \$88,342.60 for Stormwater Improvement Projects along Sharon Industrial Way and Burnette Road/Mill Creek Run and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract, second by Councilmember Rispin and so carried 5-0.

16) Consider Authorizing Mayor to Execute Sign Easement Agreement with Madison Retail-Suwanee, LLC for Additional Signs at Town Center Park

Motion by Councilmember Rispin to approve and authorize the Mayor to execute the Sign Easement Agreement with Madison Retail-Suwanee, LLC for additional signs at Town Center Park, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 4-0-1 (McOmber Abstained).

Mayor Williams stated this sign easement would provide a ground sign at the intersection of Lawrenceville Suwanee and Buford Highway.

17) Consent Agenda

a) Authorize the Mayor to Execute Memorandum of Understanding with Gwinnett Technical College for Employee Continuing Education Program

For the past three years, Gwinnett Technical College has been providing continuing education classes to employees in order to enhance reading ability, reading comprehension, grammar, and testing skills. Management feels this program has been successful and requests that Council renew the contract for FY 09. Renewal of this contract was included in the FY 09 budget and sufficient funds are remaining for this expense. Information on this item was included in Tab F of the workshop packet; no changes have been made since then.

b) Approval of 2nd Quarter Budget Adjustments

Staff has proposed second quarter budget adjustments for consideration by Council. Briefly, the adjustments are as follows:

- *Police Special Events: Addition of \$20,000 to Police function expenditures to pay for salaries related to special events. This is offset by a \$20,000 addition in revenues.*
- *Better Parks Campaign Fund: Close out the dormant fund and transfer remaining \$1,650 to the Park Areas function in order to help pay for repairs.*
- *Public Arts Fund: Create a new fund to accept possible donations related to the Public Arts Commission.*

c) Adoption of Schedule for FY 2010 Budget

Staff has proposed a budget schedule for preparation, review, and adoption of the FY 2010 Budget. Please note, in addition to review and public hearings at the May and June workshops and Council meetings, a specially called workshop has also been proposed for Thursday, April 30 at 5:30 pm.

Motion by Councilmember Brooks to approve the Consent Agenda, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

18) City Manager's Report

City Manager Allen thanked the management team and staff for their work in the transition move from the old City Hall to the new City Hall.

19) Adjournment – Time: 7:43 P.M.

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

Approved 03/24/2009