



AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2024
5:30 PM

Note: As set forth in the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990, the City of Suwanee does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to or treatment or employment in its programs or activities. Robyn O'Donnell has been designated to coordinate compliance with the non-discrimination requirements contained in Section 35.107 of the Department of Justice Regulations. Information concerning the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the rights provided thereunder, is available from the ADA coordinator.

The City of Suwanee will assist citizens with special needs given proper notice. Any requests for reasonable accommodations required by individuals to fully participate in an open meeting, program, or activity of the City of Suwanee should be directed to Robyn O'Donnell, 330 Town Center Avenue, Suwanee Georgia 30024, 770-945-8996.

Meeting Location: City Hall, 330 Town Center Avenue, Big Splash Room

I. Special Presentation(s)

A. Economic Indicators Report

Staff will present the 3rd quarter report.

II. Staff Updates

Staff updates are intended to provide information about the topic without a presentation. Should Council wish to discuss any item in more detail, staff is prepared to offer additional information.

A. Quarterly Administrative Variance Report

There were two administrative variances approved since the last quarterly administrative variance report in May. One variance was for a parking reduction for a retail building in the Terraces at Suwanee Gateway, and the second was to allow for an accessory structure exceeding the maximum allowed square footage on a residential property greater than 1.5 acres.

B. Harvest Farm Community Garden Plot Expansion

Staff has released a bid for construction for the Harvest Farm Garden plot expansion. Bids are due December 3rd. Staff anticipates being able to recommend a contractor by the December 17th Council meeting.

C. Harvest Farm Managing Board Taking Over Responsibility for the Orchard at White Street Park

For administrative and other purposes, the Harvest Farm Managing Board will formally assume all duties and responsibilities associated with the maintenance, operations, and oversight of the Orchard at White Street Park. No action is needed on the city's behalf.

D. 2025 Council Schedule

The schedule for 2025 Council workshops and meetings has been drafted. Approval of the schedule will be included on the November 19th Council Regular Agenda unless Council prefers otherwise.

III. Discussion Items

A. CIP Project Updates

Staff will update Council on the following projects:

- 1. Town Center on Main and DeLay Nature Park**
- 2. Main Street Park**
- 3. Martin Farm Bridge Replacement (GaDOT Project)**

B. Speed Zone Radar Permit Renewal

The city's radar permit is up for renewal. As part of the renewal, the city must adopt speed zones throughout the city. Consideration of this item is expected to be on the December 17th Council meeting agenda.

C. Traffic Calming Approaches

As a continuation of discussions that took place at the October 10th Council workshop, staff would like to discuss the city's approach to traffic calming.

D. City Boards Update

i. Planning Boards

There are Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals members with terms expiring on January 31, 2025. As the City's adopted procedures for appointment to city boards call for, staff contacted the current board members with terms that will be expiring to see if they wish to continue serving on the board. Staff is seeking direction on how Council would like to proceed.

ii. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) & Urban Redevelopment Agency (URA)

A member of both the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) has resigned effective immediately. The board is nominating Elvira Rogers to fill both vacancies. Consideration of this appointment will be on the November 19th Council Regular Agenda unless Council prefers otherwise.

iii. Harvest Farm Managing Board

A member of the Harvest Farm Managing Board has resigned due to relocation from Suwanee. The Board is now inviting current community garden members to apply for the vacant position. Staff expects to recommend an appointee for Council's consideration prior to the December 17th Council meeting.

E. Solar Power Contract with Cherry Street Energy

At the October 22nd Council Meeting, Council postponed authorizing the Mayor to sign a contract with Cherry Street Energy for installing and maintaining a solar power system at the Public Works building at 3625 Swiftwater Park Drive because contract negotiations were still underway. Since then, staff have met with Cherry Street Energy representatives to discuss contract terms and will provide an update to the Council.

F. Suwanee Property Tax Homestead Exemption Discussion (requested by Councilmember Charpentier)

Councilmember Charpentier would like to discuss Suwanee's property tax homestead exemption.

G. HB 581 Floating Homestead Tax

Should the HB 581 referendum pass, staff would like to discuss the implications of this referendum and other aspects of it.

H. Occupational Tax Discussion

As a follow-up to the discussion on occupational taxes requested by Councilmember McConnell at the October 10th workshop, Councilmembers in attendance decided to defer the conversation to the November workshop for further consideration of potential adjustments.

I. Knowledge Sharing

- i. Gwinnett Municipal Association Activities**
- ii. Other**

IV. City Manager's Report

A. Special Recognition Options for the Council Meeting

- i. Suwanee Police Cadets**

B. Minutes for Approval

- i. October 10, 2024 Council Workshop**
- ii. October 22, 2024 Council Meeting**