

**MINUTES
CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA
PUBLIC HEARING & CITY COUNCIL MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2008**

Meeting Location:

Dinner Session – City Hall Conference Room (373 Highway 23)

Public Hearing and City Council Meeting - Crossroads Center (323 Highway 23)

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

Absent: Dave Williams, Mayor

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

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 PM
PUBLIC HEARING**

There is no public hearing scheduled for November 25 due to a lack of new business.

**7:00 PM
COUNCIL MEETING**

2. Call To Order

Mayor Pro Tem Burnette called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

3. Announcements

- *The Pedestrian Underpass is well on its way to an early 2009 completion. Workers began the excavation beneath the Norfolk-Southern Railroad tracks on Monday, November 10 and broke through to Main Street only 6 days later. The 62-foot pedestrian underpass is part of a project that also includes signalized crosswalks across Buford Highway. This project is designed to improve pedestrian access and safety between Town*

Center and historic Old Town. The underpass entries will be located behind the current City Hall and across from the Gwinnett County Public Library on Main Street. This pedestrian underpass, an important element in Suwanee's efforts to enhance connectivity among various destination areas throughout the City, is funded in part by a nearly \$1 million Livable Cities Initiative Grant received from the Atlanta Regional Commission.

- *Next Saturday, December 6, Santa will arrive on Main Street in historic Old Town on his tractor-pulled sleigh as part of Suwanee's annual Old Town Holiday Festival and Caboose Lighting event. The festivities begin at 5 p.m. and include Santa lighting the red caboose and performances of favorite holiday tunes by elementary school choruses, carriage rides, holiday crafts, and hot chocolate, s'mores, and cookies. Bring your camera to have your picture taken with Santa. All activities are free, except for the carriage rides, which are \$4/person or \$15/family of up to six.*

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Tyler and Cole from Pack 846 assisted Mayor Pro Tem Burnette.

5. Approval of Minutes

- a) October 28, 2008 Public Hearing and City Council Meeting

Motion by Councilmember McOmber to approved the October 28, 2008 Minutes, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 3-0-2 (Brooks and Burnette abstained).

6. Adoption of Agenda as Presented

Motion by Councilmember Rispin to adopt the Agenda with one modification: Item #16. Executive Session for Real Estate Matters, second by Councilmember Foster and so carried 5-0.

7. Special Recognition

a) Cub Scout Pack 846

For their work spreading mulch and cleaning signs at Suwanee Creek Park and the outdoor classroom, Cub Scouts were presented with lapel pins and Cub Master, Davis Searles, was presented a certificate.

8. Special Presentation: FY08 Report from the City Auditors, Mauldin & Jenkins

Mauldin & Jenkins has completed its FY 08 audit. Joel Black of Mauldin & Jenkins presented an overview of the audit and reported the City has a sound healthy financial strength.

9. Appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals

Council will appoint new members to fill the two current vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Motion by Councilmember Brooks to appoint Larry Pettiford and Ryan Neilan to the unexpired ZBA terms of Tucker Balch and Paula Hill with terms to expire December 31, 2009, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

10. Audience Participation

- **Maurice Cook, 1342 Riverview Run Lane, Suwanee, GA.** Mr. Cook stated concern related to the budget of the new City Hall, artwork for the new City Hall. He requested Council have a bi-monthly meeting to discuss budget issues essential for citizens. He discussed the water shortage.

NEW BUSINESS

11. Consider Resolution to Adopt the Revised Gwinnett County Emergency Operations Plan

For the past eight months, staff has worked with the Gwinnett County Emergency Management Agency and Gwinnett municipalities to draft a comprehensive revision of the Gwinnett County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). State law requires the City to adopt the County EOP, unless the City opts to implement its own emergency management organization. Adoption of the EOP also guarantees that Suwanee will remain eligible for disaster relief funding. In order to remain covered in the revised EOP, the Council must adopt a Local Resolution.

Motion by Councilmember Foster to approve a Resolution to adopt the Revised Gwinnett County Emergency Operations Plan, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0.

12. Consider Acceptance of Donation of 2.74 Acres of Land on McGinnis Ferry Road from Bowen Family Homes

Bowen Family Homes is interested in donating a 2.74-acre tract that abuts the QT/Burger King/Starbucks commercial/retail development. The property is located on McGinnis Ferry Road. Council further evaluated this item at the November Workshop in light of the satisfactory Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment for the property and site visits by some of the Council members.

Motion by Councilmember Foster to approve acceptance of donation of 2.74 acres of land on McGinnis Ferry Road from Bowen Family Homes, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

13. Consider Authorizing Mayor to Execute Change Order #4 in the Amount of \$8,244.98 to Turner Construction Company for the New City Hall

Turner Construction has submitted a change order to increase the City Hall construction budget by \$8,244.98 for:

- Additional rebar for the exterior stairs*
- Revision to tower framing*
- Revision to roof drain at front canopy*

Motion by Councilmember Brooks to authorize the Mayor to execute Change Order #4 in the amount of \$8,244.98 to Turner Construction Company for the New City Hall, second by Councilmember McOmber and so carried 5-0.

14. Consent Agenda

a) Authorize Mayor to Execute Agreement with AT&T for Phone Service at New City Hall

Staff has negotiated a proposed agreement with AT&T to provide phone service in the new City Hall. The total monthly cost will be \$916.50, which was included in the FY 09 budget. The pricing is guaranteed for 36 months and the City must commit to a minimum service period of 12 months.

b) Authorize Mayor to Execute Lease Supplement Agreement with Georgia Municipal Association to Finance the Purchase of Three Police Patrol Vehicles

In 2000, Suwanee executed a master lease agreement with the Georgia Municipal Association in order to finance equipment and other property through GMA's lease-purchase program. As the City acquires said items, it is then necessary to execute a lease supplement that outlines the specific lease terms for each purchase. The Police Department has purchased three patrol vehicles through the FY 09 budget, with the intention of financing the purchase through this program. The lease supplement outlines a 36-month term with an interest rate of 3.72%.

c) Adopt Resolution in Support of the City's Application for Funding from the Recreational Trails Program

Per direction from Council, staff has prepared an application for funding from the Recreational Trails Programs through the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The proposed project is a connector trail(s) from PlayTown Suwanee that will enhance connectivity for residents of Stonecypher and Old Town.

d) Adopt Resolution in Support of the City's Application for Funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation GATEway Program

Georgia DOT currently has a call for grant applications for its GATEway Program, which funds landscaping enhancements along public roads. At the November 13 workshop, Council directed staff to prepare an application for funding assistance with the landscaping project at the I-85 interchange. The maximum grant amount is \$50,000. It should be noted that the Governor issued an Executive Order on October 31 lifting the watering ban for state landscaping projects.

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

15. City Manager's Report – None.

16. Executive Session: Real Estate Issues

Motion by Councilmember Foster to ENTER Executive Session to discuss real estate matters, second by Councilmember Rispin and so carried 5-0. Time 7:40 P.M.

Motion by Councilmember McOmber EXIT Executive Session, second by Councilmember Brooks and so carried 5-0. Time 8:00 P.M.

No Action Taken

17. Adjournment – 8:00 P.M.

Motion by Councilmember Foster to Adjourn, second by Councilmember Rispin and so carried 5-0.

Approved 12/18/2008