

**CITY OF SUWANEE, GEORGIA
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 17, 2005**

Meeting Location: Suwanee City Hall

Present: Jace Brooks, Mayor Pro Tem
Carol Hassell, Councilmember
Jimmy Burnette, Councilmember
Alan Landers, Councilmember
Jeannine Rispin, Councilmember
Hardin Watkins, City Manager
Elvira Rogers, City Clerk
Gregory Jay, City Attorney

Absent: Nick Masino, Mayor

**6:00 P.M.
DINNER SESSION**

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.

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

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Brooks at 7:02 P.M.

2. Announcements

- The 2005 Legends Concert Series stops in Suwanee on May 21 when America performs at the Town Center Park amphitheater. Legends Concert festivities will begin at 4 p.m., with an opening act performing at 6:30 p.m. and America taking the stage around 7:30 p.m. Feel free to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and picnic dinners, but no alcohol please. Food also will be available for purchase.
- The U.S. Air Force Reserve Concert Band will perform at Town Center Park on Friday, May 27 to kick off the Memorial Day weekend. This event is free and will begin at 7:30 p.m. The concert will feature an array of musical genres including rock, classical, jazz, and country, and is sponsored by the *Gwinnett Daily Post*. Tickets are not required but are recommended. Pick up your free tickets at Suwanee City Hall from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m., weekdays or at the Gwinnett Daily Post offices at 725 Old Norcross Road.
- Art on a Limb is still underway in the City's newest parks. Each day in the month of May artful orbs are placed either along the Suwanee Creek Greenway, in Town Center Park, or at PlayTown Suwanee. If you find one, it's yours to keep. We just ask that you go to our website to register that you've found one. This art program will culminate on June 4 with an Arts in the Park event that will bring a variety of performance art to the Town Center Park stage. The fun begins at 4

p.m. with an artists market, which will feature demonstration and interactive stations. On-stage performances start at 4:30 p.m. with fun entertainment for the whole family. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, friends, and neighbors, but no alcohol please. You may bring your own food or purchase dinner or snacks from on-site vendors.

- On Saturday, June 11 we will be celebrating PlayTown Suwanee's one year anniversary. We will have a workday starting at 8:00am to do some maintenance to the playground and to install the hand tiles. Lunch will be served to the workers from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Then the playground will reopen at 2:00pm and the celebration will begin with cake, balloons, and activities for the kids.
- Elvira Rogers announced that the Caribbean Festival held on April 23, 2005 at Town Center Park was a success. Suwanee Parish United Methodist Church earmarked 60% of the proceeds from the Festival for the Jackson Street Cemetery project. A check in the amount of \$3,243.30 was presented to the City for the Jackson Street Cemetery Fund.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes

A. 4/7/05 Called Meeting

Motion by Councilmember Hassell to approve the 4/7/05 Called Council Meeting Minutes, second by Councilmember Rispin and so carried 5-0.

B. 4/19/05 Council Meeting

Motion by Councilmember Hassell to approve the 4/19/05 Council Meeting Minutes with the following amendment: Delete Consent Agenda Item B. Consideration of Approval of Pre-Qualified Contractors for the Interactive Fountain Project, second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 5-0.

5. Adoption of Agenda as Presented

Motion by Councilmember Hassell to adopt the agenda with the following modification: Remove Consent Agenda Item D. Consideration of Approval of a Personal Financial Planner List to Provide Assistance to Employees in Reviewing their Defined Benefit Retirement Program Options and add this item to New Business as Item C., second by Councilmember Burnette and so carried 5-0.

6. Audience Participation – None.

7. OLD BUSINESS – None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Authorization for the Mayor to Enter into Agreement with Consultant for the Sims Lake Property Master Plan

The Open Space Citizen Advisory Committee conducted interviews on Monday, May 16. They recommend Cerulea as the consultant for the Sims Lake Property Master Plan. ACTION: Consider authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreement with consultant for the Sims Lake Property Master Plan.

Motion by Councilmember Landers to authorize the Mayor to enter into Agreement with Cerulea for the Sims Lake Property Master Plan, second by Councilmember Rispin and so carried 5-0.

B. Consideration of a Resolution to Provide a Challenge Grant to the Jackson Street Cemetery Committee

The Jackson Street Cemetery Committee is raising funds to pay for improvements needed at the Jackson Street Cemetery. Staff is recommending a challenge grant in which the City will match dollar-for-dollar any funds raised by the Committee, up to \$10,000. ACTION: Consider the resolution.

Motion by Councilmember Burnette to approve the Resolution to Provide a Challenge Grant to the Jackson Street Cemetery Committee, second by Councilmember Hassell and so carried 5-0.

C. Consideration of Approval of a Personal Financial Planners List to Provide Assistance to Employees in Reviewing Their Defined Benefit Retirement Program Options

The Administrative Services Department has obtained a list of personal financial planners used by Gwinnett County during their pension plan conversion. The City would like to offer a similar list to staff to aid them in making an educated decision about the defined benefit retirement program. ACTION: Consider approval of the personal financial planners list.

Motion by Councilmember Hassell to postpone approval of a Personal Financial Planners List to Provide Assistance to Employees Reviewing their Defined Benefit Retirement Program Options, second by Councilmember Rispin and so carried 5-0.

9. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Consideration of a Resolution to Adopt the Comprehensive Plan Annual Update

The Comprehensive Plan Annual Update has been approved by the Atlanta Regional Commission. ACTION: Consider the resolution.

B. Consideration of Approval of the Office Space Programming Final Report

The Office Space Programming Final Report was presented by Urban Collage at the April Council Meeting. However, no action was taken to officially adopt the report. ACTION: Consider approval of the Office Space Programming Final Report.

C. Consideration of a Resolution Authorizing Staff to Proceed with Implementing the Defined Benefit Retirement Program

Staff is requesting official authorization to proceed with all the steps required to implement the Defined Benefit Retirement Program. ACTION: Consider the resolution.

D. Authorization for the Mayor to Enter into Agreement with Street Smarts for Traffic Engineering Services as an Extension of Services with Neel-Schaffer for the Pedestrian Underpass Project

The City is currently under contract with Neel-Schaffer for the pedestrian underpass project. Staff is recommending that a Traffic Impact Study be conducted for the intersection of Buford Highway and Town Center Avenue as part of this overall project. Neel-Schaffer prefers the City to contract directly with Street Smarts for this study instead of executing a change order to the original project. ACTION: Consider authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreement with Streetsmarts for traffic engineering services.

E. Authorization for the Mayor to Enter into Agreement with the State of Georgia for Receiving State Aid Funds for Street Resurfacing

At Georgia DOT's request, Don Cotter, Interim Director of Public Works and Inspections, submitted an application to the Georgia State Aid Fund in the amount of \$25,000. This grant money has a high probability of being received and will be used for resurfacing Brogdon Road. Once approval of the funds is received, the City will need to enter into agreement with the State of Georgia as part of the process for expending the funds. Without this funding, the City would have expended the same amount to repair the road. ACTION: Consider authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreement with the State of Georgia for receiving State Aid Funds for street resurfacing.

F. Authorization for the Mayor to Enter into Agreement with Gary's Grading and Pipeline Company for Smithtown Drainage Project

The Public Works and Inspections Department is ready to proceed with the Smithtown Drainage Project. Using Gwinnett County's bid information, Gary's Grading and Pipeline Company was the lowest bidder to perform the work. Staff is recommending proceeding forward with an agreement with Gary's Grading and Pipeline. ACTION: Consider authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreement with Gary's Grading and Pipeline Company for Smithtown Drainage Project.

G. Consideration of Approval of Budget Adjustments

Amie Sakmar, Financial Services Director, is proposing a budget adjustment to create a new Special Revenue Fund. This fund is for the Jackson Street Cemetery, to transfer money received to date out of the general fund and into a separate fund. ACTION: Consider approval of the budget adjustments.

H. Consideration of Approval of the Downtown Development Authority FY 2004-2005 Budget

The Downtown Development Authority is to adopt a budget each year and then submit it to Council for review and adoption. This did not happen as part of the regular budget process last year since the DDA did not have any funds at that time. Included in your packet is the current year, FY 2004-2005, budget as adopted by the DDA. For accounting and auditing purposes, this budget needs a vote of the City Council. ACTION: Consider approval of the DDA FY 2004-2005 Budget.

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

10. City Manager's Report

A. FY 05-06 Budget Available to the Public on May 18 at 8:00 A.M. A copy will be placed at the Suwanee Branch of the Gwinnett County Library on Wednesday. The Budget Hearings will be in June.

11. Adjournment – Time: 7:14 P.M.

Motion by Councilmember Burnette to Adjourn, second by Councilmember Hassell and so carried 5-0.

Approved 06/21/2005