



City of Roswell

38 Hill Street
Roswell, Georgia 30075

Meeting Minutes Mayor and City Council Open Forum

Mayor Jere Wood
Council Member Nancy Diamond
Council Member Rich Dippolito
Council Member Kent Igleheart
Council Member Jerry Orlans
Council Member Betty Price
Council Member Becky Wynn

Monday, August 30, 2010

7:00 PM

City Hall

WELCOME

Present: 6 - Mayor Jere Wood, Council Member Rich Dippolito, Council Member Kent Igleheart, Council Member Becky Wynn, Council Member Jerry Orlans, and Council Member Betty Price

Absent: 1 - Council Member Nancy Diamond

Staff Present: Deputy City Administrator Michael Fischer; City Attorney David Davidson; Assistant City Attorney Bob Hulse; Police Chief Ed Williams; Deputy Fire Chief Ricky Burnette; Environmental/Public Works Director Stuart Moring; Transportation Director Steve Acenbrak; Recreation, Parks, Historic and Cultural Affairs Director Joe Glover; Community Development Director Alice Wakefield; Finance Director Julia Luke; Strategic Planning and Budgeting Director Keith Lee; Community Relations Manager Julie Brechbill; Deputy City Clerk Betsy Branch.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment - Open microphone

Open Microphone:

Forest Buchanan, 225 Nestor Ct, spoke on the following:

- Thanked the designer of the Johns Creek Environmental Campus.*
- Concerned about timing of Holcomb Bridge and Steeple Chase traffic light, and day care center located at that intersection. Requested shortening the traffic light. Regarding the day care center at that intersection, he requested a police officer direct traffic due to parents parking in the traffic lane while the light is green. Mayor Wood asked Director of Transportation Steve Acenbrak to address this issue. Mr. Acenbrak replied they are working with the Department of Transportation on signal timing throughout the entire corridor. Mayor Wood replied the city furnishes police officers for public schools but does not have the resources to furnish them for private facilities. Police Chief Williams assured Mr. Buchanan that the situation would be investigated.*
- Concerned about response received from animal control regarding a snake on his property; was told he would have to call a private critter control company when the snake came from a city boundary. Mayor Wood replied animal control is a Fulton*

County service; the cities pooled together with Fulton County; the City of Roswell does not have a wildlife enforcement arm; the state and county have taken the position they are not going to control wildlife.

- Stopping the AJC from delivering unwanted papers to their home. City Attorney David Davidson replied under the ordinance that if someone calls the AJC and request stop delivery of the papers, the AJC is required to stop delivery.
- Provided DVD copy of Save Our Lands Save Our Towns, a PBS program about city planning; Councilmember Price was directed by Mayor Wood to review the program for further consideration.
- Fulton County tax bills do not list Roswell on the bill. Mayor Wood replied the City of Roswell is not listed because the city does not use Fulton County services for mailing tax bills.

Ron Bevan, 14 Revival St, spoke on the following:

- Concerned about the pedestrian crossing at Route 9 and Route 120, particularly the ability to cross at Barrington Hall to the park, or vice versa. Director of Transportation Steve Acenbrak replied that he understood the concerns; his department is working on a solution to the crossing difficulties at that intersection.

Janet Russell, 260 Willow Springs Dr, spoke on the following:

- Sidewalks were not included on the plans discussed at the redevelopment meeting of Roswell's Town Square and historic Barrington Hall. Barrington Hall is listed as a park; the master city plan, states all parks will be accessible by pedestrians and cyclists; the stairs do not meet ADA compliance. Has been hurt from the lack of solid surface to walk on.
- Thanked the Recreation and Park department for a great summer pool season. Recommended that when school is back in session have pool hours of 6-9 pm instead of 4-6 pm, more people will be able to enjoy the pool.
- Grateful that the bus shelter across from Krispy Crème was erected, but is still waiting on the others. Suggested solar panels on the shelters roofs for lighting. Suggested there should be a bus shelter on historic town square at the Mimms property. Mayor Wood replied they would look into the solar panels on the shelters.
- Concern regarding traffic on Canton Street during the Alive After Five events; close Canton Street during the hours of 5-10 pm, pedestrian only. Some merchants are selling items that do not fall under the original concept; giving away food hurts those merchants selling; it is starting to become a circus. Mayor Wood replied he supports closing the street, but the merchants group does not support it. This is not a city event; the merchants are paying and running the program.
- Concern regarding street resurfacing in her neighborhood; not all streets were resurfaced; remaining damage by trucks and equipment.
- Concern regarding garbage cans from the Land of a Thousand Hills coffee house placed daily on street; Code Enforcement should investigate. The coffee house currently has garbage pickup 3 days a week, which means there 3 to 6 garbage cans are placed at Jones every day of the week. Public Works Director Stu Moring replied his department would investigate.
- Send city bills electronically.
- Asked why a consultant is being hired to re-do the square and river areas when plans were previously approved before the Olympics in 1992; what happened to the 1992 plans. Mayor Wood replied the 1992 plans were not acceptable by the majority of the citizens. This Council's concept of the city is different from the 1992 concept. The new concept is to take less of the right-of-way, a more context sensitive plan.

Shirlee Wiener, 1650 Branch Valley Dr, spoke on the following:

- Bicyclists on Martins Landing subdivision streets have been a problem. The State of Georgia booklet states bicyclists are to follow the same traffic rules as vehicles. These bicyclists do not stop at stop signs on Martins Road and at times it is

a large group. Homeowners are not against sharing the roads, believes the bicyclists should ride responsibly. Police Department has not been able to help in this situation. Mayor Wood confirmed that bicyclists are to follow the same rules as vehicles; he asked the Police Department to patrol the area.

Kurt Miller, 360 Richfield Ct, spoke on the following:

- Asked Council not to change the name of his street. The neighborhood has been around for over 30 years. He suggested better training of the emergency personnel and questioning to determine in what subdivision the emergency is occurring. Mayor Wood thanked Mr. Miller for his suggestions and assured him that Council is taking everything into consideration.

Sam Evans, 150 Chaffin Rd, spoke on the following:

- City has doubled in size over the years; thanked Chief Williams for his hard work in keeping the city safe.
- Thanked Mike Elliott, from the Transportation department for accomplishing the recent resurfacing of Crabapple Road in a timely and efficient manner.
- Concern regarding Leita Thompson Park entrances not being safe for drivers.

Lee Fleck, Martins Landing, spoke on the following:

- Inquired when the ICE Secured Community Program would be implemented by Roswell. The program has been designed and funded for \$1.6B by the Obama Administration for local law enforcement entities; detention facilities would be linked directly to the GHS and FBI databases. Chief of Police Ed Williams replied the implementation is a phased process across the nation; Roswell would be included this quarter.

James Hargreaves, 1185 Falstaff Dr, spoke on the following:

- Concern regarding the real estate process whereby Fulton County establishes the appraised value. Asked if the City of Roswell feels they have a role to play or tried to act as an advocate for Roswell residents.
- Does Roswell monitor the real estate appraisals within the city. Mayor Wood replied there are two questions raised; the first is the assessment and the second is the millage rate. The city often questions the millage rate of Fulton County. In regards to individual assessment, the city does not monitor; the city has encouraged Fulton County to reform the assessor's office in the past; there one Roswell resident who serves on the Fulton County Board of Assessors.
- What criteria does Fulton County use to appraise properties; he cannot get a clear answer from Fulton County. Mayor Wood replied the North Fulton Mayors support more oversight regarding the assessments; he mentioned the forming of Milton County. The city is not in a position to dictate to Fulton County how to run the assessors department.
- Status of the possibility of forming Milton County. Mayor Wood replied it is being actively pursued; Roswell and North Fulton Mayors are looking into areas that could be served better and more efficiently, and at a lower cost to the citizens than Fulton County.
- Offered to serve as an advisor to the city in computers and business processes. Mayor Wood thanked Mr. Hargreaves for his offer.
- Inquired about availability of the audio of Council sessions via the Roswell website. Mayor Wood replied the audio of Mayor and Council meetings can be accessed on the city's website. Committee meetings are also open for public attendance.
- Inquired about the budget process for tracking revenues on a program or department level. Deputy City Administrator Michael Fischer replied revenues are being tracked on a lower level.
- Inquired whether the city has redefined the meaning in the Georgia Vehicle Code

for standing, loading, parking, stopping; believes there is an inconsistency in traffic control signs. City Attorney David Davidson replied that has not been done.

- *Suggested Open Forum meetings be held the fourth Monday of each month. Mayor Wood replied Council would take that into consideration. The Mayor stated Council is always available to hear from the public throughout the month.*

Margie Ryman, 1390 Oakhaven Dr, spoke on the following:

- *Opposed to the proposed cell tower at Mountain Park Elementary School. Leita Thompson Park would be a great location and generate revenue for the city. Mayor Wood replied the Leita Thompson property is currently under consideration.*

Adjournment

The Open Forum meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. Mayor and Council reconvened in the Council Chambers for a Special Called Meeting.