

**Open Forum Meeting of the Mayor and City Council, Monday, July 29, 2013, 7:00 p.m., Mayor Jere Wood presiding.**

**Councilmembers Present:** Councilmember Nancy Diamond; Councilmember Rich Dippolito; Councilmember Kent Igleheart; Councilmember Jerry Orlans; Councilmember Betty Price; Councilmember Becky Wynn.

**Staff Present:** City Administrator Kay Love; Deputy City Administrator Michael Fischer; Assistant City Attorney Robert Hulsey; Police Chief Rusty Grant; Fire Chief Ricky Spencer; Community Development Director Alice Wakefield; Planning and Zoning Director Brad Townsend; Environmental/Public Works Director Stu Moring; Environmental/Public Works Deputy Director Mark Wolff; Finance Director Keith Lee; Recreation and Parks Director Joe Glover; Transportation Director Steve Acenbrak; Transportation Deputy Director David Low; Community Relations Manager Julie Brechbill; Building Operations Technician Timothy Thompson; Digital Media Designer Joel Vazquez; Deputy City Clerk Betsy Branch.

**Welcome** – Mayor Jere Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone present.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Sabrina Pinion – Mrs. North America Galaxy

Mayor Wood invited Ms. Pinion to come forward. She said she proudly represented Georgia last year at the national competition and received the title of Mrs. North America and leaves tomorrow to represent the married women of the continent in the International Mrs. Galaxy pageant in Orlando, Florida. She thanked Mayor and Council and said she was honored to be invited to lead the pledge at tonight's meeting.

**Open Microphone:**

**Janet Russell**, 260 Willow Springs Drive, Roswell made the following comments:

- She thanked Councilmember Price for solving a simple problem at the corner of Jones Drive and SR-9 that she had been requesting for three years. She said she talked about it at the last Open Forum meeting and within 48 hours the problem was solved.
- She acknowledged the great job that was done by the Transportation department when a large 150 year old tree came down in a recent storm and blocked her street. She said the personnel were there at midnight clearing the street and were very friendly even though the weather was bad. They were there without complaint and the street was partially cleared within a day. She said the City of Roswell has fine employees who do a great job.
- She talked about a used car lot on SR-9 that is using the front of the property next door to them which is an empty building for excess car parking. She does not think used car lots are allowed to extend to a lot that is not designated as a car lot. A huge truck was there all weekend hauling a large boat that was parked in the front of that building. All development is stymied because that car lot exists. She asked the City to take action and make sure the owners understand they do not have permission to park their overflow of inventory on other property. She called it blight.
- She relayed a message from Judy Balter, owner of The Balter Company on Jones Drive and said they met last week with Mike Elliot about a problem that has existed with CMS who moved to the corner of SR-9 about three years ago. They are a construction and remodeling company and when applying for their business license said they had two full time employees. However, on most days there are at least 12 construction pick-up trucks parked in the parking

lot which is supposed to be for about 4 cars and they also park on the street hindering car movement. A semi-tractor trailer truck delivering food to a restaurant in the shopping center next to this location has to enter at the coffee shop end of the street because there is no way to get out of Jones Drive to deliver and when that happens there is not enough room for cars to get through. She said the owners of this company do not care that they are obstructing traffic or being a nuisance. She said also that Mrs. Balter as well as one of her employees had almost gotten hit head on by someone coming onto Jones Drive as they were exiting. Mrs. Balter called the Police Department on Friday because there was a similar problem with a car parked in the wrong direction on one side of the street and they told her to call the traffic police, which she did. They came and did a drive by but never issued a ticket and one should have been issued. Mrs. Balter was told by Mike Elliot to call 911 to get someone out there to address the problem but Mrs. Balter said she would not waste 911's time for a traffic issue. Ms. Russell said this problem needs to be solved. She said they had been good neighbors for several years, but now this company does whatever they want. Mrs. Balter offered to let the two full time employees use her parking lot but instead the workers for the construction company use her lot as in/out for their trucks and dump barrels of nails on the ground and she has lost two tires at her own expense. She said there was an illegal land use issuance against them with moving the land and they broke the sewer pipes and it is a mess but they didn't care. Ms. Russell said that the City needs to take action on this.

- She talked about sidewalks on SR-9 and said last Monday night Council approved \$200,000 to purchase eight tenths of an acre to create 15 parking spaces next to Allenbrook so people who drive to Roswell can then walk in the woods. She said with \$200,000, they could have built 20 miles of sidewalks in Roswell that has 48 square miles and they could have had a walking paradise. Instead, there are 15 parking spaces and that money did not include paving the parking lot or for future maintenance.
- She talked about pedestrian access on SR-9 and said there is a sign with a pedestrian crossing logo indicating that in a certain number of feet there is a pedestrian crossing and yet there are no crosswalks for two miles on SR-9. The sign is in the middle of the sidewalk so pedestrians can't use the sidewalk because the sign is blocking it. She suggested removing the sign so people can walk instead of showing motorists that there are pedestrians.
- She talked about the reversible lane on SR-9 and said near her street are the boxes with the X's and arrows identifying the reversible lane. There is a problem there because when someone is turning left from her street at 10:00 am, the sun shines directly into the boxes and the glare is so bad so that you cannot tell if there is an X or an arrow and some people are not aware when the two southbound lanes change on the weekends versus week days. A more important problem is a very large box that monitors traffic patterns that is mounted on the telephone pole that is a safety hazard because it obstructs their view getting onto SR-9 and they already have a very hard time getting in and out of their little street.
- Ms. Russell relayed another message from Judy Balter about a fraudulent cashier's check that she had received in the mail today from City Bank in an amount over \$4,000. Because Mrs. Balter is a business person, she knew it was a scam but there are a lot of people who would think it was a legitimate check. Mrs. Balter called the Roswell police and an officer came out and he called someone at the police station who said there was nothing they could do about it and that Mrs. Balter should call the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). She said their research determined that the GBI could not do anything until the City issues a police report and the police refused to do that. She said that Mrs. Balter has owned a commercial property for over 20 years in Roswell and is very disappointed in the response from the police department and that this needs to be taken care of because there are some people, especially

seniors in this town that will get scammed. Ms. Russell said that she had also received one of these checks in December from PNC Bank but she knew it was a scam.

- She talked about the salaries for lifeguards at the City pool and said they are only paid \$8.00 an hour and yet the City of Alpharetta pays \$13.00 per hour to their lifeguards. She said the City should be ashamed because these young people lifeguard all day for thousands of daycare and camper children and are given charge of their lives for only \$8.00 per hour. The City needs to acknowledge the responsibility that they have for the safety of the people and for maintaining the pool. She was told Alpharetta can pay more because they take money from the general operating fund and said that the City of Roswell has a policy that every recreation program must support itself. She said if the City can have a \$2 million bond to build a senior citizen pool; they should find money to pay a fair salary to its lifeguards.
- She talked about the Mayor and Council retreat a few months ago at the Ritz Carlton on Lake Oconee and asked why they had not taken advantage of the “Find It all in Roswell” program because its purpose is to generate business in Roswell. She asked City Administrator Kay Love if she knew the cost of the retreat. Ms. Love replied she did not remember. Ms. Russell said it was probably \$20,000 to \$25,000 for the weekend. She said for 35 years she has sold travel and organized meetings anywhere and the Council knows that and questioned why her own City government didn’t come to her with their business because they could find it all in Roswell. She expressed her disappointment about that. They lost an opportunity by not having the meeting in Roswell that would send a message to the entire region that Roswell is a great place to have meetings. She suggested they could have met at the Riverside Landing, a beautiful facility that is City owned and would have cost nothing, or at any of the nice hotels in Roswell. Taxes were also paid on those rooms and if it had been paid in Roswell, would have gone directly to the Roswell Convention and Visitors Bureau. When hotels are booked online, the tax goes to the State but when hotels are booked directly with the hotel, the tax money goes to the visitor’s bureau. They gave away 8-10% by taking their business to Lake Oconee. They could have found it all in Roswell.
- She talked about the Frazier Street Apartments and said it has now been decided there should be 320 units instead of the existing 148 that has 60 cars and soon could be as many as 450 cars and at two trips per day is about a half million more cars per year on Frazier and Norcross Streets. She questioned how the streets and that intersection could handle that many cars. The quality of life will be totally demolished for the people who live in that area. She said Council doesn’t care about that because they don’t live there, except for Councilmember Igleheart. They only see dollar signs.
- She said she spoke at the last meeting about \$200,000 that was spent for parking spaces at Allenbrook and after the meeting a staff member told her to give it a rest. She said they cannot tell her to give it a rest. She said she will never give up the right of the people to have mass transit and walking in a livable community.

Mayor Wood said he believed Ms. Russell inaccurately stated a couple of points. He said that \$200,000 was for land purchased in exchange for right of way for the National Park Service, not to acquire parking for the City but for right of way to eventually widen South Atlanta Street to four lanes to avoid the potential danger of the reversible lane. He said that Ms. Russell also said no money is spent from the general fund for Roswell recreational programs, but about \$525,000 is spent from the General Fund to support the pool and other recreational programs.

**Sylvia Morrow-Nocon**, 9055 Twelvestones Drive, Roswell in Twelvestones subdivision. She said she is an attorney and addressed concerns about the proposed radio tower to be erected across the street from their neighborhood swimming pool and made the following comments:

- She said they support the City police and firefighters and wants them to have the very best communication they can have to ensure they do their jobs safely and effectively which is important to everyone and of tremendous value to the community.
- She expressed concern about the City acting through the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority proposes to erect a 400-foot tower on Fouts Road. This is one of three towers planned as part of the radio communications network for the police and firefighters. She disagrees with the site selection in a residential subdivision. She noted that the Statue of Liberty is 305 feet high, and this 400-foot tower would sit right in the middle of a residential area surrounded by homes bought by residents with hard earned dollars, and by East Roswell Park on another side. The park recently received their national wildlife certification and is a true gem of this City and is an environmentally sensitive area. The subdivision is environmentally sensitive as well because the families who live there want to relax and enjoy their surroundings and walk in the park.
- She said the City of Roswell took the time to formulate an ordinance that specifically addresses the appropriate location for these radio towers and for cell towers and that every aspect of that ordinance is being violated by the City as they have exempted themselves from the application of these ordinances in the interest of public safety.
- It is troubling that the citizens have no one to represent or advocate for their interests because the entity that is proposing this tower is the City of Roswell; the very people they expect to protect their interests in the community and the citizens are very frustrated that this is even being considered. She said they only found out about this through an article in the *Neighbor* newspaper and soon after were invited to attend an informational meeting in July and emphasized that most people are on vacation through June and July and preparing to return to school in August. She said the meeting where this will be voted on is on August 12, the very first day of school and she hopes it is just coincidental because what do they think is the likelihood of getting anyone to turn out on the first day of school to voice their concerns about this. She added that there are many lesser options for this 400 foot tower.
- There is also a duplication of taxation because Fulton County is providing radio coverage for all of Fulton County inclusive of these cities via a contract with Motorola of Alpharetta at a cost of about \$19 million dollars. The North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority has entered into a contract with Motorola to spend \$16 million for this radio communication center. It is hard to believe that the City will pay \$35 million for \$19 million worth of radio work. It is duplication and these are the only four cities in Fulton County to have this duplication of service; this is poorly conceived.
- She requested that Mayor and Council reconsider their position over the next few weeks and also asked that a vote or any action on this proposal be delayed for at least 60 days. She said they have been asking for information, copies of contracts, environmental or engineering studies for three weeks but have received nothing. They are at a loss if they are ill prepared to address Council. She said she would be filing an open records request tomorrow and hopefully they will receive the documents they have been requesting. She said Roswell deserves better than this and let's keep Roswell beautiful.

Mayor Wood stated for the record that Council has not selected any site for this project. Staff is recommending the site on Fouts Road. Environmental studies have not been performed because the site has not been selected. Environmental and engineering studies if required would be done after a site is selected so as not to spend money unnecessarily.

**Don Perryman**, 125 Willow Stream Court, Roswell in Willow Brook townhomes on Warsaw Road spoke against the proposed Big Creek Parkway:

- He talked about congestion on Holcomb Bridge Road and said he experiences it every day and understands a need to alleviate that but what might help that situation would also harm the situation on Warsaw Road as well as other areas. There is already heavily traffic with long stop and go delays at certain times of the day and having Big Creek Parkway intersect there with possible connection of another road from SR-9 that he recently heard might be in the works would increase traffic congestion for everyone in the area even with additional lanes or a roundabout or anything else. He noted there are other situations where expansions were made and said people just tolerate the additional traffic that rises to the same level of congestion in spite of improvements and he therefore questioned the possible alleviation of traffic on Holcomb Bridge and said it would be at the expense of him and his neighbors.
- He said a more critical concern is increased flooding as a result of more impervious surface areas with less ability for heavy rains to run off safely. Willow Brook, Roswell Creek apartments and some homes in Liberty Square have flooded every four years on average for 30 years. He first experienced flooding in his home in 1991 over Labor Day weekend along with three other homes and a number of cars were totaled that cost many thousands of dollars. At that time Mayor Wood was the attorney who represented the woman who lived at 1278 Warsaw Road whose home flooded and he said Mayor Wood was here in City Council chambers not long after the flood and he heard him tell Mayor Mabry and Council that the greatest responsibility of a city government is the welfare of its citizens and that something had to be done about the flood hazard in this neighborhood and yet nothing has been done. In 2005, a hurricane brought heavy rains with 9 inches falling in a very short period again flooding their four homes, destroying cars and damaging other property. He later discovered that a culvert draining the creek behind their homes has a six foot entrance with only a five foot exit and with heavy rains, Willow Brook becomes a lake. This happened recently and only avoided their homes by a few feet. He said he was told by city officials to get flood insurance which he has, but he has neighbors who cannot afford any additional insurance. From the explanations he has heard at the meetings, he is convinced this risk will increase if the Big Creek Parkway project goes through. He said he emailed Danelle Alloway, City of Roswell Water Resources Engineer on June 20 and has met with her several times and they have exchanged several messages about this issue; he also copied Stu Moring, Environmental/Public Works Director and Councilmember Wynn on the email. On July 1, he heard from Ms. Alloway and she said she would let him know what measures would be taken to protect them from increased flooding as soon as she learns anything and he said he looks forward to hearing from her. He spoke with a representative from the company who would be doing this project at a recent meeting at St. David's Episcopal Church and was told that neither FIMA or DOT would allow the project if it increases the flood hazard. He said he is not reassured that this issue is getting efficient attention or that measures will be taken to keep the flood risk at the present unsatisfactory level much less reduce it.
- He requested that Mayor and Council take into consideration not only the congestion and other impacts on these communities but also the real threat of increased flooding.

**Joyce Cross**, 2300 Twelvestones Drive, Roswell spoke about concerns regarding the proposed radio tower on Fouts Road and made the following comments:

- She is a neighbor of Sylvia Morrow-Nocon who spoke earlier and said other neighbors are present at this meeting as well and that along with many others they will be present at the Mayor and City Council meeting on August 12, despite the fact that it is the first night of school. She said they are vehemently opposed to building a 400 foot radio tower next to their subdivision and their neighbors in Martins Landing and Horseshoe Bend also feel very strongly about this. She said they want the police and fire to have the very best radio system

and understand they have problems and they want those problems to be solved, but they don't believe a neighborhood needs to be decimated in order to do that.

- She requested that Mayor and Council delay the vote that is scheduled to take place on August 12 for 60 days until more information can be gathered because they are awaiting information from the City that has not been received and that they have been getting conflicting information. Fulton County authorities have told them that only a 300 foot radio tower is necessary and yet City of Roswell officials say a 400 foot radio tower is necessary. They are not getting straight answers to the questions they are posing.
- She said that on July 11, Kay Love, Chief Grant and Captain Sweeney told her at an informational meeting where she was the only person present that there is no other site that will work. She said information they have gathered shows that there are many other sites in commercial and industrial areas that will work with higher elevations and they have not even been considered; she asked that Council take time to consider those. The City will be in violation of their own ordinance if they proceed with this 400 foot radio tower in terms of setbacks, visual and environmental impacts on neighborhoods. She said this Council went on record in 2010 unanimously opposing a 175 foot cell tower in the Lake Charles neighborhood because of the impact on property values and they do not feel they have enough information about the impact this tower will have on their property values. A 400 foot tower will impact the skyline of the City and the lives of families for future generations and will become the legacy of this Mayor and Council; they should make this decision with an informed mind; she can't imagine they have that with a lack of information being exchanged.
- She asked again that the City's elected officials postpone the August 12 vote on this radio tower for 60 days and said let's keep Roswell beautiful.

**Claudia Metcalfe**, said she lives in the Bainbridge subdivision and spoke against the Big Creek Parkway proposal and made the following comments.

- She said they have been fighting the Big Creek Parkway for four years when the City first wanted to destroy their subdivision by putting a road through it which is a wetland and wildlife area and now the City has decided to keep it on Warsaw Road and reaching to SR-9.
- There are traffic issues now that make it difficult for them to get out of their subdivision; it will be worse when school starts when the school buses stop in front of their subdivision blocking traffic for at least 20 minutes. She said soon, 500 people will be working at the new GM location that will greatly increase traffic on Warsaw Road.
- She was appalled that the City had not made a decision to save their subdivision because Roswell is a great City and should be kept that way and it will be a shame to destroy the people, the wildlife, and the park and this new intersection will destroy Big Creek Park.

**Christine Halm**, 1285 Parkmont Drive, Roswell in Liberty Square subdivision asked everyone to stand who was attending the meeting in opposition to the Big Creek Parkway then said she was opposing the parkway and made the following comments:

- She expressed objection to the Big Creek Parkway plan that would siphon eastbound traffic off of Holcomb Bridge Road onto Warsaw Road and said it is a misguided and expensive attempt to help alleviate Holcomb Bridge Road traffic.
- Liberty Square has 271 single family middle income homes that are some of the very few lower to middle income homes available to people who want to make Roswell their home. They are hard working families, many who are immigrants and they have all bought into the American dream; unfortunately the City of Roswell has turned their dream into a nightmare.

- Their corridor of Warsaw Road is only eight tenths of a mile long. Aside from the subdivisions, townhouses and apartments that share that section of road there is an elementary school, a senior citizen center, a daycare, and a church in a very small, heavily congested two lane corridor. It takes up to 20 minutes to get out of the subdivision onto Warsaw Road during school hours and at times Warsaw Road backs up all the way to Old Roswell Road to get onto Holcomb Bridge Road.
- The City also plans to link this already heavily congested road with Sun Valley Road which will dump even more traffic onto Warsaw from Alpharetta Highway resulting in a huge influx of traffic onto this small corridor of Warsaw Road from the south, north and west.
- In addition to the increase in traffic, this \$42-\$50 million parkway will pave over and into a major wetland that feeds into the Fulton County water supply and perhaps with the surplus of recent rain, everyone has forgotten how scarce drinking water can be for the area particularly when they are required to share a limited water supply with two neighboring states. She said this 60 foot wide road with an estimated 14,000 cars daily can't possibly be in the best interest of Fulton County.
- She said they cannot understand why the City will no longer consider the much more viable Grimes Bridge solution, a road that is further west than Warsaw and already runs to Georgia 400. She said even the company hired by the City to find a solution to the problem pointed out that the Grimes Bridge route would be shorter and cheaper with more favorable gradients and would be much less harmful to the environment. She asked why when looking at the points realistically and logically is the City dead set on doing this project on Warsaw Road. As Roswell taxpayers, they are entitled to an explanation as to why the simpler and cheaper solution is no longer being considered and said she hopes the answer isn't middle class property versus affluent property, but she can't see any other reason why they would do this.

**Tim Equels**, 575 Camber Woods Drive, Roswell said he is an HOA board member for Crabapple Woods subdivision. He discussed a zoning case regarding an access road near Crabapple Woods subdivision that has been through the Planning Commission and approved with certain conditions and will be coming before Council in a few weeks. He made the following comments.

- He thanked Mayor and Council for their service to Roswell and said he appreciated them taking their time hear them.
- He said he would describe the layout of the proposed development and that it is located on Rucker Road and Houze Road and the subdivision is a fat "L" shape with all of the units coming off of Rucker Road with a proposed access road over to Houze Road. The lot layout looks like sardines in a can with a density of about 2.5 to 3 per acre which is generally what the surrounding community has, but the developer has also added a lot of the access road acreage into the computation; so density and arrangement are the issues.
- The biggest issue for Crabapple Woods is that they are directly south of this development and would be the immediate neighborhood south of the proposed access road onto Houze Road. There is a lake on the property to the north and they propose to build the access road over the berm of that lake. The Crabapple Woods HOA board is concerned because not only is it going to be to the north of that but it is also right on the property line. Therefore, a property owner on the north directly abutting the proposed road would be looking up at a road with all of the traffic concerns. In comments made in the preliminary review by staff; the traffic engineer said the City would not accept any portion of the road as a public road that is on top of the berm. However, that means it would be a private road and then the question is who would take responsibility for building it correctly and keeping it operational. The development would probably have a small HOA without about 50 homeowners and \$10,000

in the bank and that doesn't make sense. If there is a risk of this road in making sure it is maintained and built properly, then it would be best managed by the City. It should either be built to standard and acceptable to the City for maintenance and operation or it should not be built at all because if it is not maintained, one day it will come down into the back yards of the properties or even into the homes because that is how close the homes are to the road. He asked that Council look very closely at this issue.

- Their second issue with this development is stormwater. He said he has a little experience with stormwater and the City wisely enacted a stormwater utility management program that is probably one of the first in the surrounding area and this would be a good opportunity to put some of those things into effect. Serious stormwater issues already exist on that property and he said they had presented a Power Point to the Planning Commission that shows the existing conditions where currently water is running off from the high point to the east and to the south and already causing damage. The City's stormwater manager's preliminary review basically stated that she did not think this current layout configuration would meet the stormwater ordinance. He said they are beginning their review, but he believes some conditions are needed. The problem is with density and that may need some adjustment so there is less impervious surface in such a small area because rainwater comes down and runs off and if there is not a lot of buffer or space in order to slow it down, it will go onto other properties. Given that there are existing problems; he asked that Council look closely at the conditions relative to the access road and to the stormwater issue.
- Their third issue is traffic because the intersection at Houze and Rucker is currently rated "B" in the a.m. and "F" in the p.m. and he said it can't get any worse than that. Traffic backs all the way past the Catholic church to the east on Rucker and all the way past Hembree Road to the south. He said adding more density above the existing zoning doesn't make sense.
- Mr. Equels said that the stormwater and the access road are both very serious issues. He asked that Council take extra time to look at these problems and at the stormwater ordinance in order to protect the public.

**Carey Garback**, 190 Barrington Drive East, Roswell in Barrington Farms off Old Alabama Road discussed concerns about the proposed Big Creek Parkway and made the following comments:

- She said she is looking at this from the opposite side of Georgia 400 because this cut through will go all the way through to Old Alabama Road.
- Regarding traffic, it is only one mile from where she turns onto Old Alabama Road from her subdivision down to Holcomb Bridge Road and the travel time during morning rush hour is 20 minutes and that will increase to 20-25 minutes when school starts back. More than a half a dozen subdivisions are accessible from Old Alabama Road and it is the only access road for their subdivision with 450 homes.
- Wildlife in this area will also be affected. From the drawings she has seen, the cut through begins on the west side of Georgia 400 and ends at Old Alabama Road. She said she owns property up to a portion of the reservoir overflow behind her home and deer and other wildlife use that area between their homes. It is dangerous for them now getting closer to the road because of the traffic and the addition of another road nearby will limit the opportunity for wildlife to thrive there. She said it is interesting that there were other drawings for this project that for some reason were dismissed and she thought the one near Grimes Bridge looked like a good idea.
- There have been no notices, discussions, signage flyers or anything distributed on the east side of Georgia 400 so the residents there are oblivious to what is happening with this project.



They have asked the newspapers to be more involved and more informative of when meetings are held and this issue is being discussed.

- Ms. Garback said she hopes Council will take a closer look at the plans that are currently designed and take into consideration the enormous amount of traffic this will add and in spending taxpayer dollars.

**Jason Chen**, 4206 Timbercreek Circle, Roswell spoke about concerns regarding the proposed connector between Warsaw Road and Sun Valley Road:

- He said he is an 80 year old senior citizen and incapacitated with lumbar and cervical spine problems and does not drive and depends heavily on the Walmart and the #85 bus stop in front of the Walmart parking lot. He expressed his concerns about additional traffic due to this project. He said he hopes his private concern will be taken into serious consideration when compared to the benefit to the City.

**Deborah Sanders**, 9025 Ridgestone Court, Roswell, said she lives in Twelvestones Township with her husband and two children and spoke in opposition to the proposed radio tower on Fouts Road and made the following comments.

- She said she is a registered nurse and not opposed to improving emergency services but has concerns about the information they received at a recent meeting at the East Roswell Park and said that the City of Roswell wants to duplicate costly services with Fulton County which is a waste of taxpayer money. She said if that information is incorrect, could someone supply her with information proving that.
- They were told that this project has been underway for three to five years and that the property on Fouts Road was just purchased in June 2013 and also that this is the only site where this tower can be placed. Several weeks ago at an informational meeting, they requested the COMMDEX report to see why this site was chosen, but it has never been provided and it only fair for them to know.
- She said there is a lack of transparency and information discrepancy. She spoke to two high ranking police officers who gave her conflicting information regarding the tower and whether she would be able to see it from the back of her home. They all looked at the same map and she pointed to the same house and got conflicting information. She said she wonders if the City really understands the dimensions of this 400 foot tower as far as footprint, etc.
- They have been told there are no health risks involved with this tower; however she has seen online that there are no long term health care risk studies related to families and individuals who live in the shadow of a radio tower 24/7.
- She said her husband, a Roswell native who grew up in Martin's Landing described Roswell as a pro-family, pro-community, pro-environment town and they are now appalled that this City would place such an intrusive tower that cannot be disguised so incredibly close to their community. They hope that Mayor and Council will do the right thing and vote to oppose this tower on Fouts Road or at least delay the vote for 60 days until further information is evaluated and shown to them as requested. She said lets keep Roswell beautiful.

**Glenn Renfro**, 1155 Worthington Hills Drive, Roswell in Liberty Square subdivision expressed concerns regarding the proposed Big Creek Parkway and commented:

- From a community perspective, he said crossing Warsaw at peak traffic in the morning or evening is quite hazardous. He said he lives off of Worthington Hills Drive and often in the afternoon traffic heading towards Holcomb Bridge is blocked all the way back to Singing Hills Drive and in the morning traffic during school sessions the travel times is about 30

minutes from Worthington Hills Drive to Old Roswell Road. He said he was told that the Worthington Hills Drive access portion to Warsaw would be taken out and that would leave them with only one exit out of their community. He said he asked how they would be handling the traffic and what the impact would be with the addition of the Big Creek Parkway and Sun Valley Drive extension. He said their response was that they hadn't thought that far yet. He requested that the Grimes Bridge Road option be reconsidered.

- From a neighborhood perspective, he said he has lived in his home for 15 years and other neighbors have been there 17 plus years. The neighbor to his left has been in their home since 1978 and he said he talked with another neighbor who has only been in their home for six months and they said if they knew a new road would be built behind their house they probably would not have bought there. He asked why the City would want to destroy a perfectly good neighborhood just to build a road. He said two of his neighbors live down the road in a lower geographic area and he is concerned about what would happen to their property in relation to possible flooding with the additional permeable surface of the asphalt that would be built there.
- He said from a personal perspective, he lives on Worthington Hills in one of the houses being considered for condemnation. He said he asked if the City decides to take the house and he has to go for eminent domain, what would be the value of his home and he was told that it would be County assessed plus 20%. He said that he had already lost 27% of his value in the last assessment and has since done some research and discovered that there is nowhere else in Roswell where he can live for this amount. He thanked the Mayor and Council for hearing his comments.

Mayor Wood said, in order to correct some misinformation, that the price is set by appraisal at the time of the acquisition which would be some years hence and the City does not take the County tax assessment as a beginning point. If negotiations are unsuccessful and condemnation is necessary for any piece of property, the City hires an appraiser to appraise the property and taxes are not really relevant.

**Preston Shilmeyer**, 2295 Twelvestones Drive, Roswell discussed concerns about the proposed radio tower on Fouts Road and made the following comments:

- He thanked Chief Grant and Captain Sweeney and said they had been very helpful and had provided a lot of information about the tower. He said their neighborhood wants them to have the system that they need at minimum taxpayer expense but in a way that doesn't affect people in the way this tower will affect them and added that there are alternatives that could be reached without placing this 400 foot tower near their neighborhood.
- He said he walks in East Roswell Park every day and had done some measuring and surveying and said if the tower was put on the highest point on the property that was purchased, it would be 138 feet from Fouts Road. The City ordinance says that a cell tower must be set back from the property line as far as this tower is tall. This 400 foot tower would be 200 feet from their pool and if it were to fall it would fall over the pool and hit the building where the restrooms are on the other side of the pool. It is within 350 feet of three homes in the neighborhood that would be protected by the property line radius of the City ordinance for a cell tower. He said this is not a cell tower and would be an emergency radio tower but it emits on the same frequencies and could also be leased out to cell tower equipment in the future; they have asked the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority if they would guarantee them that this would not happen and they could not make that guarantee. He said in fact they would probably end up sharing it with Fulton County if they decide to do a dual system which means there would be two radios on the tower. This tower would be located

within seven homes of the tower height so seven homes would be affected within the radius of what would normally be an ordinance protected area.

- He pointed out that when they first found out about this tower, they heard that the vote would be on July 22 which would have been a week ago and that shows that the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority was not giving a lot of consideration to people to have time to comment about this and to obtain more information. At the informational meeting given by Chief Grant and Captain Sweeney, they were told that the vote is delayed to August 12.
- They have also found out that the land that was purchased for this site was purchased on June 30 and they were told that the land was going to be purchased anyway to help expand the park. He said that is fine but they need to understand how that looks when they know that the site was selected on Fouts Road before that date and then they see that the land was purchased 22 days before the vote to actually use that site. Ultimately, the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority has not been forthcoming and he had heard that one of the reasons Johns Creek is not going to participate in this is because they did not like the way that they were behaving in the process.
- He said another fact that has not been pointed out is that Roswell is spending more money in the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority than any other city that is participating and are also taking on the burden of more towers than any other area. He said that is probably because of geography but Roswell is getting the short end of the stick on that when perhaps they could work with Fulton County and come up with a much better solution. Also, the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority is now working more with Fulton County than they had been when they first found out about this plan and that might open up some alternative sites where this tower could go that would not be so close to homes. He said through his own research, he found sites on City owned property that meets the requirements of the City that are the correct elevation which must be over 1,050 feet (the proposed site is a little over 1,100 feet). There are other sites that also meet that requirement and the closest house is 800 feet and the next closest house is 1,000 feet.
- Mr. Shilmeyer requested that the vote be delayed and said let's help keep Roswell beautiful.

**Morgan Osbaldeston**, 1145 Worthington Hills Drive, Roswell in Liberty Square subdivision, expressed concerns regarding the proposed Big Creek Parkway and made the following comments:

- She is Glen Renfro's neighbor (who spoke earlier); she purchased her home six months ago. She is a marketing coordinator, lives with her boyfriend, a Marine who served in Afghanistan, and her Burmese Mountain dog who has gone through pet therapy training, and believes they are the kind of people this City wants to attract; young active professionals who participate in the community, spend date nights in historic Roswell and attend local festivals and weekend events. She knew she wanted a home in Roswell and searched a five square mile radius looking for the perfect house with an easy commute to work, to her parents' home in Norcross, and to a farm on Arnold Mill Road where she keeps her horse. A home in Roswell meant a great location. She placed an offer on her first home in January at the age of 25 and was excited to find a 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath home with a 2 car garage and a fenced backyard for the dog within her meager budget of \$105,000 and she only needed to put 20% down which she thought was the responsible thing and she purchased the house before it was even listed. She thought this would be a great affordable starter home with room to start a family and grow into. However, a week after her closing and before moving in she found out about the Big Creek Parkway proposal. She was at first told by her neighbors that a road was planned to go in behind their homes but after attending one of the informational meetings discovered that one of the two proposals had her home along with 22 others slated for

demolition thus her move-in day was bittersweet and she wondered how soon she would be moving. She said Liberty Square is a wonderful neighborhood for young professionals like herself buying their first home and they are friends with two other couples who would love to move into this neighborhood but after hearing about this parkway, they are not sure so sure.

- She requested that Mayor and Council consider the proposed alignments and to keep in mind that this neighborhood is one of the few entry level neighborhoods that make living in Roswell a possibility for people like her. She hopes they will make the right decision to continue to welcome people like her into this City.

**Paula Harper-Hill**, 1135 Worthington Hills Drive, Roswell in Liberty Square subdivision expressed concerns regarding the proposed Big Creek Parkway and made the following comments:

- She is a neighbor of Glen Renfro and Morgan Osbaldeston (who previously spoke). She is an 18 year resident who purchased her home in 1996 because it was an affordable and convenient neighborhood to live. Over the years she became a business owner and has contributed her fair share of taxes to both Fulton County and the City of Roswell. She said when the parkway was first proposed, she thought replacing the troublesome apartment buildings that backs up to her property was a welcome addition to the community because of many issues emanating from the apartment complex including gunfire, unlicensed businesses, brothels, murders and other crime sources that make them feel unsecure in their own homes. She thought a walking trail and bike path would be an attractive addition for those who enjoy exercising and it might also improve their property values.
- She talked about traffic - The meetings she attended did not provide suitable answers to the most important questions that the parkway posed which included what would be the impact and how would they handle the quadrupling of traffic on Warsaw Road which already backs up in all directions during rush hour including Old Roswell, Mansell and Holcomb Bridge roads and how will they take care of the residents trying to enter and exit their community other than a roundabout or closing off their street. She said even if an answer was given, they may not believe it because a traffic light the City installed with a left turn signal on Old Roswell and Warsaw roads doesn't even work half the time.
- She talked about property values - She said they attended every meeting they were aware of and although it has been said that there were flyers, postcards and emails that is not true except for the last meeting and prior to that there were only signs on Warsaw. She said for the first two years she didn't know what Big Creek Parkway was and then suddenly there was a new plan and they have only missed one meeting that they are aware of that Morgan Osbaldeston's father attended and he told them that in one of the plans their property is slated for demolition and that plan that would take away their homes, split their neighborhood with half of their street facing the parkway and only allowing one access for entry and exit to their subdivision which is unacceptable. When she and her husband attended the next meeting they were given patronizing answers to their questions. They asked when they would know City Council's decision on what course would be taken and one representative replied perhaps sometime in July and another representative said, "it would be 8-10 years before any construction would begin and who knows where they are going to be living then." She said she knows where she will be because she plans to retire there and her neighbors down the street who bought 30 years ago and are now in their 80's also plan to retire there. She said the final straw was the answer that the seeming head of this task force gave (she pointed out someone in the meeting but said she did not know his name) to one of the residents that asked innocently if the parkway goes in behind their homes what would the speed limit be. She said the head of the task force laughed and replied 99 miles per hour. She said that was

unbelievable; she was aghast and this is not a joke to the residents of this community, it is serious business. She said that levity and sarcasm directed towards them during this process shows these residents are being thought of as junk just so someone can put their name on a parkway for their ego. She said it seems the City just wants to get rid of them and can do whatever they want. She said to Council that they should ask themselves if they would want this project in their back yard or across their front yard. She said this neighborhood is full of families that can't afford to have their homes ripped out from under them or their property values devalued further and many of them are first time buyers, retirees, young families and many are under water on their mortgages. What the City would pay for their homes would leave them nothing in which to relocate even if they could find a comparable value home; some would be stuck with the difference and have to fight the banks with an attorney. Some people have thousands of dollars in their homes for remodeling and improvements and that one neighbor has completely remodeled her home and she was so upset that she didn't come to the meeting. Many residents are trying to recoup the falling values that seem to be coinciding with the property statements that they just received and said that she lost \$28,000 this past year in her property value and everyone in the neighborhood is experiencing close to that if not more. The proposed parkway is a road to nowhere that will take traffic from one area and dump it into another creating another issue; an issue these residents will have to live with. They have all worked hard to purchase their homes and take pride in what they have. She said they should also not forget about the environmental issues.

- She said they are used to being lied to by their government but they are not fools and they do not appreciate their tax dollars being spent in this way; they worked hard to pay that money and it does not belong to the City; it belongs to the residents and should not be spent on projects like this that create new problems with far worse results. She said they do not wish to be patronized any longer; the City needs to tell the residents what they are going to do so they can decide what they have to do and they will fight this by all means necessary. She said the City cannot destroy their community, displace families, and endanger their children with increased traffic around Mimosa Elementary because eventually a child will be killed and she hopes Council feels like they killed them. She said she has friends who want them to retire with them in Ecuador or Costa Rica and when she asked them about the corrupt government there; they laughed and replied, "Corrupt government, at least they are openly corrupt." She said here the government will smile at you and tell you what you want to hear and then take you for everything you have.
- She thanked Council for listening and said she hoped they would think about what they are trying to do with the towers, with their homes and with the parkway.

**Thayer Gallison**, 8990 Ridgestone Court, Roswell in Twelvestones Township discussed his opposition to the radio tower on Fouts Road and made the following comments:

- He said his job is analyzing investments and that no one in his network can sell an investment that his team has not voted on and declared acceptable. He said people tell him every day to sell something because they think it is a great investment, but in the end, it is his job to ensure that their thousands of clients are not sold something that is worthless or poorly researched. Often, people even in his own network are turned against him by that person who wants to sell the investment and when they ask why they can't do it, he gives them a perfectly reasonable explanation and his CEO will always back him as long as he has a reasonable explanation. Most people will listen and understand the explanation and thank him for looking out for them, but there are always some who say they hear but he shouldn't be the one making that decision that they should be. He said his question at the end of the conversation is usually, "What's the hurry?"

- He said about a month ago he had sent an email to everyone on the podium today asking if this is the only site suitable for a tower of this height. He said Mayor Wood had replied to him that if they would propose some other sites that would be great. Mr. Gallison said he went to a couple other places that he thought might be more appropriate and then began talking with his neighbors and realized they were already working to find other sites.
- He said in the month since, new issues have come up for which they would like answers. He asked if there are two tower sites. He said if the Fulton County Radio Commission is looking at another site within the park, could they not do one instead of two towers. He asked for the cost and if there would be extra taxpayer money spent for duplication of services and said he had never heard anything about the height in the ordinances before. He said he lives in one of the homes where the tower could hit if it should fall and that it absolutely would hit their pool. He said the City Manager of Johns Creek decided they did not want to be part of this Commission because they felt the process was moving too fast and had not been bid properly and said that is a huge open question. He said another question is what would be the impact on their property values; an unknown because there has not been time to do a proper study. Another question has to do with the health impact of the towers which he supposes is not much, but there has not been time to research it.
- Mr. Gallison completed his comments by asking, “When Council votes on the location of the tower or decides when that vote will be, what is the hurry?”

**Frank Eastland**, 1660 Bainbridge Way, Roswell spoke about the Big Creek Parkway and made the following comments:

- He is a homeowner in the Bainbridge subdivision off Warsaw Road not far from Holcomb Bridge and said the opinions expressed about the congestion on Warsaw are completely correct, that it is very bad during peak hours and school times.
- He said he has followed this project for a few years and studied it from both sides of the issue and determined that it may be a good one. Property values in this area are depressed; a lot due to the crime in the apartments across Warsaw Road from them and non-maintained rental houses in their area. He said he doesn’t know that would be addressed but it is a far bigger issue than a lot of the traffic.
- There are two options when looking at the plans of the proposed parkway. Option #1 goes through Liberty Square and through 23 houses and some apartment buildings. Option #2 goes outside of that and only eliminates some of the apartment buildings. He said he hopes that the City is looking at option #2, but if they are still considering Grimes Bridge that appears to be a better solution especially for north of Holcomb Bridge Road. On the other hand, for property owners along Warsaw Road, the stretch of property from Holcomb Bridge to Old Roswell and Mansell roads is very depressed. There is little access to the school and it is very hard to get around there with a motor vehicle. The new proposal for the Big Creek Parkway is a multi-modal system that is well thought out and planned and maintains the two lanes of traffic currently on Warsaw and also adds a bike lane on each side of the motorized lane, a pedestrian walkway and a multi-use path so that people like Mr. Chen and others who are not able to drive can access other parts of the community by pedestrian traffic, bicycle or other non-motorized means.
- On the subject of community value, this project will possibly increase property values and will certainly beautify the area plus making it multi-modal and therefore not be limited to cars only and would connect different parts of Roswell that previously could only be accessed by motorized vehicles. He said the overall project is well done and he hoped that other members of the community would also consider some of the positive benefits of this.

**Camille Scent**, 1345 Parkmont Drive, Roswell in Liberty Square discussed concerns about the proposed Big Creek Parkway and Sun Valley Drive extension and made the following comments:

- She first asked a question of the Transportation Department and said she understood from the last meeting that the improvements to Warsaw Road north of the Parkway are not included in the parkway package and asked if that is correct.

Transportation Director Steve Acenbrak replied and said he is not prepared to answer this question at this time but they are in the process of designing the project to meet federal guidelines. One issue with the guidelines is that it has to meet the 'need and purpose' which is a federal requirement. They will do an environmental document that includes the wetlands as well as other things. One thing the 'need and purpose' involves is "logical termini" which is where it starts and where it ends and there is a debate within the department about whether the improvements on Warsaw Road are part of the need and purpose of this document and that is a very complicated series of issues. He said staff completely agrees and understands the issues on Warsaw Road without question and that he wants to make sure everyone understands that; the issue is whether it is part of this project. It will either be part of this project approved by the state and federal highway and will go forward, or it will become another project that is part and parcel but it won't be under this umbrella. He said that is his best explanation at this time.

- Ms. Scent continued her comments and said that helped clarify but her concern is unless it is determined that this is part of this project then their efforts to fund this project do not guarantee that these improvements are going to happen during the term of the current councilmembers. She said she imagines there is a huge list of road projects that the City wants to get done and this is only one of many if this is put off to become part of a future project. She said she would like to clarify, based on the previous speaker's comments, that those are pretty pictures of Warsaw Road's improvements but she has heard nothing confirming they will happen if the City funds the Big Creek Parkway. She said that is her major concern about the project

Mayor Wood made an inaudible comment.

- Ms. Scent thanked him and continued her comments and said she opposes the project in general for many reasons. She said she sent Council an email letter delineating all of her concerns and some of them had spoken to her and shared some of their concerns and she expressed her appreciation for that. She said she suspects this project is going forward but her biggest concern is how it goes forward based on new information about the Sun Valley Drive project. She asked Council to consider that Warsaw Road be included all the way from SR-9 stating that she recently read an article that the extension of Sun Valley Drive from SR-9 to Mansell Road, which is Warsaw Road Extension and basically the same road that their neighborhood is on, is currently the Transportation Department's top priority and she understands that project is going forward. She said from her perspective living in Liberty Square with the Big Creek Parkway being contemplated in their back yard, it cannot be considered a Holcomb Bridge Road to Holcomb Bridge Road project particularly once the Sun Valley Drive extension happens to Warsaw Road. If someone is traveling south on SR-9 to go to east Roswell with a bridge that goes there without going through a Georgia 400 interchange, it is only logical that they would cut through and go across on the parkway. She is sure the traffic flow studies done by the consultants showed that, which is why the project is on the north side and not on the alternative Grimes Bridge Road because the north side

passage took more traffic off the roads. She said if you make it easier for them to get to that from Warsaw Road then that is going to be their preferred route. She said if the consultants did not know about the Sun Valley Road extension project, they would not have asked the question, "If you could turn off at Sun Valley Drive would you do it?" She said she doesn't think there will be data that says whether or not that is what people would do, but they would because it is logical and in fact the City is saying they want people to do that to get away from the interchanges and take the parkway for local traffic to have an easier route to access east Roswell. She said that is fine but it can't stop at Mansell Road; it would have to come all the way to the Parkway and to Holcomb Bridge Road because people will also take it to get onto Georgia 400.

- She urged Council to consider these two projects as a unit when thinking about funding either one because they can't be isolated. She said a small section of Warsaw Road (perhaps two tenths of a mile) is not within the Roswell city limits so it is not under the City's control, but it is irresponsible not to consider that the impacts of what they are doing is going to go through that entire section and although it is not within the City's jurisdiction, does not mean that it can just be ignored with one project ending at Mansell Road and another one beginning at Old Roswell Road. This is one road and one project with heavy pedestrian traffic that she drives and also walks on. She said that is why she lives there because she could walk to the library, post office and stores. She also questioned why the City of Alpharetta doesn't have a sidewalk on Old Roswell Road going towards Mansell Road where the sidewalks end saying it is unconscionable that it just ends there. She said there is also no sidewalk on Warsaw Road between Old Roswell Road and Mansell Road where people must walk in the street or on a steeply sloped edge and therefore the idea that this beautiful parkway would end at Old Roswell Road and then something else would begin at Mansell Road to go north on Old Roswell Road extension just can't be done because they are not isolated. It is the responsibility of Council to represent the citizens who use that section of road and get together with the City of Alpharetta to include that portion of the road in this project and ensure they are on board with what the City of Roswell is going to do. If these projects go through and the roads are built, they must consider the impact for safety of pedestrians on Warsaw Road. There are a lot of children because of the elementary school and the two day cares centers; a lot of senior pedestrians because of the senior center; as well as a huge number of middle and lower income families who tend to walk a lot in that area.
- Ms. Scent urged Council again to consider the Sun Valley Drive extension and Big Creek Parkway as one unit and how they will impact each other should both projects get funding.

Mayor Wood said for the record that the City of Roswell has already requested a meeting with the City of Alpharetta on how these roads will work together.

**Phil Lunney**, 9460 Hillside Drive, Roswell made the following comments:

- He said he has lived in his home for 27 years and expressed appreciation to the City of Roswell recreation department for having taken good care of his family over the years; they are now taking care of him because he is a recreational walker like many other people and that is the main reason he is here. He said walking is talked about in every project coming forward such as Holcomb Bridge Road going past Horseshoe Bend where suddenly there are trees, roots and dirt. He said that is going to be part of the next project and Eves Road will be part of that as well. He said he walked 1,000 miles since November has probably walked every trail and park in the City. He commended the exceptional work by the recreation department recently on the river trail clearing away branches and putting in new gravel. He mentioned a project that was discussed in a Council meeting a few weeks ago that would



allow a pass through so that neighborhoods don't become islands and said that is impressive and the City needs more of that.

- He said he walks to the mall through the neighborhood then up Old Alabama Road and crosses over Holcomb Bridge Road then to the Big Creek Park. He said it seems there is a road opportunity there because if someone walks down to the creek, they can't get across this time of the year but there is a spot that could go across from Old Alabama Road to Mansell Road. He said if he takes the Greenway up to Mansell Road and crosses over to Lowe's, it seems there should be a way out of the back to walk over to Holcomb Bridge but there isn't one and it appears there would be an access along that side of Georgia 400.
- He commented that the water plant would be a great location for the radio tower because there doesn't seem to be anything around that.
- He said the City should think about ways to change their perspective and keep the walking, which is great; he has a dream that the Atlanta beltway will connect to the Roswell, Alpharetta, and Forsyth greenways and the City needs to get together with the other governments. He said the City is doing the right things but they need to open up.

**Robert Sanders**, 9025 Ridgestone Court, Roswell made the following comments about the proposed radio tower on Fouts Road:

- He said he is a Roswell native and loves Roswell and its beauty. This City is family oriented and that is why he came back here to raise his family. His neighborhood recently raised over \$100,000 to renovate their tennis courts and build a pool and play area.
- He expressed concern about the process the City has taken with the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority to select placement of the 400 foot radio tower across from their back yards because they do not truly understand the options, impacts and detrimental effects to their community and they have heard conflicting information about the project. The residents in the neighborhood have been willing to work with the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority to understand their options because they want to have a best in breed EMS system for the police and fire with funding from the City of Roswell and Fulton County but he said they have not been given that opportunity. COMMDEX, the company hired to perform the study to determine the proper placement of the towers has not been forthcoming with their study and the residents have been told there is only one place this tower can potentially go, but he said that is simply incorrect. They want more visibility and cooperation and for Council to understand the facts before placing this tower across from their neighborhood. This tower will be permanent and will impact their everyday lives where they work, live, and play.

Mayor Wood said that two speakers had questioned the information that is available from COMMDEX. He asked City Administrator Kay Love to address this.

Ms. Love said COMMDEX was hired by the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority as project manager. In regards to engineering reports and other information that has been referenced, there is not a neat bound report; the engineering reports don't exist because the sites have not been selected. All of the sites for the radio system will be engineered and then a determination will be made as to whether the site is suitable for a tower to be built. There are propagation maps, technical information, as well as the requirements such as altitude and construction of the tower itself. The City will move through the process for all of the sites for regulatory, environmental and licensing. There have been a number of questions from residents of Twelvestones subdivision and the City is in the process of gathering all of the answers and wants to get all of them out at one time. They had a few days when there were a number of

questions and then other questions added and they are prepared to provide those answers tomorrow but there is not a nice bound report. The City is open to meeting with Twelvestones residents or anyone else who has specific questions. She said there are a couple of groups associated with this and that Captain Sweeney is part of the technical group and there is an administrative group of those who don't know the technical aspects. She said Captain Sweeney and his counterparts have vast knowledge about the technical requirements of the system and they are working with Motorola and COMMDEX in the overall system design. There are many unknowns at this point but the City understands the concerns and things such as engineering will have to go through the process. As the Mayor stated earlier, they would be ill advised to move ahead with engineering a site that has yet to be selected and even when a site is selected whether in Roswell or any other city involved; it will still remain unknown until all environmental and engineering tests and processes have been completed before they will be given a green light.

The meeting adjourned for a break at 9:00 p.m. and reconvened at 9:10 p.m.

Mayor Wood introduced Jack Doughtry, a life scout with Boy Scout Troop 87 to come forward. Jack said he is working on his Citizenship in the Community Merit Badge and one of the requirements is to attend a Council meeting and take notes on a certain political issue and ask questions about that. Jack asked which part of the government is responsible for things related to the radio towers. Mayor Wood replied there are three governments involved, the City of Roswell, the North Fulton Regional Radio System Authority (made up of Roswell, Sandy Springs, Alpharetta, Milton and Mountain Park), as well as Fulton County who the City previously had their system with, but that system is now obsolete. Fulton County will possibly partner with the City of Roswell so that their public safety people can piggy back on Roswell's operation. He said that has not been resolved. Jack thanked the Mayor and said this is his last Eagle required merit badge but he looks forward to earning his water sports merit badge and then he will do his Eagle project and a few scout master reviews. He said he has not chosen an Eagle project but is researching that now. Mayor Wood suggested that he talk with Joe Glover with the Roswell Parks Department because the City is always looking for Eagle projects; many of which have already gone into the City's parks.

Open Forum continued.

**Lauren Fields**, 865 Singing Hills Drive, Roswell in Liberty Square subdivision commented on the proposed Big Creek Parkway and conserving wetlands:

- She said that parks are very important to her and she hopes the radio tower and Big Creek Parkway proposals are still conceptual. She said she believes the reason Grimes Bridge was eliminated is because there is too much traffic on Riverside and Azalea and it was eliminated to make that a dead end street to prevent cars from going through that area. She said she didn't know the reason that the other side was not given as much time and attention. Ms. Fields then read a story that she had written about conserving wetlands. She followed it up by saying, "No thank you to Big Creek Parkway; think yes to Big Creek Park."

**Ed Scent**, 1345 Parkmont Drive, Roswell in Liberty Square discussed his concerns about the Big Creek Parkway proposal and made the following comments:

- He thanked the Mayor and City Council for having this open forum and allowing the residents to speak directly and publicly to their elected representatives.
- He said automobiles impact our lives along with providing the convenience of propelling us to nearby grocery stores or to out of state vacation spots. But, the car also brings a host of

negative repercussions including but not limited to diminished air quality, noise pollution, and roads that become barriers dividing communities and wildlife. Roads can pose a hazard to pedestrians and are sources of pollution contaminating streams and rivers. Overall, accommodating the almighty automobile threatens the quality of life in Roswell for everyone. He said he understands traveling Holcomb Bridge Road across Georgia 400 can try one's patience but said there are plenty of times when he travels Holcomb Bridge Road free from traffic delays. He said there was a news outlet traveling around the metro region for two weeks in February 2012 and they surmised, "After two weeks on the road; we have learned that Atlanta has one of the country's worst commutes no matter what intersection you drive through each day." He said everyone agrees that the Holcomb Bridge Road, Georgia 400 intersection is outdated and needs improvement to better serve increased traffic in the corridor, but somehow the focus on the interchange itself has drifted and that resulted in proposed new roads as a way to supposedly increase traffic efficiency in the corridor. The Big Creek Parkway and Sun Valley Drive extension projects fail to address the root cause of traffic congestion at that intersection and if built will cause much suffering upon the established residential communities on the north side of Holcomb Bridge Road, far more suffering than will be reduced for motorists dealing with rush hour traffic. The impact of increased traffic density through the Warsaw Road corridor will severely choke off the livability of the diverse and affordable neighborhoods.

- The decision to run a bridge/road/parkway capable of handling four lanes of traffic through a wetland and offloading unimaginable traffic flow density into that little corridor of residential homes is ill conceived and unconscionable. The 'pave more lanes to fix it' mentality has been a GDOT mindset for a long time and lacks vision and imagination and has been the transportation plan for the greater metro region for the last couple of decades and that has paved us into the nest we now find ourselves. He said he expects more creativity from the City of Roswell and has confidence that they too will see that this project although well intentioned is not the solution that is needed.
- He said owning a wetland and attempting to turn it into a profit center as a wetland is difficult, but selling it to a developer to build upon could make someone money because it is real estate. However, the value and wealth of wetlands that are left undisturbed is immeasurable in what it brings to our collective lives in this City because of their diverse habitat of flora and fauna as a cleansing filter medium for the watershed runoff that becomes our drinking water; wetlands are awesome. The portion of the watershed upstream in the greater metro Atlanta area is the smallest in the nation to serve a major metropolitan area and that is a very sad statistic. Currently, 3.5 million people depend on the water supply from this tiny watershed and the demand grows every day and the water supply is stretched thinner and part of Roswell's drinking water supply comes from an intake on Big Creek that is downstream from this proposed parkway.
- He read as follows from Roswell's 2025 Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 5, Natural Resources element, "The entire Big Creek watershed is expected to increase from 15% impervious in 1995 to 35% impervious in 2020. If this projection holds true, the Big Creek small water supply watershed will exceed 25% impervious standard established by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in its rules for environmental planning criteria. The Big Creek watershed will urbanize almost completely 86% developed by the year 2020. As of the year 2000, it was 45% developed. All of the streams in the Big Creek watershed are impaired by sediment or impacted by urbanization."
- He said his educated guess is that the wetlands bordering Liberty Square subdivision and Roswell Creek apartments come close to being the largest wetlands in Roswell east of Georgia 400. This track of land is a shining gem in this City and if left undisturbed can

continue to serve a vital function for all of the citizens of Roswell. Thrusting a bridge/road upon it with all of the roadbed fill and pervious asphalt and concrete will hasten the decline of a critical wetlands habitat and is in complete disregard of Roswell's very own Comprehensive 2025 findings of concerns. He said if they think traffic complaints are a negative for attracting people to come and live in our communities, try to imagine the difficulty of creating a marketing plan that attracts residents to communities that suffer shortages of drinking water. He said this proposed bridge/road/parkway is just 'pro-automotive pave it all over so we can drive on it road' thinking that is anti-sustainability, anti-livability, and anti-community. He said as legislators they will create and support many projects but they will be their legacy when they leave office and this road through a wetland in our residential communities will not be looked upon as a worthwhile legacy, but as a catastrophe.

- He said the City should stop the proposed parkway and get back on track updating the interchange of Holcomb Bridge and Georgia 400 rather than adding a little here, a little there traffic flow improvements. He said it would not be cheap or easy to make it a proper high density interchange but he believes the City will step up to the challenge to create a plan and seek state and federal funding to make this interchange fit the traffic density and be more efficient and also prevent it from sprawling farther into established neighborhoods and wetlands by way of unwanted new roads.

**Adjournment:**

After no further business, the Mayor and City Council Open Forum meeting of Monday, July 29, 2013 adjourned at 9:28 p.m. A Mayor and Council Special Called meeting immediately followed Open Forum.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Marlee Press, City Clerk

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Jere Wood, Mayor