

INFORMATIVE  
COMICS

THE WORLD'S MOST AMAZING ANNUAL REPORT  
ASTONISHING! INCREDIBLE! EVENTFUL!



# super city SUPER PEOPLE!

CITY OF SUWANEE, GA

CITY HALL  
EST 1817



DAN FOSTER  
COUNCIL MEMBER

BETH HILSCHER  
COUNCIL MEMBER

JIMMY BURNETTE  
MAYOR

LINNEA MILLER  
COUNCIL MEMBER

DICK GOODMAN  
COUNCIL MEMBER

DOUG IRELAND  
MAYOR PRO TEM



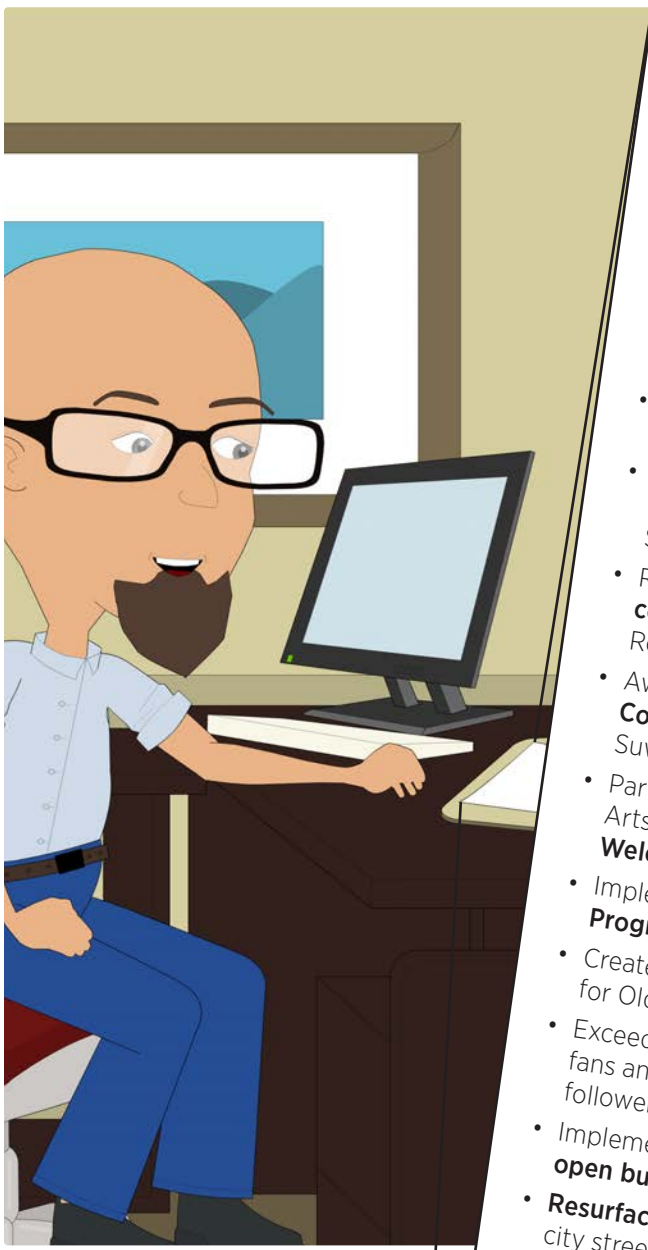


TO: Mayor and Council  
 FROM: Marty Allen, City Manager  
 RE: 2016 Annual Report & Popular Annual Financial Report

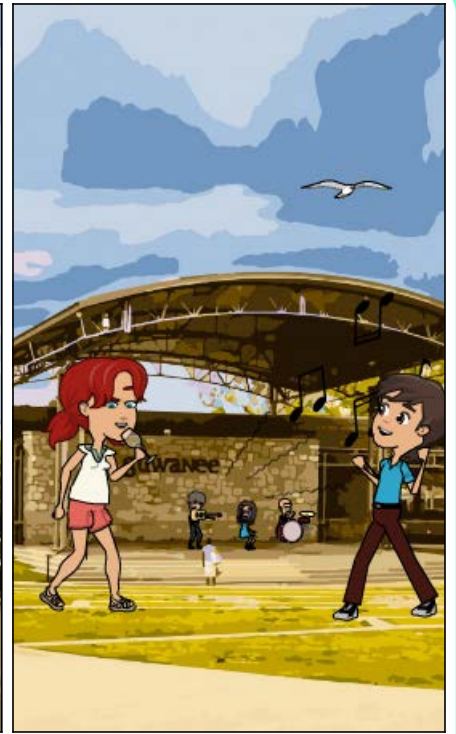
2016 was a year of great progress for the City of Suwanee. We are pleased to submit the city's combined Annual Report and Popular Annual Financial Report. As you will see, the city **completed many notable projects** and worked toward implementing several other long-term initiatives. I am also pleased to report that the **City is in a strong and stable financial position**, with our most recent AAA Credit Rating (2016) from Standard & Poor's Global Ratings. Below you will find a brief list of some of the notable projects from 2016:

- Refinanced outstanding bonds **saving the city over \$3 million**
- Completed a **master plan** for a **future park** adjacent to the Suwanee library
- Recertified as a **green community** by Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC)
- Awarded ARC's **Create Community Award** for the Suwanee Youth Leaders Program
- Partnered with North Gwinnett Arts Association to open a **Welcome Center** at Town Center
- Implemented **Zagster Bikeshare Program**
- Created a **Historic Walking Tour** for Old Town Suwanee
- Exceeded 14,000+ **Facebook** fans and 6,400+ **Twitter** followers
- Implemented an online **open budget tool** for citizens
- **Resurfaced 3.4 miles** of city streets
- Hosted **43 events** serving the entire community
- Held **81 community police PACT meetings** with neighborhoods
- Suwanee Police received **national reaccreditation** through CALEA, as well as **Georgia recertification**
- Opened **Brushy Creek Greenway**
- Began implementing **body camera** program for Suwanee Police
- Constructed a wooden **viewing dock** at **Sims Lake Park**
- Police Training Center had 3,493 visitors and **trained over 15,600 hours**
- **Upgraded Wifi** in Town Center Park
- Instituted **mosquito control** program
- Completed **Buford Highway redesign**
- Installed citywide **wayfinding signs**
- Hosted inaugural **Guess Who's Coming to Cocktails** event raising over \$20,000 for public art
- Received **\$10,000 grant** from Governor's Office of Highway Safety

On another note, **Police Chief Mike Jones** would like to **inform us** that **known villains**, led by a **mastermind** that goes by the name of **Status Quo**, are attempting to **infiltrate our city**. These nefarious hoodlums seek to destroy our **happiness - the essence of Suwanee**. Thanks to your unwillingness to rest on your laurels and desire to constantly improve our community, **the City is more than prepared to defend itself** from this outside onslaught. Please see inside for more about their sinister plans.



Another perfect day in the *City of Suwanee* -- children frolicking in the water, music being played on the Town Center stage, conversations over drinks floating through the air.



Meanwhile, in whereabouts unknown, a group of rather boring fellows gather in a beige -- but menacing -- room.



Gentlemen -- I think you understand why I have gathered all of you here. *Happiness* is once again at an *all-time high* in the *City of Suwanee*, and it is up to us to bring...shall we say...discontent to town.



Allow me to introduce our motley crew:



*Main Stream* -- zealous killer of *creativity*.



*Red Tape* -- the master of *bureaucracy* and *formality*, able to stall a great idea until it is nothing but a forgotten memory.



*Disinterested Cat* -- who clearly cares about nothing.

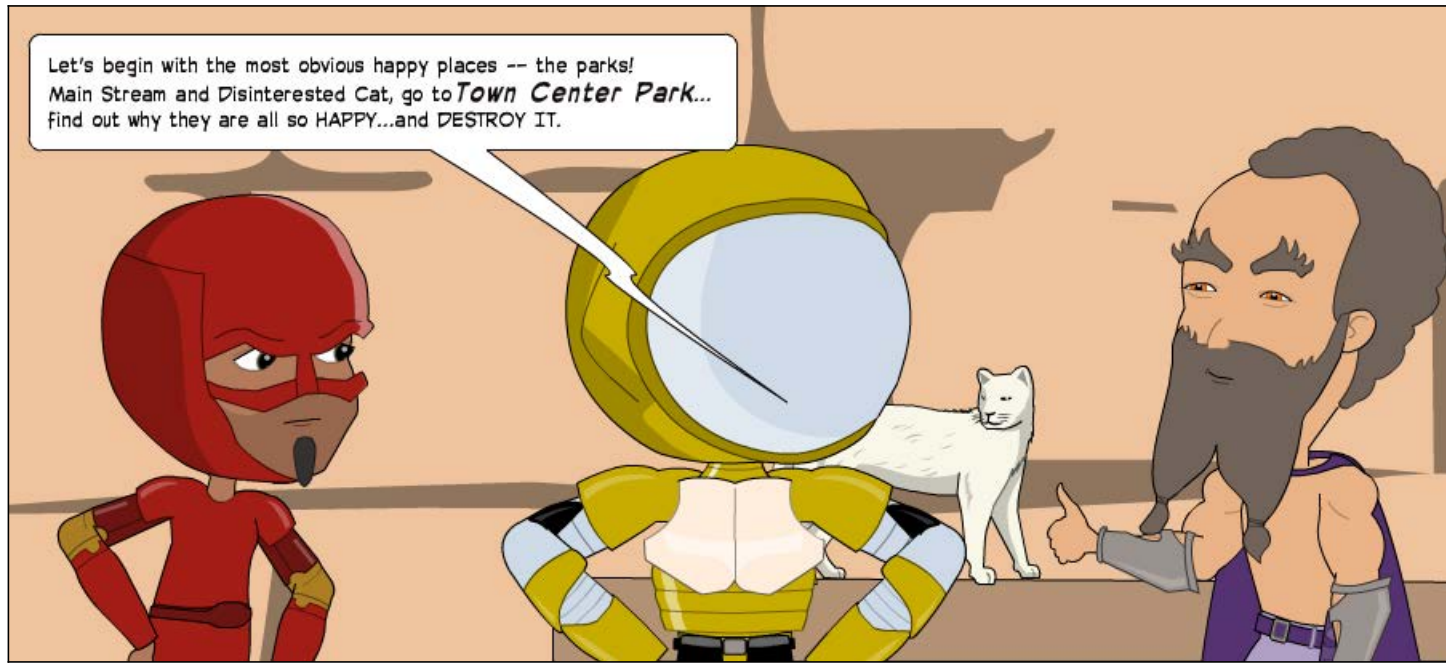
Including this little group you're putting together.



And myself, *Status Quo* -- defender of the existing state of affairs and *hater of change*.



Apart, we are nothing but disenchanted hoodlums, each with our own dastardly powers; but together, we are ***The League of Unextraordinary Villains!***  
And together, we will put an end to the content, the prosperity, the jubilation of *Suwanee!*



Let's begin with the most obvious happy places -- the parks!  
Main Stream and *Disinterested Cat*, go to ***Town Center Park...***  
Find out why they are all so HAPPY...and DESTROY IT.

Town Center Park

Look at all these...HAPPY people. I'm disgusted.

Disinterested Cat approaching teenagers looking at phones.

Not ALL of them....

Hey you!!!!  
Are you so BORED that all you can find to do is stare at your PHONE?

Nah bro -- Town Center Park got a WiFi upgrade in 2016. I just Snapchatted my friends to come meet me here at STC.

And I'm Live Facebooking that guy over there playing the guitar!

Well....that uh....I guess this is the only place in Suwanee where you can do that, so everywhere else must be **THE WORST**, right?

Town Center isn't the only awesome park in Suwanee -- we have **7 parks**, and the city made **improvements to many of them** in 2016!



In May, the city hired a team of professionals and sought input from community members in a variety of ways to help plan **Suwanee's next great park!** City Council **unanimously approved** the new park master plan, located on the approximately 25-acre site known as the DeLay Property, behind the Suwanee library and PlayTown Suwanee.



The City also unveiled the **Brushy Creek Greenway**, constructed a **new dock at Sims Lake Park** AND expanded its parking lot, AND began **phase 2 of White Street Park**, which includes an orchard and super cool playground built right into the terrain!



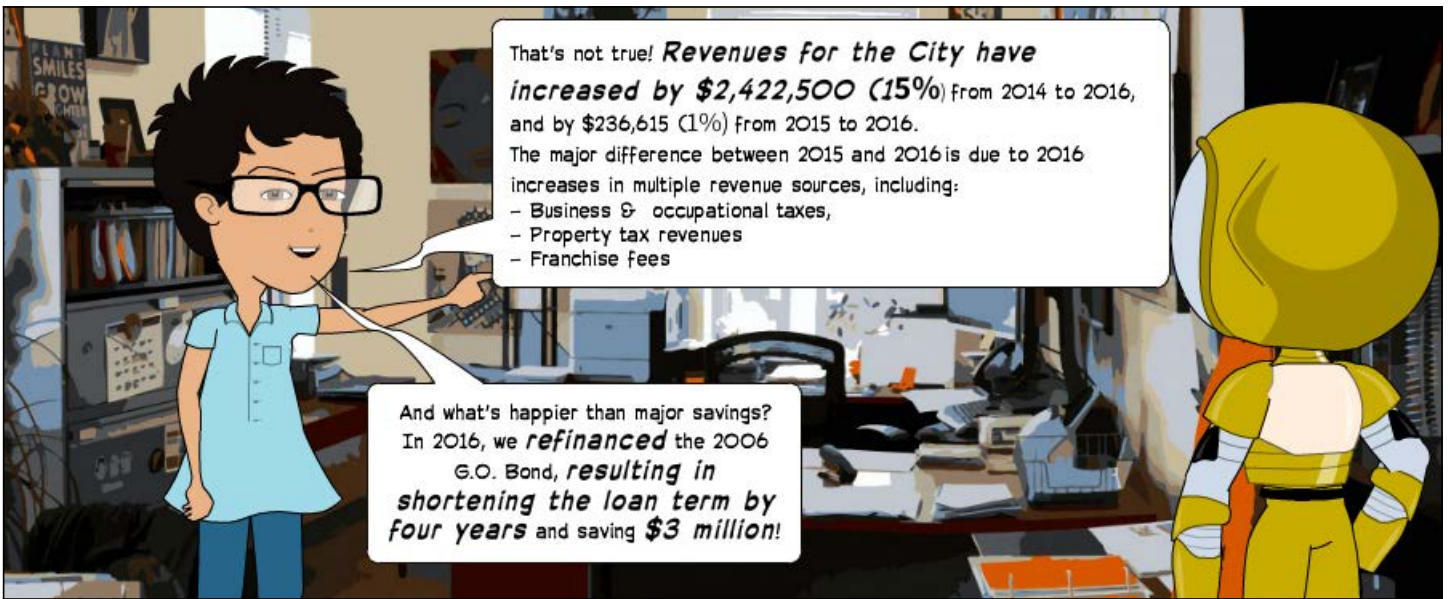
The City isn't the only one improving our community -- *citizens love Suwanee so much that we're chipping in too!* Eagle Scout projects are popping up everywhere, including a **ping pong table at Sims Lake Park** and **free little libraries at Suwanee Creek Park, White Street Park, and PlayTown Suwanee!**



Inside the City Hall -- *Status Quo* is trying to intimidate *Amie Sakmar*, city's finance director.



**NUMBERS!** That is the answer -- *no one is EVER* happy about *numbers and finances!*



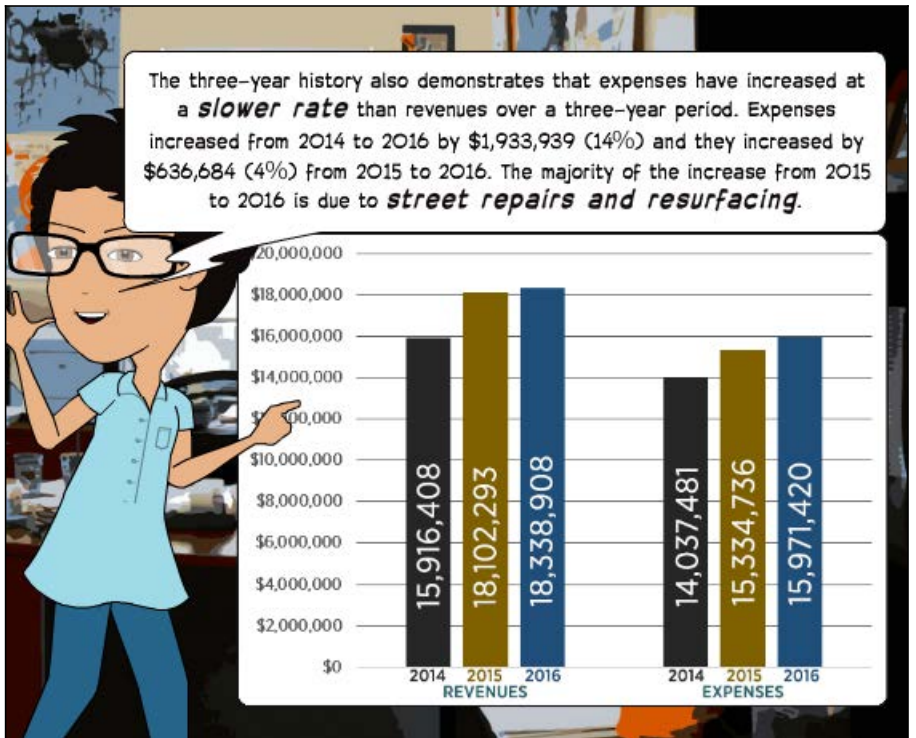
That's not true! *Revenues for the City have increased by \$2,422,500 (15%)* from 2014 to 2016, and by \$236,615 (1%) from 2015 to 2016. The major difference between 2015 and 2016 is due to 2016 increases in multiple revenue sources, including:

- Business & occupational taxes,
- Property tax revenues
- Franchise fees

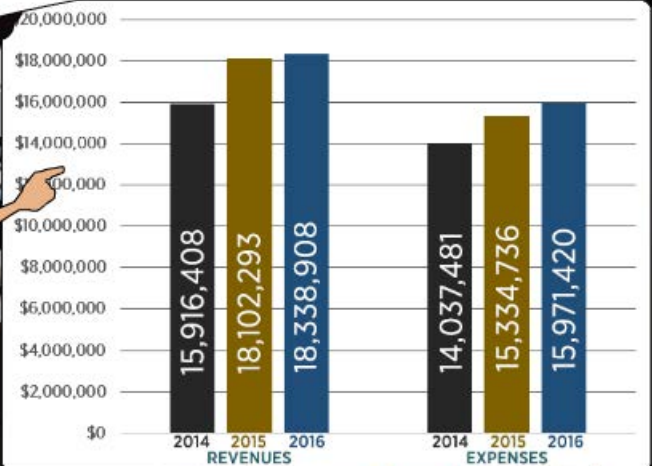
And what's happier than major savings? In 2016, we *refinanced* the 2006 G.O. Bond, *resulting in shortening the loan term by four years* and saving *\$3 million!*



*Revenue* isn't **EVERYTHING** -- you must have expenses too!



The three-year history also demonstrates that expenses have increased at a *slower rate* than revenues over a three-year period. Expenses increased from 2014 to 2016 by \$1,933,939 (14%) and they increased by \$636,684 (4%) from 2015 to 2016. The majority of the increase from 2015 to 2016 is due to *street repairs and resurfacing*.





Well what does the city even **OWN**? **Better yet -- what does it OWE?**

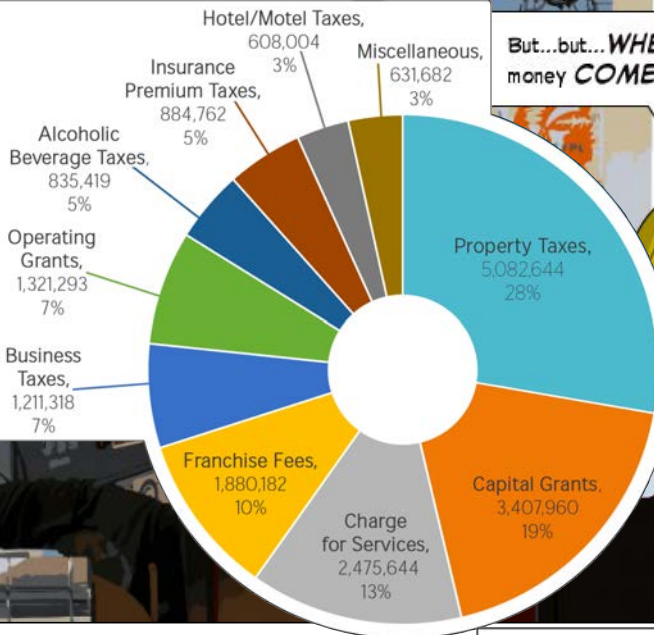
The largest portion of Suwanee's net position (61%) represents **capital assets**, like land, buildings, equipment, and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and other immovable assets. The City uses these assets to provide service to citizens.

Unrestricted,  
\$19,167,046  
24%

Restricted,  
\$11,805,962  
15%

**Investment in capital assets** are reported net, minus any related debt, as resources needed to repay any debt must be provided from other sources, since capital assets themselves cannot be used to liquidate debt.

Net Investment in Capital Assets,  
\$48,592,218  
61%



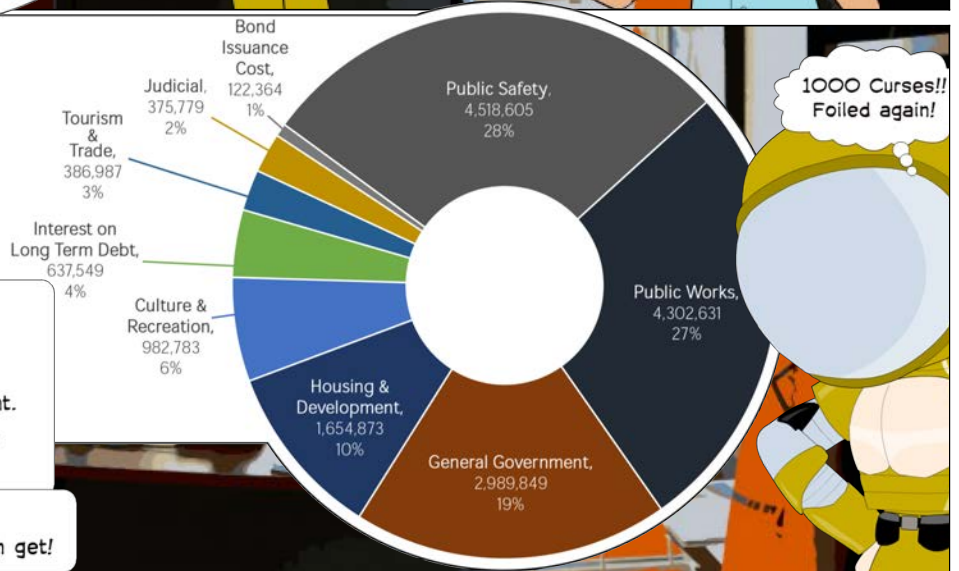
But...but...**WHERE** did the money **COME FROM?**

**Total revenues for fiscal year 2016 were \$18,338,908** -- 28% came from property taxes! Capital grants and contributions, which include SPLOST funds received from Gwinnett County and developer asset donations, accounted for 19%. Charges for services, which include municipal court fines, water usage fees, and building permits, are the third largest revenue sources, accounting for 13%.



As for where the money goes -- the City's **expenses** totaled \$15,971,420 for fiscal year 2016. 28% was related to public safety, 27% public works, and 19% general government. Interest on long term debt and bond issuance costs accounted for 4% of overall expenses.

The city had a **AAA bond rating** from Standard & Poor's, the highest rating a city can get!



1000 Curses!!  
Foiled again!

Meanwhile, Red Tape was lurking through City Hall... and digging through file cabinets.

They say you can't fight City Hall...well **WATCH ME!**

Wow...the City of Suwanee **resurfaced 3.4 miles** of roads in 2016 & instituted a **mosquito control program**... the **police had over 15,000 training hours**... even the website was updated to include **development projects, a commercial database, and an interactive Suwanee Fest map**. And...oh...oh no...they **streamlined the business license application procedure!**

They...they...they **literally CUT THE RED TAPE!!!!!!**

Back in Town Center Park, Disinterested Cat is approaches a girl.

Why are all of these awful people here? I hate people....

It's **Suwanee Fest!** It's the City's annual two-day festival celebrating community, bringing **over 50,000 people** to Town Center in one weekend!



Ugh, I would **DESPISE** all these **PEOPLE** and **EVENTS** in my town.



Oh we don't! Last year, the City of Suwanee hosted nearly **300,000 people at 40 different events**, including Food Truck Fridays, Beer Fest, Woolfstock, Arts in the Park, August Concert & Wing Fest and the Farmers Market!



I...um...that's kind of...



And guess what! The City hosted a brand new event last year called **Guess Who's Coming to Cocktails** and it was a black tie-optional event in support of the Suwanee public art initiative and it was a big party in City Hall with a real life fiddler on the roof, ballet dancers, live painting, SculpTour artists, a flash mob, cooking demonstrations,...



horse-drawn carriage rides around the park, actors, filmmakers, athletes, violinists, singers, and a giant piece of the former 'Success Lives Here' water tower!

....please stop...



What is this...this feeling...?! I've never felt this way before! Oh no... could it be?...

Am I becoming... **INTERESTED?!?** NOOOOOO...!!!!



Disinterested Cat explodes.\*

Meanwhile inside the City Hall, Jimmy Burnette, the mayor, talks with Marty Allen, the city manager...

They should have known they couldn't take down Suwanee -- we're constantly *fighting the battle against the status quo!*

Check out all of these *awards we won in 2016:*



Hey guys!! Don't forget about the *Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting!*

On the other side of the city, the Suwanee Police catch up with *Status Quo*, *Red Tape*, and *Main Stream* off in the new bubble car.

They should have known they wouldn't get away with evil in Suwanee! Our police department earned **CALEA Re-accreditation with Excellence**, which means that our department complies with all applicable mandatory standards and at least 90 percent of the non-mandatory standards. We were also **recertified by the State of Georgia, renovated our radio communications room, and committed eight officers to the County's Mobile Field Force Unit!**

You haven't seen the last of me!!



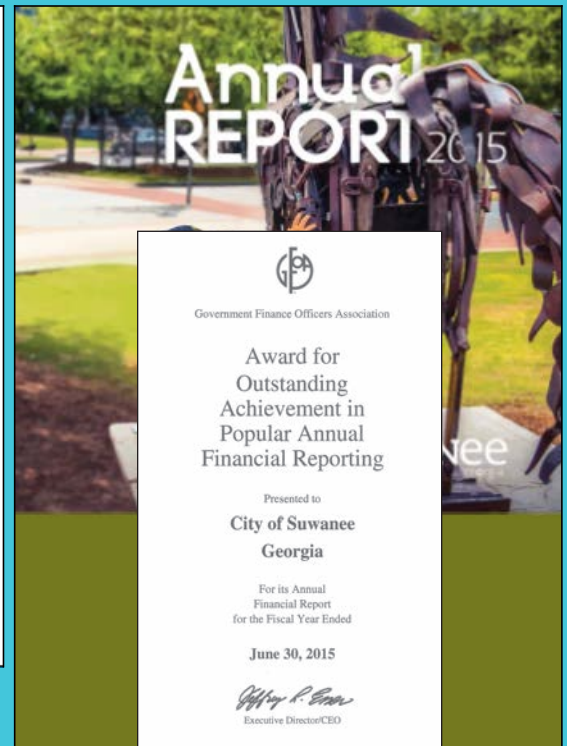
**Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting**

The City of Suwanee strives to share financial information openly with citizens and others. In an effort to provide an easy to understand summary of the City's financial activities, the City prepares a Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). The data for this report was taken from our audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 and includes financial data from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, unless otherwise stated.

Each year the City of Suwanee prepares an audited CAFR that provides detailed information about the City's financial position. Prepared using financial reporting models prescribed by the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Suwanee's CAFR is available in its entirety on the Docs & Downloads page at suwanee.com.

Last year the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Suwanee for its PAFR for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a PAFR that conforms to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal. This award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe that this current report continues to meet Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and it will be submitted for GFOA's review.



# GLOSSARY

## WHAT DOES THE CITY OWN AND OWE?

**Net Investment in Capital Assets** – The difference between the amounts paid for capital assets and any debt used to acquire those assets, such as loans or mortgages.

**Restricted** – Funds that are not available for general use by the City because they must be used for a specific purpose or projects as required by law or regulations. Examples included Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) funds set aside for capital projects, unspent grant funds, and resources collected for future debt payments.

**Unrestricted** – The remaining balance that has not been reported in any other classification.

## WHERE DID THE MONEY COME FROM?

**Alcoholic Beverage Taxes** -- Taxes on the sale, distribution, or consumption of distilled spirits, malt beverages, and wine.

**Business Taxes** -- Revenues from occupational licenses issued to businesses and financial institutions.

**Charges for Services** -- Fees collected for services rendered, such as court fines, building inspections permits, water usage fees, etc.

**Franchise Fees** -- Fees collected from utility companies for the use of City streets and right-of-ways, in order to provide services, such as natural gas, power, telephone, cable television, and fiber optics cable services.

**Grants** -- Include operating and capital grants. Operating grants are used for day-to-day operations of the City. Capital grants are used for capital purposes, such as building roads, sidewalks, facilities, etc.

**Hotel/Motel Taxes** -- Excise taxes charged for hotel rooms or accommodations.

**Insurance Premium Taxes** -- Taxes on insurance premiums written by companies conducting business within the City.

**Other** -- Includes monies earned from investments of City funds, donations, and rental fees.

## WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

**Culture & Recreation** -- Cost of maintaining the City's park system and coordinating special events.

**General Government** -- Cost of supporting legislative activities, human resources, city clerk, finances, legal, data processing, public information, and general government facilities.

**Housing & Development** -- Cost of planning, inspections, code enforcement, and economic development.

**Interest on Long-Term Debt** -- Cost of interest payments for parks, open space, and construction of City Hall.

**Public Safety** -- Costs associated with maintaining a police department which includes maintenance of order, law, safety, and other matters affecting the public welfare.

**Public Works** -- Costs of maintaining City facilities, right-of-ways, paved streets, storm drainage, and municipal water system.

**Other** -- Cost of municipal court operations, tourism, and cost associated with issuing debt.



\* NO REAL CATS WERE HARMED IN THE PRODUCTION OF THIS ANNUAL REPORT

# CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COUNCIL</b>	Dan Foster	678-404-9641
	Dick Goodman	678-446-7520
	Beth Hilscher	678-546-3388
	Doug Ireland	770-265-0880
	Linnea Miller	678-592-4150

# MANAGEMENT TEAM

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<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES</b>	Elvira Rogers	770-904-3376
<b>BUSINESS SERVICES</b>	Jessica Roth	770-904-2789
<b>FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>	Amie Sakmar	770-904-2797
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<b>PUBLIC WORKS</b>	James Miller	770-904-3373

