

City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting

Monday February 10, 2003

7:30 PM Community Center

The City of Sugar Hill held its regular monthly Council Meeting on Monday February 10, 2003 at 7:30 PM in the Community Center.

Notice of the meeting was placed on the doors of City Hall and the Community Center. Notice was placed on the board at Peachtree Industrial Blvd and Alton Tucker Blvd. Notice was sent to the local newspapers.

Those present at the meeting included Mayor Gary Pirkle, Mayor Pro-Tem Meg Avery, Council Members Chris Abbey, Kim Hall, and Thomas Rhodes. Also present were City Attorney Lee Thompson, City Manager Bob Hail, City Clerk Shirley Gibbs and Assistant City Manager for Development Jim Osborn. Absent was Council Member Ron Johnson.

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION:

Mayor Pirkle called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and gave the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Avery made a motion to amend the Agenda to add Item #7 under New Business, Resolution for HSI Reimbursement Application. Council Member Rhodes made the second. Council Member Rhodes made a motion to add an Item under New Business and to make it Item #1; Appoint two new DDA members. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion on both changes passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

APPROVAL OF 01/13/2003 MINUTES:

Council Member Hall made the motion to approve the January 13, 2003 Minutes as printed. Council Member Rhodes made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Thompson had no Public Report. He did suggest that they also appoint the Associate Judge along with the Municipal Judge.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Abbey had no report.

Council Member Rhodes reported that approximately one mile of gas line had been replaced over the last year. All the residents should have received a letter from the Mayor and Council regarding the cost of the gas and how much cheaper Sugar Hill's gas prices were compared to the other marketer. While attending training for the newly created DDA, it was found that two of the members were not eligible to be members of the DDA. Although they did own businesses in the city, they did not pay taxes in Gwinnett County and that is one of the requirements.

Council Member Hall reported that the Planning Department had moved on January 16, 2003 into their temporary office space. Once the city hall was renovated, they would be moving into the upstairs of city hall. During the month of February, the Planning Department would receive input for an update on the five-year Comprehensive Plan. A short-term work program would have to be done and that would include things like economic development, natural and historic resources, community facilities and land use. Any comments should be directed to Mr. Jim Osborn via e-mail, web site, and fax or by phone. For 2002, the Planning Department issued 33 development permits, 197 single family permits, 61 multi-family and 63 commercial permits, 3,392 inspections were done and 234 C O's were issued. Other significant changes in 2002 included an update to the storm water program, increased the recreational open space a developer has to provide, increased the base material for streets along with a new maintenance bond and adopted an architectural design standards.

Mayor Pro-Tem Avery gave a report on recreation as follows: Activity had slowed down at EE Robinson Park because of the winter months. Because of the decrease in activity, renovations and improvements were being done at the park; which was closed for these renovations and would continue to be closed the rest of the month. New sports lighting was being installed which would improve the park greatly. The first of the marble brick pavers had been ordered for the Town Green and should arrive by the end of the month or the first of next month. Orders were still being taken for these pavers and the order forms are located at city hall or on the web site. Things will be picking up at the park next month when West Gwinnett Soccer League begins their season and they are still in negotiations with the men's softball league.

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MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Pirkle wanted to bring to everyone's attention the changes that had been made to the council chambers in the community center. Other changes that would be taking place would be the renovation of the upstairs of city hall with the addition of about thirty feet to the existing building.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

The clerk reported that so far \$135,173 had been posted to Occupation Taxes with eleven new businesses since the January meeting. Total beer and wine taxes collected for 2002 was \$47, 277 and Intangible Tax for 2002 was \$16, 134.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Hail gave the following report: In addition to the other renovations to city hall, an ADA elevator would be added to make the upstairs accessible. Spring Hill Drive construction had begun, trees had been removed curbing had been poured and when weather allows patching and resurfacing will begin. Spring Hill Drive will allow for two-way traffic between Whitehead Road and Old Spring Way but from Old Spring Way to Level Creek Road it will be one way traffic. Whitehead Road will become a three-way stop once this project is complete. Drainage on Whitehead Road between West Broad and Sunset Drive is complete, curbing on Whitehead is complete and driveways and the sidewalk are being finished as weather permits. Bid requests for the 2003 road projects have been sent to seven construction companies and these bids are due on Friday February 14th. Over four miles of roads are planned for improvement. Additional roads will be added if funding permits. Construction of the city hall addition is scheduled to begin on March 4th with Hogan Construction Company being awarded the construction project. The little house where P&Z was located has been demolished and P&Z has temporarily moved to the new community center located on Church Street.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1: APPOINT APPEALS BOARD MEMBERS:

Mayor Pro-Tem Avery made a motion to nominate Lisa Ramsay to serve on the Appeals Board. Council Member Hall made the second. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

2: APPOINT ALCOHOL REVIEW BOARD MEMBER:

Council Member Abbey made a motion to nominate Jim Holt to the Alcohol Review Board. Mayor Pro-Tem Avery made the second. There were no other nominations. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

3: ADOPT CHARTER REVISION:

City Attorney Thompson explained this revision was to mainly update the procedural issues of the Charter. It would take the powers, put titles on them, and make sure the local amendments were included. The Gwinnett County Legislative Delegation would be asked to present it as local legislation. Mr. Thompson's office would place the necessary ads in the paper and send the request for this to be introduced to the Gwinnett County Legislative Delegation. Council Member Hall made the motion to ask the General Assembly to adopt our local legislation and revise the Charter for the City of Sugar Hill. Council Member Abbey made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS:

Ms. Hilda Roberts of 1139 Pine Thickett Drive passed out a letter to the Mayor and Council regarding the recent changes to the Zoning Ordinance regarding the keeping of rabbits.

NEW BUSINESS:

1: APPOINT REPLACEMENT MEMBERS TO THE DDA (THIS ITEM WAS ADDED TO THE AGENDA):

Council Member Rhodes explained that two of the original members appointed to the Downtown Development Authority were not eligible to serve on the board. Although they had a business in Sugar

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Hill, they did not live in Gwinnett County. The two members to be replaced were Lloyd Delatour and Stan Bullington. Council Member Rhodes made a motion to appoint Brian Patterson and Michele Sinegowski to replace Mr. Delatour and Mr. Bullington. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0. Mr. Patterson and Ms. Sinegowski were then sworn in as members of the Downtown Development Authority.

2: APPOINT MUNICIPAL JUDGE AND ASSOCIATE JUDGE:

City Manager Hail reported that Municipal Judge Margaret Washburn and Associate Judge William Coolidge had expressed a desire to be re-appointed to serve as Municipal Judge and Associate Judge. Council Member Abbey made the motion to re-appoint Municipal Judge Margaret Washburn and Associate Judge William Coolidge to serve at Municipal Court for the City of Sugar Hill. Council Member Rhodes made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

3: ANNUAL GMA LEASE POOL AGREEMENT:

City Manager Hail explained that the city belonged to the Georgia Municipal Association Lease Pool and had for several years. This allows the city to be able to purchase or lease equipment at a much lower interest rate. It was his recommendation that the Mayor be authorized to sign the documents to allow the city to continue to participate in the GMA Lease Pool Agreement. Council Member Abbey made the motion to adopt the resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign the documents to allow the city to continue to participate in the lease pool agreement. Council Member Rhodes made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

4: RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GEORGIA GREENSPACE PROGRAM:

Assistant City Manager for Development Jim Osborn explained that each year counties and cities must submit reports to the state if they are going to participate in the Georgia Greenspace Program. This enables cities to apply for grants and funds through the state. In order to continue to participate in this program, the city must adopt the consolidated Gwinnett County Greenspace Plan, which the county had adopted in December. Staff recommendation was to adopt the Greenspace Program and the Resolution for the city and the county. Council Member Hall made the motion for the City of Sugar Hill to continue to participate in the Georgia Greenspace program and allow the City Manager and the Mayor to sign any documents necessary to continue that participation. Council Member Abbey made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

5: SUGAR HILL-GWINNETT COUNTY INTERGOVERNMENTAL SPEED HUMPS AGREEMENT:

Assistant City Manager for Development Jim Osborn gave the requirements that subdivision must meet in order to have speed humps installed on their streets. The city streets would have to be approved by the Mayor and Council and by the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners. After the initial installation, residents of the subdivision would pay \$12.00 a year for the maintenance on the speed humps. Either party could cancel this agreement with sixty days written notice. Staff recommendation was to allow the Mayor to sign any documents necessary to enter into this agreement with the county. Council Member Rhodes made the motion to allow the Mayor to enter into the intergovernmental Sugar Hill-Gwinnett County speed hump agreement and to sign any necessary documents. Mayor Pro-Tem Avery made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

6: APPROVE CHANGES TO CITY CODE FOR CODIFICATION:

City Attorney Thompson explained this was a project that the city had been working on for about a year and a half. They were trying to make changes to the city code and bring it up to date. All the changes that the council had wanted had been made and it was now ready to send back to the Municipal Code Corporation. They would then send a draft back later in the year, which would be adopted by the council. Council Member Abbey made a motion to approve the changes made to the city code and send it back to the Codification Company. Council Member Rhodes made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

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7: RESOLUTION FOR H S I REIMBURSEMENT (THIS ITEM WAS ADDED TO THE AGENDA):

City Manager Hail explained that the Sugar Hill Landfill had been closed for several years and was now on EPD's Hazardous Site Inventory list. This did not mean the city was not properly maintaining the landfill but that it needed to be watched more closely. The city had been monitoring this landfill for several years and had never received notice that it was not being properly monitored. Being placed on this list would allow the city to apply for reimbursement of funds associated with the cost of monitoring this landfill. He had chosen Jordan, Jones and Goulding because they had been the firm handling the testing of the landfill for the past several years. They would be applying for funds as far back as 1997 up to 2000. His recommendation was to approve the Resolution to allow the Mayor to sign the necessary documents to allow Jordan, Jones and Goulding to apply for the reimbursement of funds associated with the monitoring of the landfill. Council Member Hall made the motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the application for H S I reimbursement. Mayor Pro-Tem Avery made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND PERSONNEL:

Council Member Rhodes made to motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal, real estate, and/or personnel. Mayor Pro-Tem Avery made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0.

On a motion and a second, meeting returned to regular session.

No action was taken out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Abbey made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Rhodes made the second. Motion passed unanimously by those present to vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Date Approved: _____

Mayor

ATTEST:
