

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL
MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 5, 2017, 6:00 P.M.
CITY HALL HISTORY ROOM
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA**

CALL TO ORDER – the meeting was called to order by Mayor Edwards. Present were Mayor Steve Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem Curtis Northrup, Council Members Marc Cohen, Susie Gajewski, and Brandon Hembree. Council Member Mike Sullivan was not present. Also present were City Manager Paul Radford, City Attorney Frank Hartley and City Clerk Jane Whittington.

2017 Property Tax Millage Rate, 2nd Public Hearing – The Mayor explained that the city has maintained the millage rate of 3.8 for fourteen years. The city has seen an increase in property values in the past few years. This was the goal of the Mayor when he took office to increase the property values while keeping taxes low. The City Manager explained that his recommendation to keep property tax rate at 3.8 mills. The advertised tax increase is a result of assessments increasing. State law requires that when the rollback millage rate is over 3% then the entity must advertise it as a tax increase and hold three public hearings. The city is experiencing growth which requires an increase in services.

The Mayor opened the public hearing and Jerry Konkel, 5649 Snowy Orchid Drive, inquired about a police department. He wanted to know why we didn't contract with Gwinnett County to have real officers patrolling the city. The Mayor explained that there was a referendum that was turned down. The city used to contract with Gwinnett for off duty officers. Gwinnett County changed the rules regarding use of their officers and increased the price per hour significantly. Plaza is more of a security company to alert Gwinnett County when something is wrong or suspicious. Eventually the city will have a police department which would at least double the millage rate.

Joann Bisbee, 5582 Snowy Orchid Drive and Barbara Dotson, 6098 Eagles Rest Trail commented regarding use of funds and the expenses.

The City Manager explained the projects in the city and downtown that are ongoing. The concerts and the branding of the city are all part of the process of building a downtown. This will make it more of an activity center with walkable, assessable features.

There were no other comments so the public hearing was closed. Mayor Pro Tem Northrup motioned to adjourn. Council Member Gajewski seconded the motion. Approved 4-0

Steve Edwards, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk