

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2019, 7:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5039 WEST BROAD STREET  
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA**

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Steve Edwards. Also present were Mayor Pro Tem Susie Walker, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Marc Cohen, Brandon Hembree, Curtis Northrup, City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington, City Attorney Frank Hartley.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** – Conner Porter, Troop 1534 led the pledge.

**INVOCATION** – given by Mayor Edwards.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the agenda. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion Approved 4-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council Meeting June 10, 2019; Work Session June 3, 2019, Special Called Meeting June 3, 2019 – Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the minutes. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Walker entered the meeting at this time.

**AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

**REPORTS**

**CITY ATTORNEY  
COUNCIL  
MAYOR  
CITY CLERK  
CITY MANAGER**

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS** – there were no comments from citizens or guests.

**CONSENT AGENDA  
OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Public Hearing #3 & Adoption of the 2019 Property Tax Millage Rate** – City Manager Paul Radford explained that state law requires the city to advertise and hold three public hearings if the millage rate exceeds the rollback rate. The rollback rate would be 6.554 mills because of an increase in the assessments of properties within the city as well as new construction. The staff is recommending that the Council set the millage rate at 3.8 mills. This is the same rate the city has adopted for the past fifteen years. The city has experienced growth and an increase in service demands. The third and final public hearing was opened. Amber Chambers, 809 Whitehead Rd., Sugar Hill asked what are the citizens getting for this tax increase and not rolling back to 3.554?

Tom Lobonc, 809 Whitehead Rd., Sugar Hill, spoke about not rolling back the millage rate. The city must be subsidizing the E Center, Eagle Theatre. The citizens do not want to build a mini midtown or a Greenville. They want less multi-family and grandeous projects.

Clint Christiansen, 5040 Sugar Creek Drive, Sugar Hill, stated that he is a fireman and his wife a teacher. They are happy with the City Council and feel they are good stewards of the city and are putting us on the map. They support what the Mayor and Council are doing.

Mike Sullivan, 5401 Sweetgale Court, Sugar Hill, thanked the Council for keeping the millage rate where it is. He received a call from a concerned citizen that thought the millage rate was being increased and he explained it was the property values increasing. He appreciates the public art.

The public hearing was closed. Council Member Anderson motioned to keep the millage rate at 3.8 mills and to approve the Resolution adopting the same. Council Member Northrup seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Appeal of Condemnation, 5243 Nelson Brogdon Blvd.** – Planning Director Awana explained that the public hearing was held last month at the June 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting. The owners representative Shaw Patel and Attorney Joseph Turner requested that the decision of the appeal be postponed one month to allow them to obtain the necessary information to show that the building was structurally sound. The Mayor and Council requested that they bring forth at the July 8<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting a report from a structural engineer that would state that the building is sound enough to renovate. They were to also bring a filed deed showing the new ownership. The date and time of the July 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was reiterated to them. Director Awana stated that no new information has been presented and the appellant was not present tonight. Council Member Cohen motioned to deny the appeal of condemnation of 5243 Nelson Brogdon Blvd. Council Member Northrup seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Public Hearing, SUP 19-001, 1163 Buford Highway, Vehicle Emissions Testing Station** – Planning Director Awana explained that the city received an application from Hae Myung Park for a special use permit to convert an existing single vehicle automatic car wash bay into a vehicle emission testing station. The property is currently a car wash with one automatic bay and four self-serve car wash bays. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 17, 2019 where they recommended approval with conditions as presented. The public hearing was opened, and Ray Wozniak spoke on behalf of the applicant. He is a resident of Lawrenceville and attends church in Buford. He stated that Mr. Park must do something to preserve the business because there is vandalism without a presence there. There were no other comments, so the hearing was closed. Council Member Hembree motioned to approve SUP-19-001 with the four conditions as outlined by staff. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**2019 Livable Centers Initiative Grant Sugar Hill Greenway Extension** – Planning Director Awana explained that the city was awarded with \$70,000 of a 1.6 million LCI study grant fund which supports communities as they develop plans and programs to create more vibrant, walkable, and connected places. The city will use the funds to design the next section of the Sugar Hill Greenway, perform the next level of feasibility analysis for the pedestrian crossing over Highway 20 and detailed study for improving the pedestrian experience and safety along the Highway 20 corridor. The city will execute a contract with the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) under the LCI program which is funded with federal transportation dollars. Full cost of the study is \$87,500 and ARC will reimburse the city up to \$70,000. Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the project and authorize the Mayor to execute the contract with the Atlanta Regional Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Walker seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**LMIG 2020 Roadway Repair & Resurfacing** - Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that the 2020 resurfacing project will cost an estimated \$211,042.47 with an additional \$150,000 programmed from SPLOST proceeds in 2020 as well as \$88,957.53 in local funds. The recent resurfacing program has focused on repairing and resurfacing roads identified in the 2016 conditions assessment in order of priority based on pavement conditions, road classification and other projects in the area. We have completed nearly ten miles of pavement since 2016. Council Member Cohen motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign and submit the application for the 2020 Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) program for improvements to the proposed list provided in the staff memo. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL** – Council Member Hembree motioned to enter Executive Session. Council Member Northrup seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** - there was no public action taken out of Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Council Member Cohen motioned to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Walker seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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Steve Edwards, Mayor

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Jane Whittington, City Clerk