

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020, 7:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5039 WEST BROAD STREET  
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA**

**CALL TO ORDER** - by Mayor Steve Edwards. Present were Mayor Steve Edwards, 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 Attorneys Frank Hartley and Creighton Lancaster.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** – the pledge was led by Pack 1545 of White Oak Elementary School.

**INVOCATION** – given by Mayor Edwards.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Council Member Northrup motioned to amend the agenda as follows: to add a new #3 regarding the adoption of a resolution to rescind action taken by the city on March 4, 2019 regarding annexation; second to move the old #3 Public Hearing Woodward Mill to #5 on the agenda which changes the numbering; add a new #8 regarding execution of the Service Delivery Strategy Agreement (SDS) between Gwinnett County and all cities in the county; and add a new #9 to adopt a resolution to appoint a city member to Gwinnett Planning Commission. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council Meeting January 13, 2020; Work Session January 6, 2020. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

**Proclamation 2020 Census** – City Manager Paul Radford explained that this proclamation is in support of the 2020 Census. He asked Mercy Montgomery, Economic Development Director, to explain the Census count program and how the city is teaming with Gwinnett County to make sure that everyone is counted. Council Member Cohen read the proclamation.

**REPORTS**

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

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS**

Dmitry Mikhaylor Manager of the business Ax Master Throwing requested that the Mayor and Council look at amending the alcohol ordinance to allow serving alcohol to the customers while they are at this facility. The current code will not allow consumption without a restaurant and food.

Brian Neal, 664 Level Creek Rd., spoke regarding opposition to HB 687 and annexation.

Carolyn Buice spoke regarding her opposition to annexation and HB687.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Municipal Court Judge and Associate Judge Re-appointment** – Judge Margaret Washburn presented her yearly report to the Mayor and Council. The Municipal Court will convene every month and if they have no cases, they will notify the public and close court. Council Member Cohen motioned to re-appoint Margaret Washburn as Chief Municipal Judge of Sugar Hill and Charles Barrett as Associate Municipal Judge. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Ordinance Amendment Historic Preservation Society** – Council Member Hembree read the changes requested to the Ordinance of Historic Preservation Society. It included increasing the board membership to thirteen and making the terms four-year. Mayor Pro Tem Walker motioned to approve the ordinance amendment to the Historic Preservation Society. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Rescind action taken by the Council on March 4, 2019** – Council Member Hembree read and explained the resolution to rescind action taken on March 4, 2019 for annexation of unincorporated areas in Gwinnett. He motioned to approve a resolution to rescind action taken by the Mayor and City Council on March 4, 2019, regarding annexation and to ask the House and Senate members of the Gwinnett Delegation to remove House Bill 687 from consideration in the 2020 Legislative Session. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Public Hearing, Rezoning RZ-19-004, 4359 Woodward Mill Rd** – Director Awana explained that the city received an application from Stan Howington requesting to rezone 12.4 acres of land at 4359 Woodward Mill Rd from Light Manufacturing (LM) to Residential Multi-Family District (RM). The applicant submitted a revised site plan with alternative project access improvements including a left-turn lane, roundabout and single lane traffic circle on Woodward Mill Rd. This plan appears to be responsive to concerns voiced by area residents and representatives of MTI pertaining to traffic congestion and safety, arrangements of buildings and landscaping along the northwest property line. The Planning Commission recommends approval with thirteen conditions. Staff recommends approval and added two more conditions.

The public hearing was opened, and Chris McCrary spoke for the applicant. The townhome community will have 88 units and several small pocket parks. Brian Neal spoke regarding traffic concerns on Woodward Mill Rd. He drives this road often and commented on the traffic on Price Rd. as well. There were no other comments, so the hearing was closed.

Council Member Anderson motioned to approve RZ-19-004 with the 15 conditions as presented. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Resolution, Annexation Fee Moratorium** – Council Member Hembree explained that this resolution is the result of the Town Hall meetings held by Council. This resolution sets a one-year moratorium on fees for annexation to allow property owners to self-select to come into the city. Council Member Hembree read the resolution and motioned to approve the resolution to adopt a 12-month moratorium on the collection of annexation and zoning fees for all petitions to annex any parcel of land which contains a habitable dwelling and is five acres or less in size. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Use Agreement American Red Cross** – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that the city has had an agreement with the American Red Cross for a number of years providing for the use of the Community Center and now E Center for training purposes. The agreement also provides for twelve (12) of our employees to participate at no cost, obtaining and maintain their certifications. Staff recommends approving the agreement and authorizing the City Manager to sign it. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the 2020 – 2022 use agreement with the American Red Cross for use of training space in the E Center and authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**GMA Resolution Pooled Financing** – the City Manager explained that this resolution is recommended by GMA to set up a board or authority for pooled financing with the Georgia cities for infrastructure improvements. It would provide one bond counsel and allow the small cities to obtain needed funding. Council Member Anderson motioned to approve this Resolution and stated that it would be a big win for small cities. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Service Delivery Strategy (SDS)** – The City Manager explained that state law requires that the counties and cities into an agreement to define services and avoid double taxation. The deadline to have this agreement in place was extended until the end of February. Council Member Hembree thanked the Mayor for all his work and guidance on the negotiations of this agreement. Council Member Cohen to authorize the Mayor to sign all documents and agreements regarding the Service Delivery Strategy generated by Gwinnett County and all state-mandated forms required by the Department of Community Affairs, subject to review and approval by the City Manager and City Attorney. Mayor Pro Tem Walker seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Resolution to adopt a City Member to the Gwinnett Planning Commission.** Council Member Anderson read the resolution and motioned to adopt it to appoint a city member to attend the Gwinnett Planning Commission with a vote on any matter that abuts our city. Council Member Cohen 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 Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

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

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Steve Edwards, Mayor

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Jane Whittington, City Clerk