

CITY OF SUGAR HILL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, MAY 11, 2020, 7:30 P.M.
Meeting held Via Webex

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Edwards. Attendees included 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 Attorney Frank Hartley and Planning Director Kaipo Awana. The meeting was held virtually and the Mayor explained that this was allowed under the State of Emergency Order. All votes will be taken by roll call to identify the vote.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG – Mayor Edwards led the pledge.

INVOCATION – the invocation was given by Mayor Edwards.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved by roll call vote 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council Meeting April 13, 2020; Work Session April 6, 2020 – Council Member Northrup motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved by roll call vote 5-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation International Nurses Day – Council Member Cohen read the proclamation and thanked all nurses and health care workers for their service.

REPORTS

CITY ATTORNEY
COUNCIL
MAYOR
CITY CLERK
CITY MANAGER
YOUTH COUNCIL

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

CONSENT AGENDA
OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution to Extend State of Emergency during the Public Health Emergency of COVID-19 – the City Manager explained that this resolution is to extend the State of Emergency until June 12th to coincide with the Governor’s Executive Order. Council Member Cohen requested that all actions be communicated in a timely fashion. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the Resolution 5.11.2020-3 extending the State of Emergency during the Public Health Emergency COVID-19. Mayor Pro Tem Walker seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

Franchise Agreement, Comcast Cable – City Manager Paul Radford explained that this franchise agreement was brought about by a request from Comcast Cable. Comcast would normally enter into a Statewide Franchise for Sugar Hill but the state offices are shut down. There are a few minor changes

that still need to be made so the Council can either vote to table approval until June or allow the City Manager to approve the changes subject to final review by the City Attorney. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the franchise agreement with Comcast Cable contingent upon approval of minor changes by the City Manager and final review by the City Attorney. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Alcohol Ordinance Amendment, Amenity Permit and Distillery – City Clerk Jane Whittington explained that this ordinance amendment has two parts. One part is the Amenity Permit which allows businesses to serve beer or wine to its customers as a hospitality. This ordinance was modeled after Lawrenceville and Suwanee’s ordinances. Duluth’s ordinance has other restrictions as does Flowery Branch such as annual background checks. The owner will have to have a background check to obtain the permit. There were questions from Council Member Northrup coming out of the Work Session which have been addressed. Council Member Hembree requested that the Council move forward with this ordinance to allow local businesses to use this as an opportunity to attract customers to their store. Council Member Northrup approved of the ordinance with one change to make the renewal annually instead of automatic renewal. A one-time background check would be sufficient. The City Clerk explained that no license is transferable, so all new owners would be required to have a background check and complete an application. The second portion of the ordinance deals with licenses for a distillery. The state law governs volume of sales and how they can sell their product. The distillery license includes consumption on the premises and a fee of \$2,500 annually. Council Member Northrup motioned to approve the Alcohol Ordinance amendment for Annuity Permit and Distillery License with the change to make the Annuity Permit renewed annually. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

Resolution DOT Roadside Enhancement and Beautification Grant Program – Director Awana explained that this resolution will allow the city to apply for this grant for roadside beautification at the new monument sign on Highway 20. The grant is not offered every year but is offered this year. Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the Resolution for DOT Roadside Enhancement Grant. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

GMA Voting Delegate Form – the City Manager explained that GMA is requesting that the cities fill out the delegate designation form to allow the city to vote in the annual membership business meeting that will be held virtually this year. Mayor Pro Tem Walker motioned to name Council Member Marc Cohen as the Voting Delegate and Council Member Brandon Hembree as the Proxy. Council Member Northrup seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

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

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – the following action was taken out of Executive Session.

Council Member Cohen motioned to reject all bids associated with IFB 20-016 Hillcrest Tract Sale of Property. Council Member Northrup seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the transfer of the property totaling +/- 5.75 acres, for the Dogwood Forest project to the DDA and authorize the Mayor to sign the deed, contingent on bond validation being approved. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

ADJOURNMENT – Council Member Anderson motioned to adjourn. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

WEBEX MEETING INFORMATION:

WebEx Meeting Information (May 11th – 7:30 PM):

Meeting link: <https://cityofsugarhill.my.webex.com>

Meeting number: 798 840 475

Password: CSH052020!

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

+1-202-860-2110 United States Toll (Washington D.C.)

Access code: 798 840 475

Steve Edwards, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk