

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL
MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020, 6:30 P.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA**

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Edwards. Present were Mayor Steve Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem Susie Walker, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Marc Cohen and Brandon Hembree. Also present were City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington and City Attorney Frank Hartley.

Public Hearing #2 2020 Property Tax Millage Rate – City Manager Paul Radford explained the state law and requirements to set the millage rate. Local governments are required to advertise a tax increase whenever the millage rate will generate more tax revenue than the previous year. They are also required to hold three public hearings to allow public comment. Once the Council adopts the rate, staff will transmit that rate to the County Tax Commissioner for use in calculating the city tax bills. The county collects the property taxes for the city. The millage rate has remained level for 16 years and staff is recommending that the rate remain at 3.8 for 2020 as well.

Mayor Edwards opened the public hearing and Amber Chambers, 809 Whitehead Road, spoke regarding the millage rate. She stated that the presentation was similar to last year. This year has been a very different year with a lot of people being laid off. She encouraged the Council to consider rolling back to bring relief to those that are hurting as a result of a of the difficult circumstances. She stated that it is not about building but rather about the people. She requested that Council consider changing direction.

Becky Bauer, 5014 Dogwood Hills Dr., stated that she was surprised that there were only three people here. She lives in a modest home and taxes have gone up over the time she has lived there. She will research more before she comes back but feels it is not a time to raise anything.

Natasha Gardner, 786 Whitehead Rd., concerned about the taxes. She bought her home in 2016 and the taxes have increased since that time. She stated that she loves it here and appreciates what the Council doing. She loves the Bowl and has been to concerts there.

There were no other comments so the public hearing was closed. The Mayor stated that they should all contact the City Manager and let him explain it to them. He is very knowledgeable about taxation and the process.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL, REAL ESATE, PERSONNEL – There was no Executive Session held.

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Steve Edwards, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk