

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF SUGAR HILL  
5039 WEST BROAD STREET  
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020, 7:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** - Attendees included Mayor Steve Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem Susie Walker, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Marc Cohen, Brandon Hembree, City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington, and City Attorney Frank Hartley.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**INVOCATION** – given by Mayor Edwards

**Election Update and Certification** – the City Clerk/Election Superintendent gave the results of the November 3, 2020 Special Election. The election was to fill the unexpired term of City Council Post #4 formerly held by Curtis Northrup who resigned in July 2020.

Special Election Results:

Ballots Cast on Election Day – 225

Early Voting Ballots Cast – 375

Absentee Ballots Returned - 3

**CITY COUNCIL POST #4**

Amber Chambers      208

Nicholas Greene      395

Council Member Cohen motioned to certify the results of the November 3, 2020 Special Election as submitted by the Election Superintendent. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**Oath of Office – Nicholas Greene, City Council Post #4** – Mayor Edwards administered the Oath of Office to Nicholas Greene.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Mayor Pro Tem Walker seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council Meeting October 12, 2020; Work Session October 5, 2020 – Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

**Proclamation Renee Unterman** – Council Member Hembree read the proclamation. Lexi Cody read the proclamation from the Youth Council. They were presented to Renee Unterman and they thanked her for her over 30 years of service to this state and local governments.

**Proclamation Teachers of the Year Lanier High School** – Council Member Cohen read the proclamation and went over the teachers and their years of service to their schools. Each teacher accompanied by their principal was presented a proclamation by the Mayor and Council.

**Proclamation Tree City** – Mayor Pro Tem Walker read the proclamation and talked about the southern red oak “champion tree” that is located in downtown.

**Proclamation Gwinnett County Community Heroes Day** – Council Member Anderson read the proclamation and presented it to the representatives of Red, Blue and You which hosts a county-wide

celebration held annually. This celebration honors Gwinnett Community Heroes and this year includes health care workers and teachers.

## **REPORTS**

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

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS** – Amber Chambers, 809 Whitehead Road, spoke regarding DDA meetings and the Main Street Georgia program. She requested that financial information be provided at these type meetings to show the cost of the program to taxpayers.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **VAR-20-004, 6409 Grand Loop Road, Andrew Ponzio (public hearing was held 10/12/2020)**

– Planning Director Awana stated that this was tabled at previous meetings to allow more time for the homeowner’s association approval. The application from homeowner Andrew Ponzio is requesting a 22’ front yard setback variance to install a garage addition connecting to the house. His original application was amended October 23, 2020 and the homeowner’s association agrees with this version. The public hearing was held October 12, 2020. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve VAR-20-004 with the two conditions as presented by staff. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 Budget Amendment** – the City Manager explained that in October 2020, the Mayor and Council approved the purchase of a parcel in the downtown area. The purchase was unbudgeted but is part of the plan to develop the central business district. An amendment of \$355,400 is needed to account for this purchase of land. The staff recommends approval of the budget amendment. Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the budget amendment as presented. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL –**

Council Member Cohen motioned to adjourn into Executive Session. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Council Member Anderson motioned to accept the sealed bid 20-025 for 1.5 million for 2.6 acres from the City of Sugar Hill. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

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Steve Edwards, Mayor

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Jane Whittington, City Clerk