

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF SUGAR HILL  
5039 WEST BROAD STREET  
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020, 7:30 P.M.**

**CALL TO ORDER** – by Mayor Edwards. Attendees included Mayor Steve Edwards, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Marc Cohen, Brandon Hembree, Nic Greene, City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington, and City Attorney Frank Hartley. Mayor Pro Tem Susie Walker was not present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**INVOCATION** – given by Mayor Edwards.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council Meeting November 10, 2020; Work Session November 2, 2020 – Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

**Proclamation Teachers of the Year North Gwinnett High School** – Council Member Cohen read the proclamation and summarized the teachers experience and service, where they teach and how many years. He also recognized that Genny Greco was one of six finalists as the Gwinnett Teacher of the Year. Each teacher was recognized and had pictures taken with the Mayor and Council.

**REPORTS**

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

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS** – Mark McCain, All-in Futbol Club spoke regarding the use of Gary Pirkle Park and the program. He thanked the Mayor and Council for adding additional turf fields to the park.

Varessa Butts thanked the Mayor and Council for being good stewards of city funds. She knows the budgeting process starts early for staff.

**CONSENT AGENDA  
OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Public Hearing, 2021 Proposed Capital Improvement & Operating Budget** – the City Manager explained that state law requires that he submit a balanced budget. The city is also required to hold two public hearings. The public hearings were advertised in the Gwinnett Daily Post on November 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. This budget is fiscally conservative, includes no new full-time

employees and maintains operations and service delivery at high standards. It took staff three months to develop this budget. The City Manager thanked the Finance Director Cindy Pugh and the Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche for their hard work and the work of the management team. The City Manager went through the funds including revenues sources and expenditures. The Assistant City Manager went over the Capital Improvement Budget expenditures and revenue sources. Council Member Hembree thanked staff for keeping an emphasis on recreation and green space. Council Member Anderson summarized the city's commitment to the capital projects.

The public hearing was opened and Amber Chambers, 809 Whitehead Road, stated that she requested detail of the proposed budget. She discussed possible cuts of the proposed budget such as training and membership fees. She thought a larger discussion from the public was needed on public safety.

Varessa Butts spoke regarding services during COVID. Since some services had to be cut during COVID, she is glad to see them back in the budget. Residents want most of the services to stay. She does agree that public safety should be something that the public speaks on.

Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the 2021 Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**Planning Commission Appointments - Post 3: Julie Adams and Post 4: Jeremy White –** Planning Director explained that both Commission Members requested re-appointment. Council Member Cohen nominated Julie Adams and Jeremy White for re-appointment onto the Planning Commission. There were no other nominations so they will continue to serve.

**Public Hearing, Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Readopt Zoning Map, Buffers, Dimensional Standards and Administrative Corrections –** Planning Director Awana explained that the updates were to the zoning map with latest parcel boundary data. It includes annexations and rezoning cases through October 12, 2020. The ordinance amendments include corrections to the Buffer and Dimensional Standards tables for new zoning districts as well as an updated short title. Amendments to Article 2, Article 9 and Article 12 are included. The Planning Commission recommended approval. The public hearing was opened and there were no comments, so the hearing was closed. Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the Zoning Ordinance Amendment as presented and discussed. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**Adopt final plan documents for Sugar Hill Trail Concept Livable Center's Initiative Study –** Planning Director Awana explained the process that the Planning staff organized and held for the public involvement and study of the plan. The final plan document for the Sugar Hill Trail Concept Livable Center Initiative Study is ready for approval. Council Member Anderson thanked Director Awana and the planning staff for their work on this study. He loves how it connects the older neighborhoods with the downtown and the greenway. Council Member Cohen stated it encompasses the entire city is comprehensive and well done. Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the Livable Center's Initiative Study plan document. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**Update Stormwater Management Regulations –** Planning Director Awana explained that the city is required to keep the stormwater management regulations up to date with the Metropolitan North Georgia Water District's model ordinances in order to maintain compliance with our MS4 permit administered by the Georgia EPD. Staff has prepared a draft amendment of the city's

development regulations to address some overlapping provisions and inconsistencies between our policies and the District's model ordinance. Council Member Anderson motioned to adopt the amendments to the Development Regulations as presented. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**Public Service Commission, Gas Department Consent Agreement** – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that during late 2018, the gas department experienced staff changes and transition to a fully computer-based record keeping and reporting system. It was during these changes that a few lapses occurred and were identified by the PSC's facility protection staff in February of this year. All the probable violations have been satisfactorily addressed by staff. The originally recommended civil penalty of \$15,000 plus mitigation has been reduced to \$5,000 plus commitments to provide upgraded equipment to staff and provide training exercises. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the Consent Agreement with the Public Service Agreement related to probable violations stemming from their compliance audit and authorizing the Mayor to sign it. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**Emergency Field Repairs, Gary Pirkle Park** – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that on October 11 the city experienced a significant storm caused by tropical storm Delta resulting in severe flooding at Gary Pirkle Park. The flood waters ran under the synthetic turf eroding the drainage layer and pulling out pins holding the turf in place. The city's insurance policy does not cover these fields because of their location in a flood zone. Bids were taken for the repair of the fields, replacing the drainage system and field turf in its entirety. The city received three bids and Precision Turf was the lowest bid. Staff recommends awarding the contract to Precision Turf, LLC in the amount of \$938,283.15. Council Member Greene motioned to award the contract for project 20-026 Park Field Repairs to Precision Turf, LLC of Sugar Hill in the amount of \$938,283.15. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL** – Council Member Anderson motioned to enter Executive Session. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

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

**ADJOURNMENT** – Council Member Cohen motioned to adjourn. Council Member Greene seconded the motion.

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Steve Edwards, Mayor

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Jane Whittington, City Clerk