

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SUGAR HILL
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2021, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order. Attendees included Mayor Steve Edwards, Mayor Pro Tem Taylor Anderson, Council Members Marc Cohen, Nic Greene, Brandon Hembree and Susie Walker, 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Council Member Walker seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council Meeting & Executive Session January 11, 2021; Work Session & Executive Session January 4, 2021- Council Member Hembree motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation Black Women’s Association of Sugar Hill – Mayor and Council Council Member Hembree thanked the Association for their work in the community and especially all the work regarding Black History month. Two representatives were present and Council Member Hembree read the proclamation to them. The Mayor and Council had comments regarding the work that the Black Women’s Association does in the community and thanked them for their efforts.

REPORTS

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

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS –

Jeff Cutchins spoke regarding the speed limit on West Broad Street in front of Broadstone and the E Center and requested bigger speed humps. He also requested pet posts on West Broad Street on the city’s side.

Amber Chambers had comments regarding the Open Meetings Sunshine law and the posting of meetings for the city.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

DDA Members Oath of Office – Mayor Edwards administered the Oath of Office to the following Downtown Development Authority members that were appointed/re-appointed at the January 11, 2020 Council Meeting: Nigel Grey Post #1, Rebecca Buckingham Post #2, Allen Jorgensen Post #3, Marc Orcutt Post #4, Mason Roszel Post #5.

Public Hearing Canceled, Applicant Request for Withdrawal, AX-20-002, 6483 Suwanee Dam Rd. request to rezone 9.87 acres at 6483 Suwanee Dam Rd. for a townhome/single-family medium density mixed residential subdivision

Sugar Hill Housing Study (city-wide housing data update) – Planning Director Awana explained that in order to understand the housing market in Sugar Hill the city conducted a comprehensive study in 2016. The study was named Home for Life. In September 2020, the city contracted with KB Advisory Group formerly Bleakley Advisory Group to conduct an analysis of the housing market data. Geoff Koski, President, KB Advisory Group, gave an update on the Housing Study.

Public Hearing, Central Business District Design Review, Terwilliger Pappas Mixed Use Development with multi-family, retail and public/private parking – Planning Director Awana explained that the city received an application from Terwilliger Pappas requesting design review board approval for a mixed-use development with multifamily and retail. It would also include a public/private parking garage. The public hearing was opened and Derek Hutchison of Terwilliger Pappas spoke regarding the project. The site plan included 700 parking spaces. Council Member Cohen asked Mr. Hutchison if the project would be built in phases. He stated that the parking deck would be built first and the rest would be built in phases but not over a long period of time. The Mayor opened the public hearing and Amber Chambers spoke regarding concerns or against the project. If there is discussion of broader lanes on West Broad Street then this should be an active discussion for this project.

The following spoke for the project. Amber Rushing and Mattie Rushing of Rushing Trading Company, Jeff Cutchins Broadstone resident, Kerrie and Jay Liebrock of Sugar Hill Distillery, Greg Winey President of North Point Hospitality, Steve Wilkes Sugar Hill resident, Jack Wolfe and Mason Roszel of the DDA, Jonathan Chang owner of Sugar Hill Smiles, Bridgett Jorgenson Sugar Hill dentist and property owner, Josh and Gregory Mendoza residents, and Allen Jorgensen of the DDA. There were no other comments, so the public hearing was closed.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson motioned to approve the site plan and building elevations in material and architectural detail with the three conditions as listed by staff. Council Member Greene seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Application to US Board of Geographic Names for Crayfish Creek – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that this tributary is a small to medium sized stream with a drainage basin of about 400 acres. It flows through the Gates at Lanier, Kendrix Ridge and Twin Creeks subdivision and enters the park services properties (NPS). The stream came to be referred to as Crayfish Creek and was named for the presence of a Chattahoochee Crayfish (*Cambarus Howardi*). Staff recommends approval of the recommendation to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names for Crayfish Creek. Council Member Hembree stated that there is a restoration project going on for Crayfish Creek and it is important to a lot of people in the community. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the proposal for the subject tributary of the Chattahoochee River to be designated Crayfish Creek and authorize the Mayor to sign it. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Resolution in Support of House Bill 150 – Mayor Pro Tem Anderson stated that House Bill 150 (HB150) would prohibit the restriction of the use of natural gas. The city has a natural gas system that provides clean, safe and affordable gas to its customers. The city supports the passage of Georgia House Bill 150 otherwise known as the “Preserving Fuel Choice for Georgia Consumers” bill considered by the Georgia General Assembly during the current legislative

session. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson motioned to approve this resolution. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION - The following actions were taken out of Executive Session.

The City Attorney explained that he has one item regarding a settlement agreement titled Thomas Bailey versus the City of Sugar Hill. They are recommending the city settle this matter by purchasing the property located at 4605 Creek Bluff Drive in the amount of \$305,000 with closing within 20 days of today's settlement with the allowance that Mr. Bailey and his roommate be allowed to remain in possession of the property for up to 90 days and Mr. Bailey will be responsible for maintaining the property and any insurance on the property. The settlement includes all the releases from Mr. Bailey on any claims by Mr. Bailey on the city and dismissal of all actions and all orders entered in this matter. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson motioned to accept the settlement per the City Attorney's recommendation. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Council Member Cohen stated at the end of each year the City Manager and City Clerk receive an annual review. This past year, 2020, was a strange and unusual year. The Mayor and Council appreciate how the City Manager and City Clerk handled the situations that were brought forth with everyday being something new. He made a motion to increase the salary of the City Manager Paul Radford by 3% and to increase the salary of the City Clerk by 3% and for the city to contribute 5% of her salary into the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and to make all of these actions retroactive to January 1, 2021. Council Member Walker seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

Steve Edwards, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk