

City of Sugar Hill Youth Council Minutes
Wednesday, January 20, 2020

Virtual Meeting Through Webex

Members in attendance: Lexi Ducote, Avery Tam, Bailey Coleman, Milen Patel, Bhaumi Shah, Harshika Mehta, Maya Laurens, Daniel Park, and Mike Sullivan

Taking Minutes: Harshika Mehta

Meeting called to order at 5:33 pm

Agenda:

- Harshika motioned to approve the agenda, Milen seconded, Motion was unanimous.

Minutes

- Lexi motioned to approve, Avery seconded, Motion was unanimous.

Council Reports

- Bhaumi reported The Women's Club is cancelling their event

COVID-19 (Mike)

- Georgia continues to break death-per-day records this month
- General updates on the state of the virus globally

Youth Ambassadors (Avery & Milen)

- They're waiting on a response from a volunteer coordinator for future volunteering opportunities

Cities United Agenda (Brandon) - reserve 60 min

- Brandon discussed what he believes will be large points of focus this year, including:

8:00 am - 8:40 am *Perspectives from State Leaders on the 2021 Legislative Session*

Everyone, please spend time on the proposed GA State Budget...

Lead: Maya. Maya please spend some extra time.

Big 3:

- o Covid-19 (State's Healthcare is decentralized)
- o State Budget
- o Redistricting (based on 2020 Census)

- Ga House (R/D): 103 / 77

- Ga Senate (R/D): 34 / 22

Georgia's shift in political power (RED -> PURPLE)

House bills 23, 24 & 66

8:45 am - 9:15 am *Key Issues Facing Cities in the 2021 Legislative Session*

Lead: Bhaumi. Bhaumi, please research Mayor Jim Thornton.

Presiding: Mayor Jim Thornton, GMA First Vice President and Chair, Legislative Policy Council

Expected coverage: **Home Rule**. Specifically during the pandemic (and on-going), Governor Kemp overrode local control of mask. Instead of setting a minimum, he set a statewide maximum and overrode local control.

9:30 am - 10:00 am ***Municipal Government & Revenue and Finance***

Lead: Lexi/Bailey.

Lexi, please research Mayor Bianca Motley Broom, College Park.

And HB23, HB24, and HB66

Bailey, please research Jim Elliott, City Attorney, McDonough and Hawkinsville

It is expected to hear Jim Elliott talk about annexations and Tax abatements.

Annexations (3 methods)

- Group Petition (60% rule)
- Individual request (100% rule)
- State legislation

10:15 am - 10:45 am ***Environment and Natural Resources & Transportation***

● **Lead: Harshika.**

Harshika, please research Mayor Cornell Harvey, Brunswick, Transportation .

- In 2019, the American Society of Civil Engineers gave Georgia's infrastructure a grade of C+, which means much of the state's infrastructure is showing signs of disrepair and needs significant attention.
- Expect Environment to talk about recent Ga Constitutional amendment for having used tire fund dealing with the growing used tire issue, instead of into the general fund.

11:00 am - 11:30 am ***Community Development & Public Safety***

Lead: Avery/Daniel.

Avery, please research Laura Harker, Senior Policy Analyst, Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (GBPI), and google: medicaid expansion in georgia

(note: Ga has a work requirement of 80 hours/month)

Daniel, please research Mark Bender, Georgia Association Chiefs of Police

- Georgia has the 3rd highest uninsured rate in the nation and eight rural hospitals have closed in the state since 2011.
- As the national discourse on public safety and community/police relations continues, we will hear from a law enforcement training and certification expert who will discuss recommended training and resources for municipal law enforcement officers, as well as newly required psychological screenings for police officers beginning in 2021.

11:45 am - 12:45 pm ***Awards Luncheon***

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm ***Key Federal Issues Facing Cities in the 117th United States Congress***

(Congresswoman Carolyn Bourdeaux)

Lead: Milen, expected topics:

- Funding: telehealth
- Vaccination

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm ***Legal Update***

Planning for the Semester Project (Bhaumi) - we had 5 min remaining, so the council went around and discussed ideas they had:

1. Middle school mentorship program
2. Scavenger hunt around the city

3. Social wellbeing & mental health video
4. Working on mental health after COVID
5. Podcast about YC & City Government
6. Painting parking lot spaces downtown
7. Discord event with other youth councils

Moved Toastmasters to Feb (Budget-Harshika/Daniel)

Harshika motions to adjourn, Bailey seconds. Motion was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.