

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SUGAR HILL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2022, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Hembree. Present were Mayor Brandon Hembree, Mayor Pro Tem Taylor Anderson, Council Members Marc Cohen, Alvin Hicks, Mason Roszel and Jenn Thatcher, City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington, City Attorney Frank Hartley.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG
INVOCATION** – given by Council Member Hicks.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Meeting & Executive Session November 14, 2022; Work Session & Executive Session November 7, 2022 – Council Member Hicks motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation Donna McDaniel, 35 Years of Service to the City – Mayor Hembree read the proclamation honoring Donna McDaniel for her service to the city. She is the longest serving employee to date. Ms. McDaniel will retire from the city on January 4, 2023.

Oath of Office Marshal Michael Parker – Mayor Hembree administered the Oath to Marshal Parker and welcomed him as a new member of the Public Safety Department.

Proclamation Teacher of the Year Lanier Cluster – Council Member Cohen read the proclamation and presented it to each of the Teachers of the Year for the Lanier cluster along with their principals.

Recognition Gwinnett County Police North Precinct Major Trapp McDowell – Council Member Cohen stated that Major McDowell is ill and will not be able to attend tonight. He read the proclamation and it will be forwarded to Major McDowell.

REPORTS

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

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS – Jim January 1282 Frontier Drive, stated that he has lived in this city for 32 years. He spoke regarding density of the new developments and traffic. He requested that the Council decisions be driven by consideration of current residents of the city.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing #2 and Adoption, 2023 Operations and Capital Improvement Proposed Budget – City Manager, Paul Radford explained the budget proposal. Cindy Pugh Finance Director presented graphs of the revenues that make up the budget. Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche explained the Capital Improvement Budget. The Public Hearing was opened and the following presented comments:

Gary Pirkle, 440 Silk Oak Way, stated that there was too much discretionary spending in this budget. He did not doubt the hard work of staff to present this budget. He stated that it is the work of the Council to cut the wish list. Some of the spending could be put off to avoid debt. He preferred paying debt off.

Andrew Schultz, 5350 Windswept Trace, council should be asking questions and coming up with ways to cut spending. There are wants and there are needs. He has trouble paying the property taxes now. We do not live in a bubble, this is all real whether it is buying groceries, getting gasoline, or paying taxes it affects us all.

Jim January, 1282 Frontier Drive, appreciates the Street Department. They do a great job. He state instead of a pedestrian bridge over Highway 20 why doesn't the city put sidewalks in neighborhoods like Frontier Forest. He would rather walk in his neighborhood and be safe.

Amber Chambers, 809 Whitehead Road, stated that it is weird that none of the Council asked questions. She stated that some departments needed training like the gas department and public safety. The budget proposal contained \$238,000 for travel. The Mayor and Council training budget increased, the administration department had a \$35,000 increase in training. The budget also has \$508,550 for consultants, who are they and what are they consulting for? She said there is a lot of discretionary spending. She asked is it the intention of this government to compile debt? How much is too much?

The public hearing was closed and the Mayor and Council had questions and comments regarding the proposed budget and public comments.

Mayor Pro Tem Anderson motioned to approve the 2023 proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Budget. Council Member Thatcher seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Resolution Landfill Expense Reimbursement – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that the Appling Road landfill was closed in 1999 requiring ongoing monitoring and closure procedures. The city has been monitoring conditions at the landfill since that time. Some of the expenses incurred for monitoring the landfill qualify for reimbursement under the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund (HWTF). Staff is recommending approval of the resolution and execution of the agreement to forward for reimbursement under the HWTF program. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the reimbursement resolution under our existing Agreement Governing Expenditures for State and Local Government Costs. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – the meeting was reconvened and the following action was taken out of Executive Session.

Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the purchase of approximately 1.6 acres of property located at 1181 Level Creek Road (Parcel 7291 012) from Joseph Cheeley, III, Executor of the Estate of Joseph Elbert Cheeley, Jr. in the amount of \$550,000. Council Member Thatcher asked if the purchase came out of reserves? The City Manager explained that the 2023 budget reserves are not affected by this purchase, it was budgeted in 2022. Mayor Pro Tem Anderson asked the City Manager how has the city done on these land purchases? The City Manager stated that we made a return on the investment, some higher than others. This motion includes a budget amendment to increase the line item for land acquisition by 550,000 and to transfer in the funds from unrestricted reserves. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Council Member Roszel motioned to approve the purchase of approximately 2.19 acres of property located at 1098 Whitehead Rd. (Parcel 7306 016) and 5098 West Broad Street (Parcel 7306 118) from Wyatt Bailey, David Bailey and Becky Bailey as Trustee for Lillie Bailey and Doris Bailey as trustee under the Last Will and Testament of Larry R. Bailey for a total purchase price of \$850,000 with purchase price values assigned as follows:

1098 Whitehead Rd. 7306 015 \$175,000; 1112 Whitehead Rd. 7306 016 \$175,000; 5098 West Broad Street 7306 018 \$500,000. The motion also includes a budget amendment to increase the line item for land acquisition by \$850,000 and to transfer in the funds from unrestricted reserves. Council Member Thatcher seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk