

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF SUGAR HILL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5039 WEST BROAD STREET  
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA  
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023, 7:30 P.M.**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

**INVOCATION** – given by Council Member Thatcher.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Regular Meeting & Executive Session March 13, 2023; Work Session & Executive Session March 6, 2023 – Council Member Hicks motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Thatcher seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

**Recognition/Proclamation Erika Tay, U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Recipient** – Mayor Hembree presented and read the proclamation to Erika Tay. Her family, friends and teachers were in the audience to support her accomplishments.

**Arbor Day Proclamation** – Council Member Roszel read the proclamation in support of Arbor Day. He stated that the city will host an Arbor Day Celebration on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Oath of Office Marshal Cory Cummings** – Mayor Hembree administered the oath to Marshal Cory Cummings. His family was in attendance and joined Marshal Cummings for the oath.

**REPORTS**

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

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS** – Amber Chambers, 809 Whitehead Rd. requested that the Council table or vote against the Supplemental Gas Agreement. There has not been enough information provided to support it.

Nancy Wren, Sugar Hill Bakery, spoke regarding the property of the bakery at 4969 West Broad Street.

Meg Avery, 4575 Forest Green Dr., spoke regarding the supplemental Gas Agreement. She requested that the Council investigate it further before they approve it.

Gary Pirkle, 5440 Silk Oak Way, had comments regarding the gas supplemental contract. He stated that he appreciates MGAG and what they have done for the city but there could be problems with the approval of this agreement such as storage of the appliances and who would monitor local contractors' performance.

Andrew Schultz, 5350 Windswept Trace, stated that the lady slipper flowers were not protected in the new townhome project near his house. They were mostly bulldozed over.

## **CONSENT AGENDA OLD BUSINESS**

**Supplemental Contract – Natural Gas Connections** – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained this contract provides a program to help the city mitigate the industry trends for natural gas customers of small to mid-sized providers replacing aging appliances with electric ones. The city would receive full-service expert assistance to its customers. It would include appliance rebates and on-bill financing services that the city is already providing. The additional cost for the Natural Gas Connection program (NGC) is just over \$1 per meter per month. The cost will not be added to the customers but would be part of the city's operating cost. The council had questions regarding the cost (\$144,000.00 per year), marketing potential, and current attrition cost. Council Member Anderson motioned to table this item to address the questions by Council. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Applicant Request to Table, RZ-22-007, Rezoning RS-100 Medium Density Single-family Residential to BG General Business, 5422 Sugar Ridge Drive** – This item was tabled until the May Council Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Resolution, Recertification as Certified City of Ethics** – City Manager, Paul Radford explained that this program is sponsored by the Georgia Municipal Association and the city has been participating in it since October, 2000. The city recertified in 2011, 2015 and in 2019. The resolution to re-certify includes the five principles required by the program, serve others, not ourselves, use resources with efficiency and economy, treat all people fairly, use the power of our position for the well being of our constituents, create an environment of honesty, openness and integrity. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen motioned to approve the Resolution for Recertification as a Certified City of Ethics. Council Member Thatcher seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL** – Council Member Roszel motioned to enter Executive Session for legal, real estate and/or personnel. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION** – The meeting was reconvened, and Council Member Anderson motioned to approve a Settlement Agreement with Donrob Investments LP, resolving the pending condemnation case (Civil Action No. 20-A-07337-10). The city will pay Donrob the sum of \$30,172.00. This amount is in addition to the \$239,828.00 which was previously paid onto the Court after the Special Master hearing. Donrob will donate the remainder of the value of the property that may exceed \$270,000.00 and the city will acknowledge the donation but will not offer any opinion as to the value determined by Donrob. The Mayor, City Clerk and/or City Manager are authorized to sign any documents necessary to complete the settlement subject to approval by the City Attorney. The current fiscal year budget is amended to include the payment of \$30,172.00 to be charged to the Alton Tucker – Level Creek Rd. extension. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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

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Brandon Hembree, Mayor

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Jane Whittington, City Clerk