

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SUGAR HILL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 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 Frank Hartley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

INVOCATION - given by Council Member Roszel.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes July 10, 2023, Council Meeting and Executive Session – Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Thatcher seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

REPORTS

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

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS – Andrea Alabi, a candidate for Gwinnett County District Attorney, spoke regarding the county and the solicitors office.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Appointment – Council Member Roszel explained that the role of the DDA is to help shape and develop the downtown. He motioned to nominate Josh Mendoza to fill the unexpired term of Post #6. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

2023 Proposed Millage Rate, Public Hearing #3 – the City Manager explained that the state law required that the city advertise the millage rate as a tax increase. Re-assessments from Gwinnett County Tax Assessor account for over 70% of the increased value. Staff is recommending that the Council approve a millage rate of 3.69 mills rolling back from the 3.8 which has been the rate for 19 consecutive years.

Mayor Hembree opened the public hearing and there were no comments, so the hearing was closed. Mayor Pro Tem Cohen motioned to reduce the millage rate and set it at 3.69 mils for 2023. Council Member Thatcher seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Call for Special Election November 7, 2023, Homestead Exemptions – Mayor Hembree thanked Representative Matt Reeves who helped with the legislation to allow the city to hold a referendum for the revision on the city’s homestead exemptions. The call for election will approve a Special Election for the three homestead exemptions. He asked the City Clerk to explain the three exemptions. Council Member Anderson motioned to adopt the Resolution to Call for a Special Election for the three homestead exemption revisions. Council Member Roszel seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL – Council Member Thatcher motioned to adjourn into Executive Session for legal, real estate or personnel. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – the meeting was reconvened and there was no action taken out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Council Member Roszel motioned to adjourn. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk