

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SUGAR HILL
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER by Mayor Hembree at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Brandon Hembree, Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Hicks, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Meg Avery, Joshua Page and Gary Pirkle. Also present were City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington and City Attorney Lee Thompson. City Attorney Frank Hartley was not present.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council Meeting & Executive Session January 8, 2024 – Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

REPORTS

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

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS – James January, 1282 Frontier Dr. voiced concerns over the Envision Plan being approved as an ordinance. He requested that the public have access to traffic reports and documents referenced in the council meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Envision 100 Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing #3 – Planning Director Awana explained that at the December Council Meeting the Envision 100 Comprehensive plan was approved for transmittal to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) for review. The plan was reviewed from January 5, 2024 to January 26, 2024 by DCA. DCA returned comments for revision to city staff on January 12, 2024. The revisions included adjustments to the community work program and report of accomplishments to provide continuity from the 2019 comprehensive plan to the 2024 plan. City staff made revisions and resubmitted the plan on January 25th. DCA approved the plan for adoption on January 31st. ARC will continue to review the plan and make recommendations. The Planning staff is presenting the plan for the final public comment and adoption by the City Council at

tonight's meeting. The public hearing was opened and there were comments in support and some concerns about the community work program. The public hearing was closed.

Council Member Anderson motioned to adopt the Ordinance to approve the 2039 Envision 100 Comprehensive Plan. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks seconded the motion. Motion was approved 3-2 with Council Member Anderson, Mayor Pro Tem Hicks and Council Member Page voting for and Council Members Avery and Pirkle voting against.

Contract Award, Road Resurfacing & Repairs, Project 24-002 – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that the funds were available from SPLOST, GDOT Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) program and developer funds with the balance from general fund budget. Bid documents were drafted and the ad ran in the legal organ, the city's website and Georgia Procurement Registry. Ten bids were received January 25th with Garrett Paving, Inc. being the lowest at \$541,870.40 and East Coast Paving was the highest at \$886,475.34. After confirmation of their qualifications, staff is ready to recommend awarding the construction contract to Garrett Paving. Council Member Pirkle requested that the city pave other streets as well. Assistant City Manager Besseche stated that they could look at another set of streets and re-visit the paving or repairing of streets next month. Council Member Anderson requested a list of roads by score. Assistant City Manager said that the staff are working on a proposed pavement management policy with recommended repair methods and frequency recommendation based on segment scores. This would be presented separately at an upcoming meeting. Council Member Pirkle motioned to award the construction contract to Garrett Paving Company for \$541,870.49. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Resolution/Contract Landfill Expense Reimbursement– Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that the Appling Road landfill was closed in 1999 with a state-issued permit, requiring ongoing monitoring and closure procedures. The city has monitored the landfill since that time. A portion of the expenses qualify for reimbursement under the Hazardous Waste Trust Fund. The staff recommends approval of the Resolution and execution of the agreement for a reimbursement amount of \$7476.67. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks motioned to approve the reimbursement resolution and authorize the Mayor to sign the Agreement Governing Expenditures for State and Local Government Costs. Council Member Pirkle seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Stanley Street/Alton Tucker Extension Traffic Signal – Council Member Pirkle stated that there is a short distance from this proposed red light to the other red lights and traffic could stack up. The red light seems to be potentially installed for an apartment complex development and the city would be better off not to have it. For safety they could close the curb cut. Council Member Page asked if the red light would be synchronized by Gwinnett County DOT or Georgia DOT. The Assistant City Manager stated it would be Gwinnett. He asked if there could be a right turn decel lane into Stanley Street and into Alton Tucker. The Assistant City Manager stated that it could be added later. Council Member Avery mentioned the study by Timothy Horn and asked if the improvements recommended have been made and the Assistant City Manager stated that they have. Council Member Pirkle motioned to withdraw the application for a red light at Stanley Street and Alton Tucker. Council Member Avery seconded the motion. Council Member Page stated that personally he does not like the red light there but after looking at the studies he would be hard pressed not to go forward with it. The state could come back and put the light in if the city withdrew. The motion failed 2-3 with Council Members Avery and Pirkle voting for and Council Members Anderson, Page and Mayor Pro Tem Hicks voting against.

Planning Commission Appointment – Council Member Pirkle explained the qualifications of Brian Shebs. He made a motion to nominate him for the vacant Planning Commission Member. Council Member Avery seconded the motion. The Mayor stated that it is a courtesy to share the name and qualifications of the nominee to the other Council Members ahead of the meeting and there was nothing in the packet for Mr. Shebs. The motion was approved 3-2 with Council Members Avery, Page and Pirkle voting to approve and Council Member Anderson and Mayor Pro Tem Hicks voting against. The Mayor stated that he was going to use the power of veto for this item. He encouraged the Council to work together. Since the item was vetoed, the City Clerk will place it on the March agenda for a vote. It takes four votes for the item to overturn the veto.

Sanitation & Recycling Updates – Council Member Avery explained that she had done a significant amount of research on this topic. She went through most of that research at the Work Session. As a result of the research and issues with the service level, she is requesting that the Council have staff negotiate a new contract with Waste Management. The request would be to have recycling every week, and volume-based rates. They should offer a 65-gallon cart at a lower rate and lower franchise fees. If the contract has not been renegotiated by the April meeting, then the city should go out for an RFP.

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

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – the Mayor reconvened the meeting and updated that during Executive Session they discussed three personnel issues and one legal issue. There was no action taken out of Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT – Council Member Anderson motioned to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk