

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SUGAR HILL
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Hembree. Present were Mayor Brandon Hembree, Mayor Pro Tem Alvin Hicks, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Meg Avery, Joshua Page, Gary Pirkle, 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 Mayor Hembree

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council Meeting April 8, 2024 & Executive Session; Work Session April 1, 2024 (no Executive Session) – Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Local Issuing Authority of the Year Award – Mayor Hembree introduced Ellis Lamme, Chairman of the Georgia State Soil and Water Conservation Commission and Ben Ruzowicz, Erosion & Sediment Control Program Manager who were here to help present Sugar Hill with the award. The Mayor also recognized Kim Landers whose work in the Planning and Development department helped facilitate this recognition.

Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Award – Mayor Hembree read the award and recognized Stephanie Isaacs from the Historic Preservation Commission.

Youth Council Seniors Graduation Class Presentation of Cords – Mayor Hembree and Mayor Pro Tem Hicks introduced the seniors on the Youth Council and presented them with the cords for graduation. The senior members are Madison Gingras, Skylar McLeod and Reilly Christy. Dobromir Lliev was not present at the meeting.

REPORTS

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

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS

James January, Frontier Dr., spoke regarding having marshals in Frontier Forest to help with speeding. He also spoke regarding the elected official portion of the defined benefit plan that is on the agenda.

Jerry Thompson, 5283 Under Way, sent a request under FOIA for sign permit at 4969 West Broad St. He stated that the sign is in violation and should pertain to the business located there.

Jessica Daniels offered to donate pollinator house for the pollinator garden in the downtown area.

Judge Kim Gallant spoke regarding her campaign as a superior court judge. She is a city resident.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

GMEBS, Defined Benefit Retirement Plan Restatement – the City Manager explained that GMEBS is requesting that the cities re-adopt the plan with no changes to the IRS approved format. The Mayor should be authorized to sign with approval from the City Attorney as to form.

Council Member Pirkle motioned to approve the GMEBS restatement of Defined benefit excluding elected officials. Council Member Avery seconded for discussion. There was discussion from Mayor and Council regarding the motion and the defined benefit plan. The City Attorney advised that if the council wanted to make a motion to remove any parts of the plan then he recommended a separate motion at a different meeting. GMEBS can then send the paperwork to amend any sections of the plan. Council Member Avery withdrew her second. Council Member Pirkle withdrew his motion. Council Member Aver motioned to approve the GMEBS restatement of the defined benefit plan as presented. There will be a separate agenda item to remove elected officials next month. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Public Hearing, Design Review Town Center Overlay, 4882 Lanier Ave. Carport & Accessory Building – Planning Director Awana explained the application is for approval of the carport because it is within the Town Center Overlay district. The staff recommend approval with one condition. The public hearing was opened and Aubrey Daniels spoke regarding their request. He and his wife are first time homebuyers. There were no other comments so the hearing was closed. Council Member Anderson motioned to approve Design Review for the Town Center Overlay at 4882 Lanier Ave. for a carport with one condition: final designs shall substantially resemble the attached exhibits labeled Exhibit 1 through 5. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Municipal Code Amendment, Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District model ordinance to update the building code for water efficiency requirements – Planning Director Awana explained that this ordinance amendment to the municipal code of Sugar Hill is to update the plumbing code for water efficiency. Once the form is approved this will be submitted to Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for review and compliance. It will then come back to the council to approve approximately the July meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hicks motioned to submit the code amendment to DCA for review. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Council Member Pirkle voiced concerns regarding water flow and irrigation systems. They should approve statewide not district wide. The motion was approved 5-0.

Ordinance Planning Commission Attendance Policy – Council Member Avery read the section of the code that this affects Sec. 2-272. It will require members to attend 75% of the Planning Commission meetings for the year and also delete the Recreation Board section. Council Member Avery motioned to approve the ordinance to amend Chapter 2 of the code of the City of Sugar Hill related to boards and commissions as written. Council Member Pirkle seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL
– there was no Executive Session held.

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT – Council Member Pirkle motioned to adjourn. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk