

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA**

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hembree at 9:00 a.m. Present were Mayor 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 and City Clerk Jane Whittington.

Public Hearing #1, 2024 Proposed Millage Rate – Mayor Hembree explained that the City Manager will explain the staff recommendation and current factors. Then Council will have an opportunity to ask questions. The next step will be the public hearing.

The City Manager explained the factors that resulted in a rollback rate of 3.534 mils. Reassessments, new construction and additions to the tax digest have resulted in revenue increases in property taxes. The city will have a substantial increase in homestead exemptions as passed in last year's election. The city is now 75% residential and 25% commercial. Staff is recommending that the city keep the millage rate at 3.69 mils.

Council Member Pirkle the five-year history and the increase of revenue. He would like to see the millage rate reduced.

Council Member Page asked the City Manager about the cost-of-living increase for the city employees. The City Manager responded that the staff is collecting data regarding what other cities are doing for this next year.

The public hearing was opened and Mary Howell, 5110 Stick Court, stated that she was senior and disabled and any tax increases cause hardship on the citizens. She requested that the Council consider the effect on the taxpayers. She also stated that other people use the services provided by the city such as those that live in apartments and they do not pay taxes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: LEGAL, REAL ESTATE, PERSONNEL – No Executive Session was held.

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk