

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2025, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER - Present were Mayor Brandon Hembree, Council Members Taylor Anderson, Meg Avery, Alvin Hicks, 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 Council Member Hicks.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Council Member Hicks motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 4-1 with Council Member Avery voting against approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council Meeting & Executive Session December 9, 2024; Work Session & Executive Session December 2, 2024; Special Called Meeting December 19, 2024 – Council Member Avery motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS - Proclamation, Sherwood Pharmacy – Council Member Pirkle read reviews regarding Sherwood Pharmacy. He read the proclamation and then the Mayor and Council presented it to Danica Robertson the owner of Sherwood Drugs.

REPORTS

CITY ATTORNEY

COUNCIL

MAYOR

CITY CLERK

CITY MANAGER

Planning Commission Reappointments

YOUTH COUNCIL

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS – no citizen or guest comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing, RZ-24-004, 1036 & 1040 Whitehead Rd. rezone to RS-100 CBD & expand the boundaries of the CBD to include properties R7306 009 and R7306 111 for Single Family Residences – Art Newell, Planning Director, explained the timeline for this project. Whitehead Rd. Investments requested to rezone the properties and to expand the Central Business District (CBD) to include them for future single-family residences. Staff recommended approval of the rezoning of the 4.61 acres at 1036 and 1040 Whitehead Rd. to RS-100 and to expand the boundaries of the CBD to include them with nine conditions. The Planning Director read the conditions.

The public hearing was opened and David Smith spoke for the applicant. He was there along with Pam Sessions and Don Donnely of Hedgewood Homes and John Mansour owner of the property. The density would be seven units per acre with increased greenspace. All of the homes have two car garages except the cottage style homes.

The following spoke in opposition to RZ-24-004: Amber Chambers, 809 Whitehead Rd., Andrew Schultz, 5350 Windswept Trace, and Caren Carney owner of 1125 Whitehead Rd.

David Smith followed up that the city owned properties have not been purchased and are not included in this proposal. There were no other comments so the public hearing was closed. There were no questions from the Council. Council Member Pirkle motioned to deny RZ-24-004. Council Member Avery seconded the motion. Approved 4-1 with Council Members Avery, Hicks, Page and Pirkle voting for the motion to deny and Council Member Anderson voting against.

NEW BUSINESS

TCO Design Review 25-001, DHT Properties LLC, 5017 Spring Hill Drive, Carport addition to Existing Residence (public hearing 1-13-25) – Planning Director Art Newell explained that the city received an application from Mike Dodson requesting design review board approval for the addition of a carport to an existing residence located at 5017 Spring Hill Dr. which is within the Town Center Overlay (TCO). The 24' X 24' carport will replace the metal carport towards the rear of the home. The carport would be connected to the home with a 4' covered breezeway. The public hearing was opened, and the applicant spoke regarding the application. There were no other comments, so the hearing was closed. Council Member Pirkle motioned to approve the Town Center Design Review for 5017 Spring Hill Dr. Council Member Page seconded the motion. The City Attorney requested they clarify that the motion and second included the two staff conditions. Council Member Pirkle and Page clarified that it did. The motion was approved 5-0.

Mayor Pro Tem Appointment – Mayor Hembree explained that the Council will need to nominate a member to serve as Mayor Pro Tem in the Mayor's absence. Council Member Pirkle nominated Council Member Josh Page. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0. Mayor Hembree administered the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem to Council Member Page.

Downtown Development Authority – Reappointments to Posts 1,2,3,4 – The Mayor explained that these posts on the DDA are for ones that are currently serving. The city can make one motion to approve them. Council Member Avery asked that they vote for each post separately. The a city does not have a policy that the Council reappoints the board members if they are serving currently. The City Attorney said that the Council can vote to approve as a slate or to appoint separately by each post. Council Member Page suggested that this be deferred to February to allow more time to consider resumes and reappointments. The Mayor requested that they go forward individually by post. Council Member Anderson nominated Tim Ross for Post #1. There were no other nominations, so Tim Ross was reappointed to Post #1.

Council Member Anderson nominated Mason Roszel for Post #2. Council Member Avery nominated Gary Pirkle. The Mayor called for the vote and Mason Roszel received two votes (Council Members Anderson and Hicks) and Gary Pirkle received 3 votes (Council Members Avery, Page and Pirkle). The Mayor stated that he vetoes this appointment because the person seeking reappointment is serving well.

Council Member Anderson nominated Allen Jorgensen for Post #3. Council Member Page nominated Gary Pirkle. The Mayor called for the vote and Allen Jorgensen received 2 votes (Council Members Anderson and Hicks). Gary Pirkle received 3 votes (Council Members Avery, Page and Pirkle). The Mayor stated that he vetoes this appointment for the same reason.

Council Member Anderson motioned to table these appointments until February. The appointments cannot be tabled because there is an active veto.

Council Member Anderson motioned to appoint Jonathan Chang to Post #4. There were no other nominations, so Jonathan Chang was reappointed.

Downtown Development Authority – New Appointment Post 5 - Council Member Anderson motioned to appoint Amy Cook for the vacant Post #5. Council Member Avery nominated Gary Pirkle. The Mayor called for the vote and Amy Cook received 3 votes (Council Member Anderson, Hicks and Page). Gary Pirkle received 2 votes (Council Member Avery and Pirkle). Amy Cook was appointed to Post #5.

Riverlands Authority – Reappointments for Post 2,3,4 – Council Member Anderson nominated Sheri Emigh for Post #2. Council Member Pirkle nominated Andrew Schultz. The Mayor called for the vote and Sheri Emigh received 2 votes (Council Members Anderson and Hicks) and Andrew Schultz received 3 votes (Council Members Avery, Page and Pirkle). Mayor Hembree stated that he vetoes this appointment.

Council Member Anderson serves as the Council Liaison and wants to continue to serve. He received 5 votes. Council Member Anderson will be reappointed to Post #3.

Council Member Anderson nominated Lexi Carlson for Post #4. Council Member Pirkle nominated Marla King. Lexi Carlson received 2 votes (Council Members Anderson and Hicks) and Marla King received 3 votes (Council Members Avery, Page and Pirkle). Mayor Hembree stated he vetoes this vote.

Riverlands Authority – New Appointment for Post 1 – Council Member Anderson nominated Samantha Piovesan. Council Member Avery nominated Marla King. Samantha Piovesan received 3 votes (Council Members Anderson, Hicks and Page) and Marla King received 2 votes (Council Members Avery and Pirkle).

Beer & Wine License Retail, European Taste LLC, 5192 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., Unit #400, Olena Matskan – the City Clerk explained that the city had received an application from European Taste, LLC for a beer and wine retail license. The business is a European grocery store that is located at 5192 Nelson Brogdon Blvd., Unit 400. They have submitted all the required paperwork and passed all the background screenings. Council Member Anderson motioned to approve the beer and wine license for European Taste, LLC. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

2025 Municipal Election Qualifying Fees – the City Clerk explained that the city would be holding a General Election on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 for two Council posts, Post #4 currently held by Alvin Hicks and Post #5 currently held by Taylor Anderson and the Mayor’s seat currently held by Brandon Hembree. The qualifying fee is \$108 for Council and \$162 for Mayor. This is 3% of the annual salary from the previous year. Council Member Pirkle motioned to approve the qualifying fees as submitted by the City Clerk. Council Member Hicks 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 Hicks motioned to adjourn. Council Member Anderson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk