

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF SUGAR HILL
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025, 7:30 P.M.**

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council Meeting & Executive Session August 11, 2024, 2025; Work Session August 4, 2025; Special Called Meeting August 4, 2025 – Council Member Hicks motioned to approve the minutes. Council Member Avery seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation Bill and Mary Harting – Mayor Hembree read the proclamation and presented it to the Hartings and their family. He congratulated them on eighty years of marriage.

DDA Name Badge Presentation – Council Member Anderson presented Dawn P. Gober's name badges to her children in honor of her accomplishments on the DDA and her commitment to the city.

Youth Council Oath of Office by Mayor Hembree – Council Member Hicks and Mayor Hembree administered the oath of office to the members of the Youth Council for 2025-2026.

REPORTS

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

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS – Samantha Piovesan, 5119 McEver View Dr., spoke regarding the Inclusion Task Force and the work staff has helped with in the sensory ideas.

Marla King, 510 Emerald Pkwy., spoke in opposition to AX-25-002. She is opposed to the project as it is currently presented. No modifications have been presented yet. She thanked Council for the help on the traffic concerns at the Emerald Lakes entrance/exit.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

REQUEST TO TABLE, AX-25-002, 5853, 5875 Suwanee Dam Rd., 5868 Henry Bailey Rd., 2.72 acres Rezone to General Business (BG) for Retail Commercial Development (public hearing held 6-9-25) – Mayor Pro Tem Page motioned to table this until the November Council meeting. Council Member Pirkle seconded for discussion. He asked if at some point wouldn't the applicant request that the application be withdrawn. The Mayor said that staff has been unable to communicate with the applicant because he is traveling. Council Member Pirkle's second stands. Approved 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Property Tax Millage Rate, Public Hearing #2 – the City Manager explained that the staff is requesting to keep the millage rate at 3.5 mills for 2025. The public hearing was opened and Kalee Weiland, 5623 Riverside Walk Dr., spoke regarding rolling back the millage rate. Andrew Schultz, 5350 Windswept Trace, commented on the impact rising taxes has on the citizens. There were no other comments, so the hearing was closed. The third hearing will be held Monday, September 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Appointment – Council Member Avery nominated Mark Daniels to the Planning Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Page nominated Michael Masha. The Mayor called for the vote for Mark Daniels and Council Member Avery and Pirkle voted for the nomination. The Mayor called for the vote for Michael Masha and Council Members Anderson, Hicks and Page voted for the nomination. The Mayor will swear in Mr. Masha at a later date.

Ridge Lake Park Playground Design-Build Contract Award – Assistant City Manager Besseche explained that the master plan for Ridge Lake Park included a small playground next to the pavilion and restroom building. Staff located an area where the park would be better located. The city went out to bid and received eight proposals. Staff evaluated the proposals and selected three vendors to be considered. Staff recommended Playground Creations with a bid of \$289,322.62 be awarded the contract. Council Member Anderson motioned to award the contract to Playground Creations for the design and construction of a new playground at Ridge Lake Park in the amount of \$289,322.62 and authorize the Mayor to sign the contract. Council Member Pirkle seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

LMIG 2026 Application – the Assistant City Manager explained that staff is recommending fourteen streets at 3.26 miles to be paved or patched in the LMIG contract. Funding from the state contract is \$287,574.39. A 30% match is required (\$86,272.32) and will be funded from SPLOST. Council Member Hicks motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign and submit the application for the 2026 Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant program for improvements to the proposed list provided by staff. Council Member Pirkle seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Boundary Line Agreement for 1125 Whitehead Road – the Assistant City Manager explained that this issue was uncovered during the discussion of the design review process for 1125 Whitehead Rd. in providing for a detached garage. The city is attempting to construct a fence along the southern boundary of the cemetery. The negotiations and surveys have taken the better part of 2025 to accomplish the goal. The boundary agreement will allow the city to proceed with the fence. Staff recommends approval. Mayor Pro Tem page motioned to approve the boundary line agreement and approve a construction easement for a fence at the same location and authorize the Mayor to execute the documents. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL – Council Member Anderson motioned to enter Executive Session. Mayor Pro Tem Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION – the meeting was reconvened and the Council discussed one legal matter. There was no action taken out of Executive Session.

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

Brandon Hembree, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk