

**AGENDA SUMMARY
COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF SUGAR HILL
5039 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2026, 7:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER - by Mayor Hembree. Present were Mayor Brandon Hembree, Mayor Pro Tem Joshua Page, Council Members Meg Avery, Alvin Hicks and Gary Pirkle. Also present were City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Jerry Oberholtzer, City Clerk Jane Whittington and City Attorney Frank Hartley. Council Member Samantha Piovesan was not present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

INVOCATION – given by Mayor Hembree

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Council Member Avery motioned to approve the agenda. Council Member Page seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Council Meeting & Executive Session September 14, 2026; Work Session September 8, 2026; Special Called Meetings September 14, 2026, 8:00 am, September 14, 2026, 7:00 pm and September 21, 2026. Council Member Pirkle motioned to amend the minutes for September 14, 2026 that Jennifer Ambler spoke in favor of the ordinance regarding automatic license plate reader systems. All other minutes approved as written. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS

Proclamation Anna Harrison Girl Scout Gold Award – Mayor Hembree explained Anna Harrison's project she did for the gold award. He read the ordinance and it was presented to her by the Mayor and Council.

REPORTS

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

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS

Karl Siegele, 520 Pine Roc Trail, Sugar Hill, spoke regarding the Riverlands project. He thanked the city and staff for the trail work and other projects at the property.

William Scales, 772 Van Briggles Path, Sugar Hill, spoke in favor of the ordinance on tonight's agenda.

Lexi White, 2541 High Brow St., Duluth, spoke regarding the use of meta data and the flock system. She encouraged passing the ordinance on the agenda.

Alex Whitman, Peachtree Corners resident, spoke regarding the experience he had with being detained because he was wrongfully identified in a domestic case. The police identified the wrong car through flock.

CONSENT AGENDA

OLD BUSINESS

Public Hearing, DRB-CBD 26-003 Design Review and Variance Request - the Planning Director explained the application. There were three different surveys done on the property which had different results. The Planning Director

put them in a table for better understanding. She showed examples of the design review colors and showed the house as it is today. The public hearing was opened and the applicant, Mr. Gomez, talked about the fence and the structure when they bought it.

Allen Jorgenson spoke regarding the fence on his property line. He suggested that if it was tabled a lot of this could be worked out since Mr. Gomez has ordered a new survey.

There were no other comments so the hearing was closed. The Council had a few questions regarding the setbacks and encroachment. Council Member Pirkle asked the City Attorney if they could put conditions if approved. The City Attorney said that they could put reasonable conditions on the property. Council Member Pirkle motioned to approve the variances and the design with the condition that the structure can only be one-story. Council Member Avery seconded the motion. The vote was tied 2-2 with Council Members Avery and Pirkle voting for the motion and Council Members Hicks and Page voting against. The Mayor broke the tie by voting for approval of the motion.

Flock & ALPR Camera Ordinance – Council Member Pirkle explained that this has been before the council at several meetings. Council Member Hicks explained the research and education that he had received regarding the subject of the cameras. Council Member Pirkle motioned to approve the Flock and ALPR Camera Ordinance. Council Member Avery seconded the motion. The vote was 2-2 with Council Member Pirkle and Avery voting yes and Council Members Hicks and Page voting against the ordinance approval. Mayor Hembree broke the tie by voting against approval of the ordinance. He then called for a substitute motion. Council Member Hicks motioned to deny the ordinance and have city staff draft a policy regarding Flock and ALPR Cameras and maintain the policy under the direction of the City Manager. The Mayor called for the vote and Council Member Hicks and Page voted for the motion and Council Members Avery and Pirkle voted against. The Mayor broke the tie by voting for the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

2025 Audit – the City Manager explained that the city received an unmodified audit. Staff requested that the City Council accept the audit. Council Member Page motioned to accept the 2025 Audit. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Historic Preservation Appointment – Mayor Hembree explained that the commission reached out to him and requested that the Council appoint Christine Graessle as a member. She has attended the meeting for over a year. There were no other nominations so Ms. Graessle was appointed to the commission.

Planning Commission Appointment - Mayor Hembree noted there were several nominations. He called on Council Member Avery who nominated Gerald Rye. Council Member Hicks nominated Faye Sisson. The Mayor called for the votes for Gerald Rye and then for Faye Sisson. The vote was Council Members Avery and Pirkle for Gerald Rye and Council Members Hicks and Page for Faye Sisson. Mayor Hembree broke the tie with a vote for Faye Sisson. Ms. Sisson was sworn in by Mayor Hembree.

Contract Award Riverlands Hike/Bike Trail Project 25-017 – the Assistant City Manager Jerry Oberholtzer explained that the city received four proposals for the RFP to design and build trails at the Riverlands or 90 acres next to the city golf course. Staff recommended awarding the contract to Steele and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$341,250 plus a \$50,000 contingency for a total of \$391,250 and authorize the Mayor to sign all of the documents related to the award, subject to legal counsel review. Council Member Page motioned to award the site development contract to Steele and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$341,250 plus an owner contingency of \$50,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign all documents. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 3-1 with Council Member Pirkle voting against the motion.

Contract Award Roosevelt Collection 26.002.02 – the City Manager explained that the funds for this project is from a combination of CDBG and Home grants from Gwinnett County. The city owned property is 2.6 acres of land on Roosevelt Circle. Staff received a qualified proposal from The Middle Housing Company for a fixed fee of \$1,621,773.70. The city match would be 25% of the Home grant funds. Council Member Hicks motioned award the site development contract to The Middle Housing Company for the fixed amount of \$1,621,773.70 and authorize the Mayor to sign and execute all documents subject to legal counsel review. Council Member Page seconded the motion. The Mayor called for the vote and Council Member Hicks and Page voted for the motion and Council Member Avery and Pirkle voted against. The Mayor broke the tie and voted in favor of the motion.

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 Page motioned to adjourn. Council Member Hicks seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Jane Whittington, City Clerk