

City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting

Tuesday October 10, 2000

Community Center 7:30 PM

The City of Sugar Hill held its regular Council Meeting on Tuesday October 10, 2000 at 7:30 PM in the Community Center. The date had been changed from Monday night to Tuesday night in observance of Yom Kippur.

Notice of the meeting was placed on the doors of city hall and the community center, on the board at Peachtree Industrial Blvd and Alton Tucker Blvd. Notice was also sent to the local newspapers.

Those present at the meeting included Mayor Roberta Crabb, Council Members Chris Abbey, Meg Avery and Kim Hall. Also present were City Attorney Lee Thompson, Planning Director Jim Osborn, City Manager Frank Ginn and City Clerk Shirley Gibbs. Absent were Council Member Michael Mosley and Mayor Pro-Tem Gary Pirkle.

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG AND INVOCATION:

Mayor Crabb called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mayor Crabb gave the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Council Member Abbey made a motion to amend the agenda to move Item C under Old Business to Item D under New Business and to delete Item B under New Business. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote.,

APPROVAL OF 9/11/2000 & 9/25/2000 MINUTES:

Council Member Abbey made the motion to approve the minutes from 9/11/2000 and 9/25/2000. Council Member Avery made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

A: WEBSITE UPDATE:

Council Member Hall inquired about the city's website and if progress was being made on getting one set up for the city. City Manager Ginn responded that this was being worked on and in house personnel would probably do it.

B: BUDGET UPDATE:

Council Member Hall wanted to start work on the budget process as soon as possible for there were state mandated changes that would have to be used. City Manager Ginn stated the work session in November would be the start of the budget session. One of the biggest projects left to do this year was paving of approximately nine streets. Some of this would be funded under the LARP Program, the SPLOST Program and city funding.

C: BMX TRACK UPDATE: THIS ITEM WAS MOVED TO ITEM D UNDER NEW BUSINESS.

CITIZEN'S AND GUEST'S COMMENTS:

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Horace Stowe of 4696 Pinecrest Drive was against the proposed closing of Pinecrest Drive at the railroad crossing.

Myra Reed of 4678 Pinecrest Drive was against the proposed closing of Pinecrest Drive. She wanted to know the number of accidents that had happened at that location.

Dan McMurray with Norfolk Southern told of the limited sight distance, the number of trains that go through in a 24-hour period. He felt this was an unsafe crossing and should be closed. The cost of putting up crossing gates would cost approximately \$180,000. The city would have to be placed on a program list. The city could contact the state and federal representatives for help.

NEW BUSINESS:

A: PUBLIC HEARING: POSSIBILITY OF CLOSING PINECREST ROAD AT RAILROAD CROSSING:

Council Member Hall made the motion to enter into Public Hearing for the possibility of closing Pinecrest Road at the railroad crossing. Council Member Abbey made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote. Those speaking in opposition of the road closing included Jerry Helton, Ronnie Wehunt, Myra Reed, and Horace Stowe. Those in favor of closing the crossing included David Hawkins and Todd Mathews. Council Member Hall made the motion to return to regular session. Council Member Abbey made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote. Some suggestions to make this a safer crossing was to install warning signs to indicate there was a dangerous crossing, working with state and federal representatives about putting up crossing gates, working with the owners of property along the tracks to clean out some of the trees and brush to help with the sight distance. Council Member Hall made a motion to table any action until the December meeting. Council Member Abbey made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote.

B: PROCLAMATION: WORLD POPULATION AWARENESS WEEK OCT. 22-28, 2000:

THIS ITEM WAS DELETED FROM THE AGENDA

C: ADOPT A RESOLUTION AND ADOPT AN ETHICS ORDINANCE TO BECOME A CERTIFIED CITY OF ETHICS:

Council Member Avery explained that she would like for the city to participate in the program to become a Certified City of Ethics. The city could then use this on city vehicles, city signs and even on the city stationary. Council Member Avery made a motion to adopt the City of Ethics Resolution as per the Georgia Municipal Association and to table the Ethics Ordinance until the November meeting. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote.

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D: ROBINSON PARK IMPROVEMENTS AND BMX UPDATE:

Council Member Avery had three items to discuss. One was the BMX track, which had been closed all summer. There had been no response from the people at ABA regarding a new drawing to improve the track. She had been in touch with the NBL and they were very interested in sponsoring the track and making any improvements that were needed. Chuck Smillie, interim track director, gave his views on the situation with the BMX track. City Manager Ginn gave his views on the situation with the BMX track. After more discussion, Council Member Avery made a motion to have City Manager Frank Ginn contact Clayton Johns with the ABA about the BMX track and end any contractual relationship the city has with the ABA. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion passed 3-0. Council Member Avery made a motion to look into having the NBL sponsor the BMX track at E.E. Robinson Park and accept drawings and discuss at the November meeting whether or not to let the NBL sponsor the track. Council Member Abbey made the second. Motion passed on a vote of 2-1. Council Member Hall was opposed to the motion. Another item Council Member Avery wanted to discuss was the fence West Gwinnett Soccer wanted to put around the soccer field. Before it was disbanded, the Recreation Board had ordered wood chips for the upper playground and they had never been delivered. City Manager Ginn stated he was working on getting improvements to this playground and hoped the Sugar Hill Housing Authority would help fund this project.

E: RATIFICATION OF FINAL PLATS FOR BROGDON EXCHANGE PHASE I AND WILD TIMBERS PHASE 5B:

Planning Director Jim Osborn stated this was to ratify the final plats for Brogdon Exchange Phase I and Wild Timbers Phase 5B. Council Member Abbey made the motion to accept the ratification of the final plats. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT: NO REPORT

COUNCIL REPORTS: Council Member Abbey stated Mayor Pro-Tem Pirkle was at a Gwinnett Municipal Association meeting regarding the SPLOST. Mayor Pro-Tem Pirkle had been selected to serve on the committee that would decide how best to spend the SPLOST funds if the referendum passes in November.

Council Member Hall reported that she had taken a training class on finance and she felt it would be wise to start on the budget process since there were new laws that will affect reporting fixed assets and implementing a new chart of accounts.

Council Member Avery reported that she had also attended a training class for ethics, managing meetings and parliamentary procedures. She felt they were very good classes and she had learned a lot.

MAYOR'S REPORT: NO REPORT

CITY CLERK'S REPORT: NO REPORT

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT: City Manager Ginn reported the city had started accepting Visa and Master Card for payments of deposits or utility bills. If a new resident could provide two good credit reports from other utility companies or a utility company and a bank showing a

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good payment history the deposit would be waived. The price of natural gas would be at an all time high this winter and that would mean higher gas bills for the consumers. The next work session would be on November 9, 2000 at 7:00 PM and they would start on the budget at that time. A threat of litigation had been resolved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS PENDING LEGAL MATTERS:

Council Member Abbey made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending legal matters. Council Member Avery made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote. Council Member Abbey made the motion to return to regular session. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.

ADJORNMENT: Council Member Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Avery made the second. Motion passed 3-0 by those present to vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

DATE APPROVED: _____

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK