

City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting

Monday April 9, 2001

7:30 PM Community Center

The City of Sugar Hill held its regular council meeting on Monday April 9, 2001 at 7:30 PM in the Community Center.

Notice of the meeting was placed on the doors of city hall and the community center.

Notice was placed on the board at Peachtree Industrial Blvd and Alton Tucker Blvd.

Notice was sent to the local news media.

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey made the motion to approve the agenda. Council Member Avery made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

APPROVAL OF 3/12/2001 MINUTES:

Council Member Hall made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2001 council meeting. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

A: AMEND 2000 ZONING ORDINANCE:

Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey stated this item was to amend the 2000 zoning ordinance regarding site plans. He felt it would clarify what was required when some one applied to have property rezoned. This amendment would require some one to have a site plan if they wanted to rezone property. There was a lengthy discussion between the council members. Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey made the motion to approve the amendment to the 2000 Zoning Ordinance. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed on a vote of 3-2. Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey, Council Members Avery and Pirkle voted for the motion. Council Members Mosley and Hall voted against the motion.

B: APPOINT ELECTIONS SUPERINTENDENT:

Council Member Avery explained that the city was currently without an elections superintendent and we would need one for the election in November. Council Member Avery made a motion to appoint Jeannie Ferguson as the Elections Superintendent. Council Member Hall made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS:

City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting

Monday April 9, 2001

7:30 PM Community Center

RON JOHNSON stated that he supported saving the City of Sugar Hill and was passing out cards for people to sign if they were in favor of saving the city. He had talked with Mr. Lloyd DeLatoure, who is a member of the Sugar Hill Housing Authority, about upgrading senior citizens home to make them more energy efficient. He did think that the park needed to be cleaned up, upgrade the tennis courts, ball fields and BMX track. He wanted everyone to know that if the city were dissolved, Gwinnett County would get all the assets, there would be no refunds to the citizens, and money slated for projects to be done in Sugar Hill would revert back to the county.

LARRY HILL of Johnson Street stated he had a petition to have the city do something about Sunview Trucking that is located on his street. He stated they are loud, their office is not ADA compliant and there are drainage problems. He would like for the city to do something about this problem. He felt Sunview was in violation of Sugar Hill's ordinances and he was requesting the city do something about this situation.

BOB SCOTT of White Oak Drive challenged the council to look into selling the gas system. He stated that in 1995 Atlanta Gas Light offered to buy the system at that time for \$2500 per tap. If sold at that price, it would give the city over ten million dollars, the city could get out of debt and have money in the bank. It would also allow them to provide other needed services to the citizens. He felt it was something the council should look into doing.

BOB WAGNER of Hidden Branch Drive felt it would be better if the city got out of the gas business. The citizens would get better rates from Atlanta Gas Light; the city would not have to worry about maintaining the gas lines and the effort to do away with the city charter would disappear. Council Member Hall asked Mr. Wagner several questions regarding statements he had made at council meetings in the past and why he had annexed into the city if he was not pleased with the gas service. Discussion between Council Member Hall and Mr. Wagner lasted several minutes. Mayor Crabb had to call for an end to the discussion.

JOE CLARINO felt that the city did not hedge the gas for the winter and this was why the price of gas had been so high. He is not in favor of dissolving the charter for the city. If Atlanta Gas did own the system, the base rate would go up and there would be other charges that the citizens are not now paying. Some of the concerns he had been hearing from citizens was garbage on side streets, recycling bins not being delivered to the residents and people wanted to see what they are getting for their tax dollars.

NEW BUSINESS:

A: RESOLUTION: MUNICIPAL GAS AUTHORITY VOTING DELEGATE:

Acting City Manager Jim Osborn explained this was to nominate a voting delegate for the Municipal Gas Authority to replace former City Manager Frank Ginn. Discussion was held. Council Member Mosley made a motion to table this item until the called meeting on Thursday April 12, 2001 in order to give the new City Manager an

City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting

Monday April 9, 2001

7:30 PM Community Center

opportunity to have input on this item. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

B: RESOLUTION: GMA ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION AND BALLOT:

Mayor Crabb stated that GMA was updating their Articles of Incorporation. The GMA Board approved these changes at Mayor's Day in January. Articles III, VI, and VII are the ones being updated. These updates will ensure that GMA has the proper corporate power to continue providing new and improved services to their members. Council Member Hall made the motion to approve the Resolution for the Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation. Council Member Avery made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

C: DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGING THE CODE REGARDING PALM READING AND FORTUNE TELLING:

Mr. Paul Johnson of 5126 Nelson Brogdon Blvd. wanted to ask the council to consider changing the Ordinance regarding Palm Reading and Fortune Telling. His family had a Business License in Gwinnett County but they now live in Sugar Hill and would like to have their Business License here. Discussion was held on this item. Council Member Hall made a motion to have the City Attorney and Acting City Manager look into making changes in the Ordinance and Code that would allow this type of business in a regulated manner. Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey made the second. Motion passed 4-0 -1 abstention. Council Member Avery made the abstention.

D: MGAG HEDGING PROGRAM:

Acting City Manager Jim Osborn had Scott Tolsen, with the Municipal Gas Authority, give a short discussion on why it would be beneficial for the city to hedge gas prices. Discussion was held. Council Member Mosley made a motion to table this until the May meeting in order to give the new city manager an opportunity to make this decision regarding the gas hedging. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

E: NOMINATE REPLACEMENT FOR ROSE PAYNE ON THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:

Council Member Hall made a motion to table this item to give more time for the Council Members to find a suitable replacement for Mrs. Payne. Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

F: PUBLIC HEARING: AX-01-001 TAX PARCEL ID 7-320A-010 2.03 ACRES DELMAR REIDELBERGER REQUESTING TO ANNEX AND REZONE TO OI (OFFICE INSTITUTIONAL) ZONING PROPERTY ADDRESS AT 5559 HIGHWAY 20:

Council Member Mosley made the motion to enter into Public Hearing for AX-01-001. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0. Planning Director/Acting City Manager Jim Osborn gave details regarding this item. The Planning Commission had met and approved this annexation with conditions. Discussion

City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting

Monday April 9, 2001

7:30 PM Community Center

was held. There were no comments from the public. Council Member Mosley made the motion to return to regular session. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0. Council Member Mosley made the motion to approve this annexation with the conditions set by the Planning Commission. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

G: CHANGING COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYOR'S SALARY:

Council Member Hall explained that this was not asking for an increase in salary, just the way the council and mayor were paid. It would be based on attendance of regular council meetings. The Mayor and Council would each be paid a base salary plus an amount for each regular council meeting attended. City Attorney Thompson explained that it would need to be advertised at least three times before it could be adopted. This would allow for public input. Discussion was held. Council Member Hall made a motion to table this item. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

City Attorney Lee Thompson had no report other than to let the council know that James Calvin, President of the Georgia Municipal Association had passed away and his funeral would be on Tuesday.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Council Member Hall asked that the citizens be cognizant of the issues that have come before the council and know that they are working diligently on solving some of the concerns that the citizens have. She thanked Wade Queen and his staff at the Golf Course for all the hard work they had done to help the city host the Gwinnett Municipal Association Meeting in March.

Council Member Mosley was glad to Mrs. Ward up and about after having knee surgery.

Council Member Pirkle had no report.

Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey also was glad to see Mrs. Ward up and about.

Council Member Avery appreciated the input from the citizens, the council would listen to suggestions, explore all options before closing any doors. The city would soon have a new city manager and they would continue to explore all options concerning the gas system.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Crabb commented on the issue of dissolving or saving the city. She was not in favor of dissolving the city but she felt it would be a mistake to sell the gas system; it had been a mistake to sell the water system in her opinion.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT:

No Report

City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting
Monday April 9, 2001
7:30 PM Community Center

ACTING CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:

No Report

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES AND
PENDING LITIGATION:**

Council Member Mosley made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues and Pending Litigation. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

Council Member Pirkle made the motion to return to regular session. Mayor Pro-Tem Abbey made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Hall made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed unanimously 5-0. Meeting adjourned 9:45 PM.

Date Approved: _____

MAYOR

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK