

**City of Sugar Hill Council Meeting  
Monday, July 14, 2003  
Community Center 7:30 p.m.  
4988 West Broad Street, Sugar Hill, GA 30518**

The City of Sugar Hill City Council held its regular meeting on Monday, July 14, 2003, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Notice of the meeting was placed on the board outside City Hall and on the door of the Community Center and on the board at Alton Tucker Boulevard and Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. Notice was also sent to the newspaper.

Present were Mayor Pirkle, Mayor Pro Tem Avery, Council Members Abbey, Hall, Johnson, Rhodes, Assistant City Manager of Development Jim Osborn, City Manager Bob Hail, City Attorney Lee Thompson and City Clerk Jane Whittington.

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

Mayor Pirkle called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Council Member Abbey gave the invocation.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:**

Council Member Hall motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Council Member Abbey seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Hall motioned to approve the Minutes of the Council Meeting of June 9, 2003 as written. Council Member Abbey seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:**

City Attorney Lee Thompson stated that he did not have a report for this month.

**COUNCIL REPORTS:**

**Council Member Chris Abbey** reported that the streets are being repaired and repaved. Spring Hill Drive sidewalks and curbs are 90% complete. As soon as the weather breaks it will be asphalted.

**Council Member Thomas Rhodes** – Updated that the DDA adopted by-laws at the last meeting and completed election of officers. The next official meeting is July 27 and the next work session will be August 5<sup>th</sup>. Gas budget billing is now being offered, and there have been positive inputs about the new invoice. So far this year the city has expanded or expanded and/or replaced the gas lines for over a mile. For 2003 to date over 200 new

services have been started. The gas rate is 82 cents per therm. The market price has risen significantly over the past several months, and the city's action to purchase gas futures has been successful in keeping gas prices to a minimum during this time. Continuing to monitor the market for next year's gas prices. Sugar Hill is lower in price compared to other gas companies.

**Council Member Kim Hall** – Planning Director Jim Osborn resigned to accept a position with the City of Dacula as their Administrator. This is an exciting promotion for Mr. Osborn and they are sorry to see him go but are happy that he has an opportunity to pursue. The City Manager will be accepting applications and resumes and hopefully start interviewing next week.

**Mayor Pro Tem Meg Avery** – Third Annual Fall Festival will be held Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at E.E. Robinson Park. Plans include an antique car show, crafts, games and a festival finale. The finale will be a free concert by the Swinging Medallions held at the amphitheater and tentatively set for 7-9 p.m. The next meeting for planning the festival will be held Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Volunteers are needed for the festival and everyone is welcome to come to the meeting with suggestions and ideas. Plans are also being made for a series of movies under the stars at the Robinson Park Amphitheater. Four movies will be offered, one in August, two in September and one in October. There is an item on the agenda to allocate funds for this. The second set of memorial bricks have been placed around the benches surrounding the gazebo at the Town Green. The Community Service held June 10<sup>th</sup> by the Living Faith Church was a success and raised enough to stain the upper pavilion and swings in the park. The other swings will be stained and the lower pavilion will be painted later this summer. Bids are being obtained to fence field one

**Council Member Ron Johnson** – Due to all the rain the golf course is not doing too well. They are investigating closing on Mondays to bring in more tournaments. They will hopefully generate more business. For the fall festival he has talked with Suwanee Police and they will have explorers at the festival to fingerprint the children for identification. The Gwinnett Sheriff will also send deputies to take pictures of the children for identification purposes. He also contacted a company called Kid's Ids and they might send someone to do medical ids for the children. He met with the principal and others about putting a handicapped playground and track at the Sugar Hill Elementary School. Corporate sponsors and local businesses are coming together to support a fundraising golf tournament for this cause. Mick Luckhurst former Falcon kicker and owner of America Hole in One has agreed to help with this tournament.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Gary Pirkle introduced the new City Clerk who came from Stone Mountain. Mayor Pirkle reported that it was a surprise that Jim Osborn is leaving because of the suddenness of it. Overall it was not that much of a surprise because –he had talked to the former Mayor of Dacula Reed Miller several years ago and he said that if they ever got a City Administrator, they were coming after Jim. They had a lot of respect for him as we do and we hate to lose him. Our loss is their gain and we can't complain too much since we just took Stone Mountain's Clerk.

**City Clerk's Report** – Jane Whittington reported that new candidates have registered campaign committees, Mark Cohen, Steve Edwards and Clint Thompson. The Election Superintendent Jeanne Ferguson and the City Clerk will be in election training next week. The new occupation licenses issued for this month are (12) and the 2003 digest was picked up from Gwinnett County, 6,144 parcels with taxable amount of \$369,184,410, including personal property.

**City Manager's Report** – Bob Hail reported that the City Hall renovations are moving along and the clean up stage has begun. They anticipate final inspection on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The new furniture will be delivered on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The first week in August the furniture will be moved in and the second week the people will move over and this will make the transition smoother. The Department of Agriculture will test the elevator next week. Very exciting for the citizens to be able to access the second floor with ease. The designs for the new Community Center renovations are underway. It is a very exciting time in the City. The Mayor and Council have seen fit to offer all these new services to the citizens of the city to make sure they have what they need and require.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

#### **CITIZENS AND GUEST COMMENTS:**

Mary Witkowski, 4435 Emory Drive stated complaints about drainage at her home. She has talked with the Mayor and hopes that he will help her with this problem. The City Manager has been to the property and so has Joe Appling Supervisor of the Street Department. The Mayor stated that he understood a major problem to be the elevation of the lot. He asked that the City Manager see if the city can help resolve this drainage issue.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Appointment Voter Registrar/Filing Officer/Absentee Ballot Clerk**  
The City Manager recommended that the City Clerk, Jane Whittington be appointed for fill these titles. The Mayor stated that it is longstanding that the City Clerk holds these titles. Council Member Rhodes motioned to approve, Council Member Abbey seconded the motion. Motion was approved 5-0.
2. **PUBLIC HEARING: RZ-03-001, Debbie Silkett**  
**Map Reference# 7-320A-010, 5559 Highway 20, Acreage: .73**  
**Current Zoning: OI, Requested Zoning: HSB**  
Council Member Abbey motioned to enter into the Public Hearing. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Motion was approved 5-0. Ms. Silkett stated that her business would be a contemporary ceramic shop that will be family oriented. The outside changes will be minimal consisting mostly of painting and window boxes. She feels it will be a good addition to the community. Council Member Johnson expressed concerns about the bad traffic because of the adjoining neighborhood. People have a problem getting

out. Ms. Silkett stated that they are closing off the front driveway and bringing it to the side. Council Member Avery asked Ms. Silkett if she had experience at this type of business. She stated that she has had her own business in Roswell for 15 years. Assistant City Manager of Development Jim Osborn stated that the Georgia DOT reviewed and suggested a 50' taper with 30' ingress, egress. He explained the stipulations placed by the Planning & Zoning (Attachment 1). Council Member Abbey motioned to exit public hearing, Council Member Rhodes seconded. Approved 5-0. Council Member Hall motioned to approve the rezoning with the conditions as placed by the Planning & Zoning. Council Member Abbey seconded. Approved 5-0.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING: RZ-03-002, Lloyd Delatour**

**Map Reference# 7-291-008, 4944 Hannah Street, Acreage: .494,**

**Current Zoning: RS-100, Requested Zoning: BG**

**Purpose: 3,750 sq. ft. Professional/Retail Building Center**

Council Member Abbey motioned to enter Public Hearing, Council Member Hall seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0. The Mayor asked the City Attorney if they can discuss abandoning and relocating a portion of Hannah Street since they are tied together or is a separate public hearing required. The City Attorney stated that a public hearing would not be required. Mr. William Raffield, of the Travis Group explained the revisions to the plans that came from the Work Session. The retaining wall was removed, and turning radius coming from the parking lot onto Hannah Street was reviewed by engineers and deemed sufficient. Jim Osborn of Planning & Zoning explained the variances and stipulations (Attachment 2). There will be stop signs coming out of the parking lot. New portion of Hannah Street will be two way with curb and gutter. Nick Thompson, DDA, Chairman spoke in favor of the development. Council Member Abbey motioned to exit the public hearing, Council Member Rhodes seconded. Approved 5-0. Council Member Abbey motioned to grant the request for rezoning with the conditions placed by Planning & Zoning. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0

**4. Proposal to Abandon & Relocate a Portion of Hannah Street – City**

Attorney stated that a Public Hearing is not necessary and do not need to wait for GA DOT to deed to the City a small portion of the street. Once they deed it to the city we will address abandonment of this portion. Director Osborn explained the conditions placed by Planning & Zoning (Attachment 3). Council Member Abbey motioned to abandon a portion of Hannah Street for relocation with the conditions placed by Planning & Zoning. Council Member Rhodes seconded the motion. Motion approved 5-0.

**5. Budget for Recreation Movie Series –**

The City Manager explained funding is in place for this and he just needs council's direction to use the funds for this purpose. Council Member Johnson stated that he would have liked to have had a copy of the budget for this. Council Member Hall motioned to allow the City Manager to direct the Recreation Director to use funds from line item 53116 of the Recreation Budget for the movie series with some used

for advertising. Council Member Abbey seconded the motion. Approved 4-0-1 with Johnson abstaining.

- 6. **Election Qualifying Dates** – The City Clerk explained the dates set by the Georgia Election Code for qualifying. It can be three but not more than five days. They must be consecutive and start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m. from September 8<sup>th</sup> through September 12<sup>th</sup>. The Clerk’s recommendation is to set qualifying from Monday, September 8, 2003, at 8:30 a.m. to Friday, September 12, 2003 at 4:30 p.m. Council Member Rhodes motioned to approve these dates. Council Member Avery seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

**Executive Session: To Discuss Legal, Real Estate and/or Personnel:** Council Member Avery motioned to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. Council Member Hall seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

**Meeting Reconvened:** Mayor Pirkle called the meeting back to order at 8:55 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Council Member Hall motioned to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Council Member Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0.

Date Approved : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

Attachments:

- 1. Stipulations to Rezoning Debbie Silkett, 5559 Hwy 20
- 2. Stipulations to Rezoning Lloyd Delatour, 4944 Hannah Street
- 3. Stipulations on Abandoning & Relocating Portion of Hannah Street