

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2006
7:30 PM COMMUNITY CENTER
1166 CHURCH STREET, SUGAR HILL**

Call to Order by Mayor Pirkle at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Gary Pirkle, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Thompson, Council Members Marc Cohen, Steve Edwards, Mike Sullivan and Clint Thompson. Also present were City Manager Bob Hail, City Clerk Jane Whittington and City Attorney Lee Thompson.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Invocation – Given by Mayor Pirkle.

Approval of Agenda – The Proclamation for Brett Werrbach request to table because he was not able to attend tonight's meeting. Council Member Edwards motioned to approve the amended agenda. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes - Minutes Council Meeting May 8, 2006 – Council Member Edwards motioned to approve the Minutes as written. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

City Attorney's Report – Lee Thompson had no report for regular session.

Council Reports

Council Member Mike Sullivan had no report.

Council Member Steve Edwards reported that he attended Up the River Outfitters ribbon cutting along with Council Member Sullivan and Mayor Pirkle. This is a new business in Sugar Hill that shows you a safety video then takes you to Buford Dam with a kayak, canoe or raft and you float down the river. He thanked Lance Lehew, the owner, and wished their business great success.

Council Member Nick Thompson reported that the DDA will meet Tuesday, June 27th 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Council Member Marc Cohen asked everyone to be cognizant of everything you do since it is summer and the kids are out of school. He sent best wishes to Wayne and Carolyn Hill since Wayne Hill has gone through heart by-pass surgery. From a Public Safety perspective we are lucky that we get to live in a very safe environment. Sugar Hill is a safe place to live but occasionally there are minor infractions such as graffiti and break-ins. Be aware of your surroundings and where you are. The police cannot patrol everywhere and protect everyone 24 hours a day. In order to keep safe everyone needs to keep an eye out. He commended Kaipō Awana. Several residents have called him and told him what a great job he is doing in Planning and Development. In Planning and Zoning the City issued 60 construction permits, 214 building inspections and 42 erosion control inspections.

Council Member Clint Thompson had no report.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Gary Pirkle asked that everyone please note the improvements going on at EE Robinson Park. Last week they broke ground for a new concession stand and restroom complex. This will improve the restroom facilities at the park and help them to put on a quality Fall Festival. A new wall has been built with a new material that Mr. Hail found and the area has been sodded. This will provide an area suitable for the fireworks display. The July 3rd Fireworks display and concert will be held at the park. Everyone is invited to come out and attend this event. This Friday night there will be a movie at the park, Madagascar.

City Clerk's Report – Jane Whittington, City Clerk reported that the Clerk's office issued 28 new Businesses Licenses in the month of May. Out of the 28, 13 were home occupations and 15 were zoned for business use. If you are opening a new business please visit our web site for the forms or for more information. You can also obtain the forms at City Hall in the Customer Service Department.

For property taxes the millage rate for the City of Sugar Hill will be set tonight and the property tax bills will be sent from Gwinnett County in July. The bills contain both the County's and the City's tax amounts due. If you have questions about your bill contact Gwinnett County Tax Assessor at 770-822-8800 or their website.

The City does not have an election this year but Gwinnett County will have an election. The primary date is July 18th. Gwinnett County Elections have mailed Voter Registration cards to registered voters. Their website has all the information and applications for absentee voting.

We had 442 customers sign up for Level Billing of their gas bills. The deadline was today and we will not offer this service again until May/June of next year. If you missed this threshold you are welcome to pay more on your bill during these summer months to prepare for the Winter season.

There are several positions open for the City. Please check our website for postings. Anyone interested in these positions please send your resumes to me at City Hall or via email jwhittington@cityofsugarhill.com.

City Hall and all City offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4th. Due to the holiday and the holiday activities the July Work Session was moved to Thursday, July 6th at 7:00 p.m.

City Manager's Report - City Manager Bob Hail reported the following (See Attachment #1)

Proclamation: Brett Werrbach – Edwards – Tabled.

Consent Agenda

- 1. Economic Development Coalition**
- 2. Mosquito Spraying Equipment**
- 3. On-Line Bill Pay for Gas Utility, Official Payment Corp.**

Mayor Pirkle explained the items on the Consent Agenda. Council Member Edwards motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Unfinished Business

NOA-06-01, Administrative Appeal to M&C for State Water Delineation, Harold Trip, Mill Creek Investments Associates, LLC, 5360 Sycamore Rd. – The City Attorney Lee Thompson stated that he spoke with their Attorney and they requested to table this item. They did not request to withdraw the appeal. Council Member Clint Thompson motioned to deny NOA-06-01 Administrative Appeal. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Citizens and Guests Comments

Lisa Ramsey of the Sugar Hill Elementary PTA talked about the golf tournament fundraiser to be held in August. This year the funds will be used to develop a science lab.

Tommy Lee Brightwell, 4675 Allison Drive, talked about the improvements the county is doing at George Pearce Park. They are building a senior complex. He is involved in the computer class being sponsored by Senior Net. Volunteers and donations are welcome.

Lloyd Delatour talked about the downtown ordinance and his business located downtown. He has applied for a variance to allow alcohol sales near the day care center where his shopping center is located.

New Business:

PUBLIC HEARING - RZ-06-003, Bill Cornell for Forrester, Woodard & Peterson, 15.28 acres on Benefield Rd., current zoning RS-100 PRD, requested zoning RS-100 – Hail explained the rezoning application. They are requesting RS-100 with variances. They request 7.5 ft side setback on houses with a side entrance garage. The Council discussed how the other original property owners of this PRD would be affected. Council Member Nick Thompson is concerned that it might have negative effects on them. He requested that they be notified and given a chance to reply. Mayor Pirkle stated that the first option would be to rezone them back to what they were originally. If the property owners want a different zoning they will have to go through the rezoning process.

The Public Hearing was opened and Steve Sappington spoke for the applicant. He stated that they had talked to the property owners at Emerald Lakes and they were fine with this project.

Jennifer Meyer, 549 Emerald Lake Lane, stated that she backs up to this and she is not in agreement. They want more buffer to protect the drip line of the trees. They are also concerned about drainage and clearing the land and allowing it to sit for years.

The Public Hearing was closed. Council Member Edwards asked the City Attorney if the Council could place a timeline on the clearing versus development. He stated that they could not but they could control the clearing. The City Manager stated that they could condition it to do the buffer first and the City Attorney suggested that they only clear for the streets and utilities. They would not be allowed to clear the lots until they are ready to construct homes.

Council Member Nick Thompson suggested that all the 27 property owners be notified by certified mail what is being considered. He motioned to table this for 30 days. Council Member Clint Thompson seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

2006 Millage Rate – Hail recommended that they stay at the same millage of 3.8 mills. There are many new projects and positions open that would require more revenue. The growth of the digest was not as much this year because the exemptions have increased.

The Public Hearing was opened and there were no public comments. Council Member Cohen suggested that the millage rate could be rolled back to 3.5 and the shortfalls could be made up through service differentials. The gas customers outside of the City pay the same and get the same services as people in the City. Council Member C. Thompson expressed concerns about rolling the millage rate back because they are doing so much for the citizens to keep up with growth. Mayor Pirkle congratulated the City Manager for being able to keep it at the same rate.

Council Member Edwards motioned to accept the City Manager’s recommendation and set the millage rate at 3.8 mills. Council Member C. Thompson seconded the motion. Approved 4-1 with Council Member Cohen voting nay.

Graffiti Ordinance – Mayor explained that under the current Graffiti Ordinance that the owner must sign approval for removal of the graffiti. This new ordinance is modeled after Gwinnett County and allows the City to remove the graffiti on private property and bill the property owner. This will prevent it from remaining for a long time. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the Graffiti Ordinance. Council Member Edwards seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

City Hall Annex Equipment Purchase – City Clerk explained that after the Work Session the staff did research on the best method of purchasing and having the equipment for the Annex installed. Tracy Gilmore priced all the equipment and the city can save money by purchasing the equipment themselves. The City Clerk requested that the Council approve an amount not to exceed \$25,000 and allow the staff to negotiate the best prices. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the amount not to exceed \$25,000 for the equipment purchase for the Annex renovations. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Executive Session: Legal, Real Estate and/or Personnel: Council Member Edwards motioned to adjourn into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m... Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Adjournment: The meeting was reconvened at 9:45 p.m. There was no action taken out of Executive Session so Council Member Cohen motioned to adjourn. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

Gary Pirkle, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk