

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009
7:30 PM CITY HALL ANNEX
4988 WEST BROAD STREET
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA**

CALL TO ORDER – by Mayor Pirkle at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Gary Pirkle, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Thompson, and Council Members Marc Cohen and Mike Sullivan. Council Member Susie Gajewski entered the meeting during the Consent Agenda item. Council Member Steve Edwards was not present. Also present were City Manager Bob Hail, City Attorney Lee Thompson and Frank Hartley and City Clerk Jane Whittington.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

INVOCATION – given by Mayor Pirkle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – The Agenda was amended to table item #3 Personnel Policy Amendment, to allow further review from the City Attorney’s office. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the amended Agenda. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 11, 2009 – Council Member Thompson motioned to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2009 Council Meeting as written. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 3-0.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT – City Attorney Lee Thompson had no report for the Regular Meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Mike Sullivan reported that the Lanier Cluster of Gwinnett County Schools have chosen a mascot. They will be the Lanier Longhorns. He displayed the mascot tee-shirt that was made to spread school spirit. He also reported that Gwinnett County recently rejected the significant tax increase that was proposed. They tabled this until next month to try and find other ways to make cuts. Sugar Hill Helping Hands is ongoing and will announce the next meeting soon.

Council Member Nick Thompson reported that the DDA will meet on Wednesday, June 24th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center. This meeting will be in conjunction with the City Hall design proposal community meeting.

Council Member Marc Cohen stated that he appreciated that the City has enough foresight to keep taxes in line. It was recently stated that you should not spend what you don’t have. He wants to make sure that the concept is kept in place. He will be representing the City as well as the other municipalities at the GMA Annual Convention in Savannah later this month. They will

hold training classes for all elected officials as well as city managers, city clerks and city attorneys. This will be his last meeting serving as the President for the GMA's Third District.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Sugar Hill is marketing itself as “The Recreation City”. The City is located near the Chattahoochee, Lake Lanier, has its own City Parks, the City's Sugar Hill Golf Course. There are several community parks nearby including George Pierce Park, Settles Bridge and one planned for Peachtree Industrial Blvd. They actually started looking at 5 parks in 5 miles and realized that with the Corps of Engineers parks and all the others there were many areas of recreation around. Truett Cathy, the founder of Chic-Fil-A has a summer camp called Winshape that will be held at the Family Church in Sugar Hill on July 27th. There is a religious component to the camp. You can go to Winshape.org for more information. Sugar Hill has also been approved for a project by a group of young people called World Changers that get together and build houses, sheet rock, roofs, etc. The Sugar Hill Housing Authority has agreed to put up about \$20,000 for this effort. This will occur next July so if you have projects or improvements needed contact Don Kelemen. The next movie at E.E. Robinson will be June 19th and it is Star Wars. The City has also been attending meetings with the County on the Service Delivery Strategy. No significant progress has been made but the meetings will continue through this week. On July 3rd the City will hold Sparks in the Park at E.E. Robinson.

CITY CLERK'S REPORT – Jane Whittington, City Clerk had no report.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – City Manager Bob Hail reported that the City's website has a wealth of information on it including CARES a code enforcement complaint system. See Exhibit A.

CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS – There were no comments from Citizens or Guests.

CONSENT AGENDA

Ordinance Agenda Preparation – City Clerk/Attorney

The Mayor explained that this Ordinance amendment was written to comply with how the Agenda is currently being prepared, posted and submitted. Council Member Sullivan motioned to approve the Consent Agenda. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

RZ-09-001, Tax Parcel 7-347-001, Robin P. Hild, 4.20 acres, 400 Riverside Rd., from BG (General Business District) to RS-200 (Single Family Residential District)

Planning Director Awana explained that this rezoning application is to rezone the property from general business to residential. The property was annexed and rezoned by the City in 2008 from a residential zoning to general business. The property owner was under a land purchase contract for a commercial development. The contract failed and the property owner, Robin Hild has no intention of using the property as commercial and there is an existing residential house located on the property. The staff and the Planning Commission recommended approval. The Public Hearing was opened and there were no comments from the applicant or the public so the hearing

was closed. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve RZ-09-001. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Personnel Policy Amendment - Substance Abuse and Testing Policy – TABLED

Public Hearing, Millage Rate, Resolution to Set Rate – This is the third and final public hearing to set the millage rate for 2009 property taxes. Gwinnett County collects the City taxes in with the County tax bill. The City Manager recommended that the millage rate stay at 3.8 mils. The total tax revenue will go down approximately 3% due to lower property appraisals. The Public Hearing was opened and there were no comments from the public so the hearing was closed. Council Member Cohen recommended reducing the millage rate. Council Member Sullivan motioned to set the 2009 Millage Rate at 3.8 mils. Council Member Thompson seconded the motion. Approved 3-1 with Council Member Cohen voting nay.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL: -
There was no Executive Session held.

PUBLIC ACTION ON ANY EXECUTIVE SESSION MATTERS:

ADJOURNMENT: Council Member Cohen motioned to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Council Member Sullivan seconded the motion. Approved 4-0.

Gary Pirkle, Mayor

Jane Whittington, City Clerk