

**CITY OF SUGAR HILL  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015, 7:30 P.M.  
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
5039 WEST BROAD STREET  
SUGAR HILL, GEORGIA**

**CALL TO ORDER** – by Mayor Edwards at 7:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Steve Edwards, Council Members Marc Cohen, Susie Gajewski, Brandon Hembree, Curtis Northrup and Mike Sullivan. Also present were City Manager Paul Radford, Assistant City Manager Troy Besseche, City Clerk Jane Whittington and City Attorneys Frank Hartley and Lee Thompson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG** – The pledge was led by Boy Scout Troop 533 members Owen Eaton, Jake Cohen and Ryan Slusher and Troop 608 member Erik Siegeze.

**INVOCATION** – given by Mayor Edwards.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Council Member Gajewski motioned to approve the agenda as submitted. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Council Meeting December 8, 2014, Work Session December 1, 2014 – Council Member Cohen motioned to approve the minutes as written. Council Member Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**REPORTS**

**CITY ATTORNEY  
COUNCIL  
MAYOR  
CITY CLERK  
CITY MANAGER**

**CITIZENS AND GUESTS COMMENTS** – there were no comments from citizens or guests.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem Brandon Hembree** – Mayor Edwards administered the oath of office to Brandon Hembree. Council Member Hembree was nominated and chosen to be Mayor Pro Tem by the Council at the December 8, 2014 Council Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Hembree's wife Tara was present and stood with him as the oath was administered.

**Establish 2015 Municipal Election Qualifying Fee** – Mayor Edwards explained that the City will be having a Municipal Election on November 3, 2015 to fill the following Council Members seats Post #1, Post #2 and Post #3. The qualifying fee, as required by §O.C.G.A. Sec 21-2-131(a) (1)(A), must be set by the Mayor and Council by February 1 of election year. The qualifying fee is 3% of the annual salary of the Council Member or \$108.00. Council Member Sullivan motioned to set the 2015 Municipal Election qualifying fee at \$108.00. Mayor Pro Tem Hembree seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Appoint Election Superintendent for 2015 Municipal Election** – The Mayor and Council must appoint an Election Superintendent for the 2015 General Election. The superintendent will administer all the paperwork, pre-election procedures and post-election procedures and the general activity of the election day. Council Member Northrup motioned to appoint the City Clerk Jane Whittington as the Election Superintendent for the 2015 Municipal General Election. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**PUBLIC HEARING, SUP-14-002, 1185 Buford Highway, Parcel 7-257-235 & 249, Dwight Garrard** is requesting a Special Use Permit to allow auto sales at 1185 Buford Hwy. – Director Awana explained the application. Dwight Garrard requested a special use permit to allow auto sales at 1185 Buford Highway where his existing auto repair shop has operated since 1999. The property is zoned BG and the existing auto repair business is a non-conforming use and is not permitted to expand under the existing BG zoning classification. The Planning Commission recommended approval per staff's recommendation. The public hearing was opened and Mr. Garrard stated that he had nothing to add and he is fine with a buffer in the back of the property. Mayor Edwards thanked Mr. Garrard for running a clean business and maintaining the property well. Council Member Cohen asked Mr. Garrard if he was fine with the one staff condition and he stated he was fine with it. Mr. Greg Wazniak spoke in favor of the Special Use Permit. No one spoke in opposition so the hearing was closed. Council Member Cohen motioned to approve SUP-14-002 with the single condition recommended by staff and the Planning Commission. The condition is as follows: a 30' landscape buffer shall be required along Chatham Road. Buffer shall consist of at least a staggered double row of evergreen or semi-evergreen trees and shrubs native or adapted to the area. Existing vegetation may be incorporated into the buffer. Trees shall be 6' tall at time of planting and shall be arranged to provide an effective visual screen of at least 20' in height at maturity. Buffer shall not contain more than 30% of a single species and must be shown on a landscape plan to be approved by the Planning and Development department prior to receiving any permits. Council Member Northrup seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Ordinance Historic Preservation Society** – Mayor Pro Tem Hembree acknowledged Council Member Cohen's leadership in the area of history. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee chaired by Council Member Cohen gave way to a rebirth and interest in Sugar Hill's history. The Historic Preservation Society's membership will be citizens of Sugar Hill. There are two amendments recommended by the City Attorney that are needed for the ordinance. The amendments are as follows:

Section 4. Officers. There shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Preservation Society. The Secretary need not be a member of the Society. The Preservation Society shall elect all officers from its membership for a term of one (1) year. The Preservation Society shall determine responsibilities of the officers.

Section 6. Conflicts of Interest. All Preservation Society members shall comply with ethical standards required of a City representative; this includes the need for disclosure and recusal from any votes related to a matter in which a conflict exists.

Mayor Pro Tem Hembree motioned to approve the Ordinance creating a Historic Preservation Society and the members will be appointed at a later Council Meeting. Council Member Cohen seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**Planning Commission Appointments** – Planning Director Awana explained the two Planning Commission posts that expired on December 31, 2014. There will not be a Planning Commission meeting in January so staff is recommending to table this item until the February Council Meeting. Council Member Northrup motioned to table the Planning Commission appointments until the February Council Meeting. Council Member Gajewski seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS LEGAL, REAL ESTATE AND/OR PERSONNEL –**  
Council Member Cohen motioned to enter Executive Session. Council Sullivan seconded the motion.  
Approved 5-0.

**PUBLIC ACTION TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION –** There was no action taken out of  
Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT –** Council Member Cohen motioned to adjourn. Council Member Sullivan  
seconded the motion. Approved 5-0.

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Steve Edwards, Mayor

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Jane Whittington, City Clerk