

Called Council Meeting  
Friday, January 8, 1999  
7:30 P.M. Community Center

The Council of the City of Sugar Hill held a called Council Meeting on Friday, January 8, 1999 at 7:30 P.M. 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 the corner of Alton Tucker Blvd and Peachtree Industrial Blvd. Notice was also sent to the local papers.

Those present included Mayor Roberta Crabb, Mayor Pro-Tem Steve Bailey, Council Members Reuben Davis, Michael Mosley, and Gary Pirkle. Also in attendance were City Attorney Lee Thompson, City Clerk Shirley Gibbs, Finance Director Kelley Canady, employees, registered guests and members of the media.

**CALL TO ORDER:  
PLEDGE TO FLAG AND INVOCATION:**

**Mayor Crabb** called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. and led the Pledge to the Flag. **Council Member Mosley** gave the Invocation.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey** made the motion to approve the Agenda. Second was made by **Council Member Mosley**. **Motion passed 4-0.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**A: SALE OF CITY PROPERTY:**

**Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey** stated that he would like for the City Clerk to post a public notice for the sale of land formally known as Mid-American property, both in the Atlanta Journal and the legal organ Gwinnett Daily Post. **Council Member Mosley** asked if this was all the land or just part of it. **Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey** responded that this did not include the property that the barn was on, the old landfill property or the parcels they had set aside for future recreational needs. The ad was written so that the council may reject any or all offers and to re-bid said parcels, all or part at another time. In order for it to be a legitimate bid, they would require a 1-% down payment, either in a certified check or a bid bond. **Council Member Mosley** made the second to the motion. Vote was a tie 2 –2 (for Bailey, Mosley) (against Davis, Pirkle). Mayor Crabb cast the deciding vote, voting for the motion. Motion passed 3-2.

**CITIZEN'S AND GUEST'S COMMENTS:**

**GEORGE CRIMMINS** wanted to talk about the closing of the Post Office. He was not a resident when the facility was first established but he understood it was to be a service and a convenience for the residents of Sugar Hill. Now on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February they were going to close the Post Office to the inconvenience of the residents of Sugar Hill. He understood that it cost approximately \$25,000 a year to operate the facility but if the

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person working in the Post Office was shifted to another department, the city would not be saving \$25,000 a year. He suggested a twenty-five cent surcharge be added to all the gas bills that, depending on the number of gas customers, could generate an additional \$18,000 for the city. This could help offset the budget shortfall and help keep the Postal facility open for the convenience of the residents.

**LOYD DELATOUR**, owner of Great Beginnings Day Care, also wanted to talk about the closing of the Post Office. He felt that the image of Sugar Hill was city hall and he would not want the city to lose that image by closing the Post Office. He urged the council members to change their minds about closing this facility. He enjoyed being able to come to city hall, buy stamps and speak to the Mayor and other employees. In his opinion, if the Post Office were closed, Sugar Hill would lose its identity.

**CHRIS WILLIAMS** also wanted to speak about the closing of the Post Office. Since moving to Sugar Hill in 1992, she has invested a lot of time in Sugar Hill. She does the web site for the city. She also has a Post Office box at this branch and if she is forced to give it up, she will have to buy new letterhead, business cards and other items that have her current mailing address. She felt that if the city gave up the Post Office they would be doing away with a service not to mention part of Sugar Hill's identity.

**DARREN BARR** of 4551 South Roberts Drive, Code Enforcer for the city. Mr. Barr stated that he worked with the general public on a daily basis, the residents and the businesses. One thing that the citizens did not want was a cut back on city services and the Post Office is a city service. In his opinion, he felt the citizens and maybe even the businesses would be outraged if the Post Office were discontinued. If budget cuts had to be made, do not cut one of the services offered by the city.

**BOB WAGNER** of 4969 Hidden Branch Drive stated he had been handed 2 petitions. 22 business owners in Sugar Hill Station requesting that the Post Office be kept open signed one. 257 residents of Sugar Hill signed the other. He read the petition signed by the residents requesting that the council reconsider closing the Post Office. It was his observation that senior citizens and young mothers with small children were the biggest users of the Post Office and this would create a hardship for them if the Post Office were closed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **A: AUDITOR WAYNE BOWEN TO DISCUSS CASH FLOW ANALYSIS:**

Auditor Wayne Bowen stated he had talked with Bill Fussell of Knox Wall, who has done some work for the city. Mr. Bowen gave his views on audits, budgets and cash flow analysis. He proposed that he or someone do a cash flow budget, then train the appropriate people to keep it an ongoing project. His estimate of the cost would be around \$2500 to \$3500 and he felt it would be worth the cost to have this done. Council Member Pirkle asked if it would be necessary to have another one done since the Finance Director had already prepared a cash flow analysis. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey responded he

had not seen one and would rather have time to study this before making a decision on having this done. After further discussion, Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made a motion to table the cash flow analysis budget, second made by Council Member Pirkle. Motion passed 4-0.

**B: ACCEPT ANNEXATION APPLICATION 98-010  
WAYMON ANDERSON-HIGHWAY 20-41.3911  
ACRES-BG ZONING:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey explained where this property was located and the current zoning. A brief discussion was held. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made the motion to accept Annexation Application 98-010. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed 4-0.

**C: ACCEPT ANNEXATION APPLICATION 98-011  
WAYNE VASHAW-6180 HIGHWAY 20-80 ACRES  
RS100 ZONING:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey explained where this property was located and the current zoning. A brief discussion was held. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made the motion to accept Annexation Application 98-011 for Wayne Vashaw. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed 4-0.

**D: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR TO SIGN  
REVISED CONSENT ORDER FOR LANDFILL:**

City Attorney Thompson explained this is a resolution to allow an extension on the date of the closure of the landfill. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made the motion to approve the resolution, second made by Council Member Pirkle. Motion passed 4-0.

**E: RESOLUTION: TO CALL FOR SPECIAL ELECTION, SET  
QUALIFYING DATES, FEES AND RESOLUTION ON  
FREEPORT TAX:**

City Attorney Thompson explained that Mr. Pugh had resigned in October and it was too late to have the election in November. The next available date was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in March. He explained that the call needed to be made in order to get the proper ads in the paper, set the qualifying fees and qualifying dates, which will be February 8 through February 12. The Freeport Resolution was tabled from last month. This resolution, to be placed on the ballot, would allow (if passed) businesses to have an exemption on their inventory or personal property. After some discussion on this item, Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made a motion to adopt the Resolution to Call for the Special Election on March 16, 1999, set qualifying fees of \$144 and qualifying week of February 8 through February 12, 1999. Council Member Mosley made the second. Motion passed 4-0. He then made a motion to adopt the Resolution to allow Freeport Tax Exemption to be placed on the ballot for voters to vote on. Council Member Mosley made the second. Motion passed 4-0. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey also stated that the cut off to register to vote would be February 12, 1999. City Attorney Thompson said at least 30 days before the election, which would be around the 12<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>.

**F: NOMINATION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM:**

Mayor Crabb nominated Steve Bailey to again serve as Mayor Pro-Tem, second made by Council Member Mosley. Council Member Davis wanted to nominate Council Member Pirkle. Because of the unique situation of the council at present, City Attorney Thompson suggested they vote on one at a time. Mayor Crabb called for the vote on Mr. Bailey. The vote was 2 for Mr. Bailey (Mosley, Pirkle), 1 abstention (Bailey), and 1 not voting (Davis). Mayor Crabb stated she had a nomination for Council Member Pirkle, was there a second. Mr. Pirkle stated he did not believe that was necessary considering the vote for Mr. Bailey. Mr. Bailey was elected as Mayor Pro-Tem for 1999.

**G: LEASE AGREEMENT APPROVAL FOR RECREATION BOARD:**

Recreation Board Member Leigh Bailey explained that habitually in the spring, the Recreation Board is asked by residents of the city and surrounding area to use the ball fields for little league play. The adult leagues that use the fields begin playing at 7:00pm. This means the fields are shut down at 5:00pm in order to get them ready for the adult leagues. By the time young kids get home from school and get to the fields, it is probably going to be around 4:30pm. This leaves them only 30 minutes of practice or playing time. The Mayor has been working very hard to find a place for the little league teams to play. The First Baptist Church of Sugar Hill has property located on Highway 20 that they will not be building on for several years. They have agreed to allow the Recreation Board to lease the property for a fee of \$1.00 per year. The Recreation Board would be responsible for all associated cost of this lease and the contract. Questions from the Council Members included: was the land the city set aside for future recreation needs looked at as a possible site, what about liability and cost of construction, length of the lease agreement. Mrs. Bailey explained the land owned by the city was not considered because there was no road access. Liability insurance would not increase for a couple of years, then it would go up about \$150.00 on the ball fields and \$150.00 for the BMX Track. Construction would be done through private donations like the BMX Track. The length of the contract would be for seven years. Council Member Pirkle wanted to make sure this was being done at no cost to the city especially since they were doing budget cuts. Mrs. Bailey assured them the recreation board would be paying for this out of money received from the adult leagues. Council Member Mosley made the motion to approve the lease agreement between the Recreation Board and the First Baptist Church of Sugar Hill for the land across from the car wash on Highway 20 for little league ball fields. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made the second. Motion passed 4-0.

**H: DISCUSS SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey explained the city had a very tight budget for 1999. They were going to have to come up with some creative ways to raise money for the two consent orders. The closure of the landfill could cost as much as \$686,00 plus an additional \$90,000 a year for monitoring, assuming they don't have to go into long term assessment which could add another half a million dollars. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey asked City Attorney Thompson to explain how a Solid Waste Management Authority would work. He explained that a Solid Waste Management Authority would work much the same as other authorities with bonding ability. An ordinance would have to be passed to

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activate the authority. When activated, they would need to appoint five members to the board, three of those members would have to be elected officials of the city. This authority would allow for a means to find funding to run the landfill or in this case the closure of the landfill. Since there was no landfill, therefore, no revenue stream, they would not have any bonding capability. Grants from the state were available that the authority could apply for. Council Member Pirkle asked if the city could apply for the grants without creating a Solid Waste Management Authority. Mr. Thompson stated he thought they could but he would have to check, some of the grants might be especially for Solid Waste Authorities. After some more discussion on this item, it was decided they would take no action on creating a Solid Waste Management Authority at this time.

**I: DISCUSS BUDGET/POST OFFICE:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey stated he had asked for this item to be placed on the agenda because of phone calls with comments similar to the ones heard tonight. He and Council Member Davis were on the council when the Post Office was started as a community service. Over the years it has become very expensive to operate with very little participation in box rentals. This was partly due to not having greater access to the Post Office boxes after hours. However, it had become obvious that if the Post Office were closed, they would be reassigning the postal clerk or creating a position for her. This would not be saving the city any money. A lengthy discussion was held on this item. Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made the motion to re-instate the Post Office and keep it in the budget. Council Member Davis made the second. Motion passed 3-1. Council Member Pirkle voted against the motion.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS:**

Mayor Pro-Tem Bailey made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Council Member Pirkle made the second. Motion passed 4-0.

**NO ACTION WAS TAKEN OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45PM**