REGULAR MEETING April 9th, 2018

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 9th, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

Members Present

Mayor Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Dan Boling, Joe Will, Kay McCathen, Sonny Boyd, Donnie Griffin and Alfred Carpenter were all present. City Manager, James Inman and City Attorney, David Smith were also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Bessemer City Ministerial Alliance member, Libby Toler Pastor of Grace Lutheran led the audience in prayer. Pastor Toler also announced that this would be her last prayer, as she retires soon. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Oath of Office: Office of City Council

Mayor Smith administered the Oath of City Council to Mr. Charles "Sonny" W. Boyd Jr. Mayor Smith explained to those present that Mr. Boyd would complete Mr. Howard Jones term, and serve as Ward 4 Council member until December 2019. Mayor Smith welcomed Mr. Boyd to the City Council of Bessemer City.

Approval of the April Agenda

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the April agenda was approved with no revisions.

Special Presentations

Bessemer City-Purple Heart- Mayor, Becky S. Smith read aloud a brief description of the Purple Heart City designation. Pictures of the signage displaying the new designation were displayed for the audience to review.

Student Appreciation- Students from Bessemer City High School, Bessemer City Middle School, Bessemer City Central Elementary School, and Bessemer City Primary School were recognized by their principals and City Council as part of the Student Appreciation Program:

Ms. Meghan LeFevers, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Sophia Fester 9th grade representative; Vivann Resendiz Estherdal 10th grade representative; Keely Bolt 11th grade representative; and Garnett Chitwood 12th grade representative.

Mrs. Fran Decanal, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Middle School representatives: Areaona Butler 6th grade representative, Omari Spencer 7th grade representative, and Nathan Marlow 8th grade representative.

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Mrs. Erin Morehead, Bessemer City Primary School Guidance Counselor, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Primary School representatives: Jolie Pitts Kindergarten representative; Natalie Salgado 1st grade representative; and Colton Ferrel 2nd grade representative.

Proclamation-Cathy Cloninger –
Mayor Smith and Council recognized Mrs. Cathy Cloninger for being a guiding force of advocacy and support for those in Gaston County and the surrounding area that have experienced domestic violence related issues. Mrs. Cloninger thanked the City for their continued support. The City was always available to lend a helping hand to the Shelter, according to Mrs. Cloninger.

By general consensus, the Proclamation recognizing Mrs. Cloninger was adopted. A copy of the proclamation is available at City Hall.

Oath of Office- Police Officer Jacob L. Henderson –
Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to police officer Jacob L. Henderson with his family and friends present. All present were invited to congratulate the newest City official.

Oath of Office- Police Officer Dalton N. Worley –
Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to police officer Dalton N. Worley with his family and friends present. All present were invited to congratulate the newest City official.

Milken Education Award Update-Meghan LeFevers –
Bessemer City High School Assistant Principal, Meghan LeFevers addressed Council with an update on her recent accomplishments. Ms. LeFevers was selected as the 2017 Milken Educator of the Year and North Carolina Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year. LeFevers thanked the Police Department, Public Works, and City for their continued support, as she did not win these prestigious achievement awards on her own. LeFevers invited all present to join the High School athletics department for their annual BBQ fundraiser and autism games on Friday, April 13th. A baseball, softball, and soccer game will be hosted to promote autism awareness. Ms. LeFevers also stated that she is engaged in dialogue with state Senators to further autism awareness programs locally.

Ms. LeFevers also addressed Council regarding the proposed Gaston County School Bonds. Mrs. LeFevers stated that if adopted said School Bonds would provide Bessemer City schools with new LED lights, new hallways, and a paved portion of the football field.

Mayor Smith and Council presented Assistant Principal LeFevers with a certificate of recognition for her accomplishment of North Carolina Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year.

Bessemer City Area Chamber of Commerce-Otis Whitehurst, President –
Bessemer City Area Chamber of Commerce President, Otis Whitehurst addressed Council regarding the proposed Gaston County School Bonds. Mr. Otis showcased a video with pertinent information and asked Council to vote in support of the Bonds, as Bessemer City Schools would receive $12 million for improvements.

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Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Kay McCathen:

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of March 12th, 2018, and Work Session Meeting Minutes March 27th, 2018.

- Resolution-Personnel Policy Update Permissions – City administration is requesting the approval of a resolution that permits the City Manager to make minor changes to the Personnel Policy.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals came forth:

- Gaston County Sheriff Alan Cloninger expressed his gratitude to the Council for recognizing his wife by proclamation. Cloninger further commended the Bessemer City Police Department. He stated that the Police Department is staffed by a great Chief and officers. City Manager James Inman, thanked the Sheriff for his partnership with the City.

Appoint ABC Board Chairman

Mayor Smith asked for ABC Board Chairman nominations at 7:47 PM. Council member Alfred Carpenter nominated Mr. Robert Crouch and Council member Joe Will recommended Michael Brooks. By motion of Sonny Boyd and unanimous vote, nominations were closed at 7:48 PM.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and a 5-1 vote, with Joe Will in opposition, Mr. Robert Crouch was appointed as Chairman. Mr. Crouch will serve as Chairman until Saturday, June 30, 2018.

Establish Public Hearing: Tobacco/Smoke Free Ordinance Amendment

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the setting of a Tobacco/Smoke Free Ordinance Amendment public hearing.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding the Tobacco/Smoke Free Ordinance Amendment will be held Monday, May 14th at 7:00 PM in Council chambers.

Resolution-Declaring Property Surplus

City Manager, James Inman requested that Council declare a 2005 Ford F-150 as property surplus. The transmission in said F-150 has been deemed inoperable by garage mechanic Wade Brown.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the resolution declaring 2005 Ford F-150 as property surplus was adopted. A copy of this resolution is available at City Hall.

Discussion of Resolution on Support of Gaston County Bonds

Discussion ensued between Council and Gaston County School Board member Brent Moore. Mr. Moore informed Council that Bessemer City schools would receive $12.1 million to conduct

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improvements. The proposed School Bond Referendum will appear on the Gaston County Ballot for the primary election Tuesday, May 8, 2018, requesting authority to issue Two Hundred Fifty Million Dollars ($250,000,000) in new school bonds. The bond package includes a one-quarter cent on sales and use tax. The debt service for repaying the proposed 2018 school bonds will add an additional ten and one quarter cents (10.25¢) over the next five years to the county's existing ad valorem tax rate, unless an additional one-quarter (1/4 ¢) local sales and use tax is approved.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the resolution of support for the Gaston County Bonds was adopted. A copy of this resolution is available at City Hall.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the following items:

Budget Amendments- City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding budget amendments to balance the budget.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the budget amendments were approved. A copy of the amendments are available at City Hall.

Capital Project Ordinance for Public Works Building – City Manger Inman requests that Council adopt a project ordinance for the new Public Works building. This project started over two (2) years ago and now has approved site plans. Bids for the building are due at the end of May.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the Captial Project Ordinance for the Public Works Building was adopted. A copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall.

Office of City Clerk- City Manager Inman updated Council on the appointment of City Clerk. Mr. Inman stated upon further inspection of North Carolina General Statute, a local bill to amend the City Charter is required to change appointment authority. Thus, he request that action be taken in July or August 2018 regarding the local bill. However, he would like to move forward with the suggested appointment. Discussion ensued amongst Council.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, Deputy City Clerk Hydeia Hayes was appointed to serve as City Clerk.

General Items: City Manager Inman reminded Council of the 2018-2019 Annual Budget Retreat, first 2018 Cruise-In & Concert, and 30th Annual Down Home Festival.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith led the discussion by informing all present that the North Carolina General Assembly recognized the City's 125th Anniversary. An official letter with congratulatory remarks on the milestone were received. Council member Alfred Carpenter expressed his gratitude for the good stories about Bessemer City in the Gaston Gazette. Mr. Carpenter looks forward to reading good things about Bessemer City in the paper. Council member Donnie Griffin expressed his concern regarding the entrance way into the

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Bessemer City Memorial Cemetery. During the annual processional crosswalk citizens inquired about having the entrance clean up.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor Hydeia Y. Hayes, Deputy City Clerk

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