REGULAR MEETING May 14th, 2018

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 14th, 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. Council member, Donnie Griffin led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the May Agenda

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the May agenda was approved with no revisions.

Special Presentations

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:

Dr. Judy Moore, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Brian Diaz 9th grade representative; Isabelle Soper 10th grade representative; Nyjer Camp 11th grade representative; and McKenzie Farris 12th grade representative.

Dr. Jessica Mellon, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Middle School representatives: Allison McCumble 6th grade representative, Chancellor Barbour 7th grade representative, and Kelsey Pruitt 8th grade representative.

Mr. Jason Allen, Bessemer City Central Elementary Guidance Counselor, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Central Elementary School representatives: Skyler Christopher 3rd grade representative; Jaydyn Revels 4th grade representative; and Lexi Diaz 5th grade representatives.

Mrs. Kristie Gornto, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Primary School representatives: Logan Patterson Kindergarten representative; Addy Morehead 1st grade representative; and Harlee Owens 2nd grade representative.

Oath of Office- City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes –
Mayor Smith administered the oath of office to City Clerk Hydeia Hayes with her family and friends present. All present were invited to congratulate the new City Clerk.

Consent Agenda
The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Donnie Griffin:

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of April 9th, 2018, Work Session Meeting Minutes April 24th, 2018, and Special Meeting Minutes of May 1st, 2018.

Gaston Regional Chamber
Steve D'Avria, Gaston Regional Chamber President, addressed Council on behalf of the Regional Chamber. Mr. D'Avria introduced himself to Council and thanked the board for its support of the Gaston Regional Chamber over the years. Particularly, by voting in support of the recent school bonds. Workforce development, continuing education programs, and leadership/manufacturing expos are items the Chamber will focus on in the future. Mr. D'Avria also noted that City Attorney, David Smith won the Gaston Regional Chamber Cup recently.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment
Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment and reiterated the new public comment procedure. All citizens wishing to address Mayor & Council will be required to sign in prior to the meeting. The following individual came forth:

- Mark Cramer - Greater Gaston Development Corporation addressed Council regarding workforce development plans and a Gaston County Charlotte Economic Development plan. Cramer stated that efforts are being made to improve workforce development by preparing local students for careers in technical fields. Cramer says efforts to teach what the industry needs are being done here in Gaston County. An open house will be held to discuss the Gaston County Charlotte Economic Development plan on Wednesday, May 30 from 1:00PM-4:00PM and 5:00PM-8:00PM. Mayor and Council are asked to drop in and review the maps and plans regarding the economic impact of said plan. The Greater Gaston Development Corporation is pleased with the plans, as they hope it will bring economic growth to Gaston County. Mr. Cramer, states as one (1) in five (5) jobs are indirectly related to the airport efforts to recruit people should be tailored to that industry.

National Police Week
Mayor Smith presented City Council with a Proclamation to declare May 13th- May 19th, 2018 as "National Police Week". By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the National Police Week 2018 proclamation was adopted.

A copy of this proclamation has been attached for citizen review.

Establish Public Hearing: Consider Interim Financing

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the setting of a public hearing to consider Interim Financing. A request for proposals (RFP) will be advertised for a low interest rate loan to begin construction on the new Public Works building. A public hearing is required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The public hearing notice will be advertised in accordance to NCGS 160A-20G.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, a public hearing to consider interim financing on the new Public Works building will be held Monday, June 11th at 7:00 PM in Council chambers.

Establish Public Hearing: 2018-2019 Proposed Budget

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the setting of a public hearing to consider the adoption of the 2018-2019 proposed budget. The public hearing notice will be advertised in accordance to NCGS 159-12.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, a public hearing to consider the 2018-2019 proposed budget will be held Monday, June 11th at 7:00 PM in Council chambers.

Public Hearing- Tobacco/Smoke Free Ordinance Amendment

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the tobacco/smoke free ordinance amendment was opened at 7:39 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the amendment. There was none.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition of the amendment. There was none.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the tobacco/smoke free ordinance amendment was closed at 7:40 PM.

Ordinance-Tobacco/Smoke Free Ordinance Amendment

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the requested amendment. The ordinance amendment will include public places as smoke and tobacco free in an effort to provide citizens with clean air.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the tobacco/smoke free ordinance amendment was adopted. A copy of this ordinance has been attached for citizen review.

Ordinance-Water Shortage Conservation Provision Ordinance

City Manager, James Inman requested that Council adopt an updated version of the Water Shortage Conservation Provision ordinance. The City has operated under the same plan for thirty (30) years

and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources requested that an update be completed. With the updated policy City Manager is the only individual with the authority to implement water shortage response actions, after consultation with the City of Bessemer City, City Council.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the water shortage conservation provision ordinance was adopted. A copy of this ordinance has been attached for citizen review.

Resolution-Directing Clerk to Investigate Voluntary Annexation Petition (Dhollandia N.V.)
Per NCGS 160A-31, the sufficiency of a voluntary petition must be certified by the Clerk before action is taken.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the resolution directing the Clerk to investigate the Voluntary Annexation petition submitted by Dhollandia N.V. was adopted.

Resolution-Establish Public Hearing for Voluntary Annexation Petition (Dhollandia N.V.)
Per NCGS 160A-31, City Clerk Hayes provided a certificate of sufficiency for Council review. Thus, City Manager Inman addressed regarding the establishment of a public hearing for the Voluntary Annexation of Dhollandia N.V.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, a public hearing to consider the Voluntary Annexation of Dhollandia N.V. will be held Monday, June 11th at 7:00 PM in Council chambers. A copy of this resolution has been attached for citizen review.

Resolution- Proceed with RFP for Interim Financing
City Manager Inman, addressed Council regarding the adoption of a resolution permitting him to advertise for bids. Area banks will be asked to submit bids on construction for the new Public Works building.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding RFP for Interim Financing was adopted. A copy of this resolution has been attached for citizen review.

Demolition Ordinance-1207 Edgewood Rd. (Motel Office)
Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Taylor addressed Council regarding the possible demolition of property at 1207 Edgewood Rd. Mr. Taylor informed Council that numerous attempts have been made to encourage property owners to demolish or rehabilitate the motel office. To no avail, property owners have not addressed the issue. An assessment value sheet was presented to Council for their review. According to the Gaston County Tax office the structure was valued at $27,000 in comparison to one with similar depreciation at $140,000.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the ordinance regarding demolition of property at 1207 Edgewood Rd. was adopted. A copy of this ordinance has been attached for citizen review.

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

CMAQ –NC HWY 161- City Manager Inman received a supplemental agreement for the CMAQ NC Hwy 161 sidewalk extension. Said agreement would combine all grants for sidewalk repair, permitting the City to provide improvements from 13th Street to Boston Avenue.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the agreement was approved.

Budget Amendments – City Manager Inman requests that Council approve budget amendments for the Police and Administration Departments. The following budget amendments include payment for an additional School Resource Officer (SRO) and City Hall renovations. Mr. Inman informed Council that bids have been received and are currently being reviewed by engineers.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the budget amendments regarding the police and administration department were approved. A copy of the amendments have been attached for citizen review.

City Council General Discussion
Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith led the discussion by by thanking City staff and administration for a very successful 30th Annual Down Home Festival. Mayor Smith also reminded Council that they have been invited to attend the First Wesleyan's Family Life Center dedication Sunday, May 20th. Council member Joe Will expressed his concern regarding landscaping on NC Hwy 161. Mr. Will inquired about the trimming and potential height of City planted trees. City Manager Inman assured Mr. Will that City planted trees were approved by NCDOT and would not reach above a certain height. Mr. Will further expressed concern regarding City street lights. Mr. Inman informed Mr. Will that Police Officers conduct routine operation checks of all City street lights and submit reports to Duke Energy. Council member Donnie Griffin expressed his concern regarding a telephone pole, struck after a motorcycle accident. Mr. Inman informed Mr. Griffin that he would look into the issue.

Adjourn
Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 PM.

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