REGULAR MEETING August 13th, 2018

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 13th, 2018 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

Members Present

Mayor Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Joe Will, Sonny Boyd, Dan Boling, Kay McCathen, 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 Harmony Baptist Pastor, Steven Fain led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the August Agenda

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

Special Presentations

Tobacco & Smoke Free Ordinance Recognition- Carleen Crawford, Mecklenburg County Public Health Regional Tobacco Control Manager recognized Bessemer City Council for their great strides against Tobacco & Smoke Free initiatives. With the Tobacco & Smoke Free Ordinance Council amended a few months prior, the City of Bessemer City once again has the most comprehensive policy in the state. Thus, Council was presented with the Local Health Director's cup and plaque. Mrs. Crawford congratulated Council and took photos to be released at a later date.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of July 9th, 2018 and Work Session Meeting Minutes July 31st, 2018.

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 to address Council:

Yoko Kimse of 401 W. Indiana Avenue addressed Council with her concern regarding her neighbors behavior. Ms. Kimse informed Council that she felt as though her neighbors down the street were participating in illegal behavior. Concerns regarding if the neighbor's house on S. 15th street meets minimum housing code were discussed.

Public Hearing To Amend the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) & Abolish/Establish Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the UDO amendment and Planning & ZBA board opened at 7:10 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.

Council member Joe Will questioned staff if parts of the UDO were allowed to be changed without re-adopting the full code. City Manager, James Inman and City Attorney, David Smith explained that pieces of the UDO could be changed at Council's discretion, although the UDO was initially adopted from the County. Previous changes have already been made to the UDO, and this would be another routine change.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the UDO amendment and Planning & ZBA board closed at 7:11 PM.

Ordinance To Amend the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) & Abolish/Establish Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments

As required by NCGS 160A-346, the City is required to hold a public hearing prior to adopting and amending any changes to Unified Development Ordinances (UDO). Public notice of this evenings public hearing was advertised in accordance of N.C.G.S. 160A-364.

By motion Joe Will and unanimous vote, the ordinance amendment regarding the abolishment and re-establishment of the Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments was adopted. A copy of the ordinance has been attached for citizen review.

Resolution- NC Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant

City Manager, James Inman informed Council that this resolution was a continuation of the program from last year. The NC Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant provides the City with an officer to assist with traffic enforcement. The grant covers cost associated with his equipment, training, and vehicle.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the NC Governor's Highway Safety Program Grant resolution was approved. A copy of this resolution is available at City Hall.

Resolution- Directing Clerk to Investigate Voluntary Annexation Petition (Alliance Real Estate Properties)

Per NCGS 160A-31, the sufficiency of a voluntary petition must be certified by the Clerk before action is taken regarding any annexation.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the resolution directing the Clerk to investigate the Voluntary Annexation petition submitted by Alliance Real Estate Properties was adopted.

Resolution- Establish Public Hearing for Voluntary Annexation Petition (Alliance Real Estate Properties)

Per NCGS 160A-31, City Clerk Hayes provided a certificate of sufficiency for Council review. Thus, City Manager Inman addressed Council regarding the voluntary annexation of Alliance Real Estate Properties. Alliance Real Estate has approached the City regarding the annexation, in hopes of being included in City limits. If approved, City Manager Inman recommends that the public hearing be held at the September 2018 meeting.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, a public hearing to consider the Voluntary Annexation of Alliance Real Estate properties will be held Monday, September 10th at 7:00 PM in Council chambers. A copy of this resolution has been attached for citizen review.

Establish Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Bessemer City is planning to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Revitalization Housing Program to aid in the rehabilitation of approximately 16 homes in the areas of Thirteenth Street, Twelfth Street, Eleventh Street, Tenth Street, Louisiana Avenue, Georgia Avenue, Alabama Avenue, and Boston Avenue. If awarded the grant will provide funding to rehab/repair qualifying homes in the project area. The City will be surveying this area to further determine if the homes/residents meet the required income and housing needs of the grant.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant will be held Tuesday, August 28th, 2018 at 3:00 PM and Monday, September 10th, 2018 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. A copy of this resolution is available for citizen review.

Resolution-Bessemer City Downtown Development Board-Bylaw Changes and Board Appointment

Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross addressed Council regarding the Bessemer City Downtown Development board proposed changes. Staff previously requested that the number of board members be reduced from nine (9) to five (5) voting members. This odd number of members will aid in cases of a tie. Council has previously met the recommended five (5) members. Staff recommends the following Board Members and terms:

- Brooke Randolph, 3 years
- Mike Croft, 2 years
- Donna Schroeder, 2 years
- Nellie Floyd, 1 year
- Tracie Anderson, 1 year

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the resolution amending Bessemer City Downtown Development Bylaws and appointments were approved.

City Manager's Report

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

Surplus Property- City Manager Inman and staff recommend that two police vehicles, one 2014 Dodge Charger and 2014 Ford Explorer, be declared as surplus property. These vehicles will not be replaced. Due to mileage and estimated repair cost, staff recommended that the items be declared surplus. Declaring said items will not cause a deficit in the Police Department fleet as we participate in the rolling stock program and have received other vehicles.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the Police Department 2014 Charger and Explorer were declared as property surplus. Thus, permitting City Manager Inman to dispose of them as he deems fit.

Budget Amendments– Budget amendments are needed to budget the loan proceeds for the purchasing of SunTrust bank building located at 125 East Virginia Avenue, Bessemer City, NC 28016 (Parcel IDs: 120820, 120825, 120826). City Council thanked City Manager Inman and City Attorney David Smith for their assistance in negotiations.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the August 2018 budget amendments were approved.

Annual Local Water Supply Plan – Staff is seeking the approval of Annual Local Water Supply plan. This plan is needed to conform with new Division of Water Resources requirements.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the annual local water supply plan was approved.

Unsealing of Closed Session Meeting Minutes – Staff request that closed session meeting minutes of July 10, 2017 and June 12, 2017 be unsealed. Unsealing the minutes for public inspection will no longer frustrate the purpose of the closed session, as litigation is over.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the closed session meeting minutes of June 12, 2017 and July 10, 2017 were unsealed for public inspection.

General – The public works building project is moving along, City Manager Inman will appear before the Local Government Commission (LGC) soon. Thus, construction will begin soon. City Hall renovations are currently being conducted on the first floor. The HVAC unit will be out of commission on Monday, August 27th and Tuesday, August 28th in City Hall. Therefore, staff will be working from the Kiser Senior Center or home, but reachable by email and phone. Renovations will begin soon for the SunTrust bank building to welcome Finance, Customer Service, and Code Enforcement Divisions. City Manager Inman also reviewed the monthly calendar created by Clerk Hayes with Council.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith asked City Manager Inman to address landscaping issues by the railroad across from Pizzagalli. Council member Dan

Boling informed Council that he would be undergoing medical treatments in the coming month, and is in need of an alternate liaison for the ABC Board. Council member Sonny Boyd volunteered to serve as the alternate ABC board liaison. Council member Joe Will commended Public Works technician, David Splawn for tending to various landscaping issues in the City. Council member Donnie Griffin inquired about middle school police officer position. City Manager Inman informed him that no action had been taken.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

_____ _____

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