WORK SESSION MEETING

August 28th, 2018

The Bessemer City Council met in work session on Tuesday, August 28th, 2018 at 3:00PM in City Hall. Proper notice was given.

Call to Order
Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order.

Members Present
Mayor Becky Smith, Council Members: Dan Boling, Joe Will, Sonny Boyd, Donnie Griffin, Kay McCathen, and Alfred Carpenter were all present. Also present were Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey, department heads, and summer intern Mikel Graham.

Department Reports
Bessemer City Department heads gave reports on their department status:

Parks & Recreation Director JoD Franklin addressed Council regarding the 2018 pool season. The pool is officially closed for the 2018 season, there were no injuries or accidents this year. There is a trip planned for September 25th to take local seniors to Knoxville, Tennessee for chocolate tour and other sights. This past Community Concert & Cruise-In was the biggest of the season with over 200 cars present in the footprint of downtown. For the final Cruise-In, Mayor Smith inquired about having all of the seasons Mayor's choice award winners come for an audience vote. Parks & Rec. Director, JoD stated he would begin working on this. The last Cruise-In will feature a small fireworks display. Several Parks & Rec. department employees are still working to complete CDL training.

Economic Development Officer Josh Ross informed Council about the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application and public hearing. Mr. Ross introduced Amanda Whitaker of WR Martin who is helping the City identify potential rehabilitation homes in downtown Bessemer City. The City will apply for $750,000 in CDBG funds to be split amongst homes in the district. The projected area are homes south of the Osage Mill and east of Bessemer City Park.

Economic Development Officer Ross led a light discussion on the naming of the SunTrust bank building. In months prior Council voted to purchase the bank building for additional administrative offices.

Chief Tom Ellis informed Council that the May 20th Surf and Turf investigation is still ongoing, and may continue on for several months. Construction and renovations are being made to the Police Department to accommodate additional administrative offices and space. Chief Ellis also discussed new legislation regarding service dogs, a new murder investigation involving two girls, and school resource officer positions.

Finance Officer Jenkins informed Council that the 2017-2018 audit is being conducted. Auditors were in last week and are one-third of the way done. Council inquired if any complaints regarding the tax increase were made. Finance Officer Jenkins stated that maybe one or two had been received, but were addressed by City Manager Inman.

City Manager's Report
Assistant City Manager Jamie Ramsey did not have anything to report to Council at this time.

USDA-Public Hearing for Rural Utilities
By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding rural utilities opened at 3:29 PM.

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

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

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding rural utilities closed at 3:30 PM.

Public Hearing for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant opened at 3:30 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor. The following individuals came forth:

- Kim Maguire of Partners Inc. of Gastonia- commended the City for applying for community block grant funding.
- Stephen Crane of RIC Reinvestments of Gastonia- spoke in favor of the City applying for Community Block Development Grant funding. Mr. Crane proclaimed that programs like these help home owners remain in their homes and age in place. Completing the survey of area homes is critical to the success of the program.

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

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding Community Development Block Grant funding closed at 3:33 PM.

Resolution-Water & Sewer AIA Grant

Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey addressed Council regarding the AIA grant. Staff is requesting permission to submit an application for water and sewer grant funding. If awarded, said grants would fund a "go green" initiative in the City. Public Works Director, Jamie Ramsey would like to digitize all City maps and create a database. This initiative could aid in safety and increase workflow in the field.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding water and sewer AIA grant was approved.

Resolution-Purchase of Real Property-SunTrust Building (125 E. Virginia Avenue)
Assistant City Manager, Ramsey informed Council that a resolution approving the purchase of the SunTrust bank building was needed to satisfy insurance documents, in addition to the board's vote on July 9, 2018. By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the contract to purchase the SunTrust building located at 125 East Virginia Avenue, Bessemer City, NC 28016 (Parcel IDs: 120820, 120825, 120826) was previously approved by Council July 9, 2018.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding the purchasing of real property located at 125 E. Virginia Avenue was approved.

Small Wireless Facility Model Ordinance Discussion
Assistant City Manager, Ramsey presented Council with a model small wireless facility ordinance. All Gaston County municipalities have been asked to approve an ordinance that regulates cell tower placement and usage in City right-of-way.

Light discussion was held amongst Assistant City Manager Ramsey and Council. Per Council request, a representative from the County will be present at the September 2018 Regular meeting to address Council regarding the small wireless facility model ordinance.

Planning &Zoning Board of Adjustments Board Member Discussion
Assistant City Manager, Ramsey presented Council with applications submitted by interested citizens. City Manager, Inman previously sent Council a memo asking for additional time to identify candidates.

Light discussion was held amongst Assistant City Manager Ramsey and Council. By general consensus, the Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment Board member discussion will be discussed at a later date.

Council General Discussion
Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. There was none.

Adjourn
Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:49 PM by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote.

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