REGULAR MEETING **September 10th, 2018**

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 10th, 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, Donnie Griffin and Alfred Carpenter were all present. Council member Kay McCathen was absent. Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey and City Attorney, David Smith were also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Bessemer City First Wesleyan Associate Pastor, Mark Tolan led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the September Agenda

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

Special Presentations

Proclamation-Domestic Violence Month Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the Domestic Violence Proclamation aloud and declared October 2018 as domestic violence month.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the proclamation was adopted. A copy is available at City Hall.

Proclamation-Dyslexia Awareness Month Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the Dyslexia Awareness Proclamation aloud and declared October 2018 as dyslexia awareness month.

By motion of Sonny Boyd and unanimous vote, the proclamation was adopted. A copy is available at City Hall.

Proclamation-September 11th Remembrance Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the September 11th Remembrance Proclamation aloud and declared Tuesday, September 11th, 2018 a day of remembrance.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the proclamation was adopted. A copy is available at City Hall.

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 individuals came forth to address Council:

Randy Richardson of 104 E. Georgia Avenue addressed Council on behalf of God Can Baptist Church. Mr. Richardson informed Council of an incident that had happened the weekend prior. God Can Baptist congregants were passing out literature on their service and religion, when City Patrol Officers asked them to leave the premises. As the Church had not properly secured a permit. Mr. Randy assured Council that prior to the public assembly, inquiries were made regarding permits.

Leslie Hall of 801 W. Alabama Avenue addressed Council regarding landscaping issues. Ms. Hall expressed her concern of bamboo growing ramped on her property. Furthermore, Mrs. Hall stated the bamboo is a nuisance as it attracts black birds.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of August 13th, 2018 and Work Session Meeting Minutes August 28th, 2018.
- City of Bessemer City Retention Policy Update- City Staff is seeking approval of North Carolina retention policy update. Council approval is needed for compliance.
- Temporary Street Closure- City Staff is requesting a temporary street closure of the 100 block of West Pennsylvania Avenue for Parks & Recreation 1st Halloween Block Party.

Public Hearing- Alliance Real Estate Properties

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the Alliance Real Estate Properties annexation opened at 7:17 PM.

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

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

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding Alliance Real Estate Properties annexation closed at 7:17 PM.

Ordinance To Extend The Corporate Limits of the City of Bessemer City, North Carolina

Per NCGS 160A-31, City Clerk Hayes provided a certificate of sufficiency for Council review regarding a petition received by Alliance Real Estate on August 8, 2018. Public hearing notice of the annexation was published in the local newspaper for public inspection ten (10) days prior to public hearing.

By motion Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Council adopted an ordinance extending the corporate limits of the City of Bessemer City to include Alliance Real Estate Properties of the Southridge Business Park. A copy of this ordinance has been attached for citizen review.

Public Hearing: Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross addressed Council regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Mr. Ross provided an explanation and description of the FY2018 North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Development Block – Neighborhood Revitalization Program for Council and audience present. This public hearing serves as an opportunity for the City of Bessemer City to obtain citizen's views, allow response from the public regarding funding proposals, and answer any questions posed by citizens. This public hearing will cover the City's community development needs, development of the proposed activities, and a review of program compliance before the submission of the City's CDBG-NRP funding application to the state of the North Carolina.

The City of Bessemer City proposes to request funding from NC Department of Commerce CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization Program for the Bessemer City Community Development Neighborhood Housing Improvements Project. The purpose of the CDBG NRP grant program is:

- To benefit a residential area where at least 51% of the beneficiaries are low to moderate income as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- To perform eligible activities.
- To minimize displacement, and
- Provide displacement assistance as necessary.

For the fiscal year of 2018, the CDBG NRP funding available is expected to be $10,000,000. The maximum available grant is $750,000. Applications for funding will be received September 28, 2018.

The CDBG program is able to fund a wide variety of community development activities. The Neighborhood Revitalization (NR) category is designed to provide grants to local unit of governments for housing, housing related activities, and public facilities that support housing activities for low-to moderate-income persons.

The range of housing activities covered by the CDBG-NRP funds for the Neighborhood Revitalization includes:

- Rehabilitation, including substantial rehabilitation and reconstruction, disposition, acquisition, demolition, clearance, relocation, and emergency repair.

The City of Bessemer City is seeking an amount in CDBG-NRP funds not to exceed $750,000 for the Bessemer City Community Development Neighborhood Improvements Project. The purpose of the City's request is to assist low to moderate income homeowners in the areas of Thirteenth Street, Twelfth Street, Eleventh Street, Tenth Street, Louisiana Avenue, Georgia Avenue, Boston Avenue, and Alabama Avenue in the City to make critical home repairs.

A total of 100% of the CDBG NRP funding will be used to benefit Low to Moderate Income (LMI) people. The neighborhood chosen has a significant number of owner-occupied homes who qualify

as Low to Moderate Income. Surveys are ongoing to determine the extent of housing needs in the project area.

The City of Bessemer City has a Housing Selection Committee to advise city staff on the selection and prioritization of homes to be assisted. The Housing Selection Committee, comprised of voting members and, provides the citizen participation opportunity for residents to contribute to the city housing and neighborhood improvement plans.

If the City of Bessemer City is awarded a CDBG - NRP grant, the City is required to adhere to federal procurement requirements and other federal regulations which include:

- American with Disabilities Act/Section 504 Survey
- Davis-Bacon & Related Labor Acts
- Adoption/Submittal of a Citizen's Participation Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of an Equal Opportunity Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Fair Housing Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Language Access Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Relocation Assistance Plan
- Adoption/Submittal of a Section 3 Plan
- Excess Force Provision

The City will submit its CDBG-NRP application on September 28, 2018. The CDBG-NRP application will be available for review during normal business hours at City Hall, 132 West Virginia Avenue, Bessemer City NC 28016. Additional information is available from the City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes at 704-729-6509. Should you have any complaints or grievances regarding the subject public hearing, they should be addressed to the addressee mentioned above within 10 business days or by September 20, 2018 and a written response to the written complaints and/or grievances will be sent by the City within 10 business days, where practicable.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant opened at 7:17 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the Community Development Block Grant. The following individual came forth expressing their support of the City's proposed application:

- Leslie Hall of 801 W. Alabama Ave. expressed her support for the project. Ms. Hall welcomes all grants that help aid the City.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). There was none.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the Community Development Block Grant closed at 7:22 PM.

Resolution-Application for Community Development Block Grant Funding

As required by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, a public hearing regarding CDBG funding was held. Public notice of this public hearing was advertised in accordance of Community Development Block Grant guidelines.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the resolution approving the application for Community Development Block Grant funding was approved.

Community Development Public Hearing Minutes were approved by motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote.

City Manager's Report

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

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member Dan Boling inquired about the City's permitting process for public assembly. Assistant City Manager, Ramsey ensured Mr. Boling that he would look into the process, and update Council at a later time. Council member Joe Will asked about the City's emergency plan and preparedness for the forecasted hurricane. Mr. Will also expressed concerns regarding security of the old Edgewood Motel office building. Attorney Smith informed him that no liability could be placed on the City, in case of an accident at the Edgewood Motel property. Council member Donnie Griffin inquired about landscaping and the possibility of annexing other business in the Southridge Industrial Park.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.

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