REGULAR MEETING October 8th, 2018

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, October 8th, 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, Marshall Walker were also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Bessemer City First Wesleyan Senior Pastor, Wes Brown led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the October Agenda

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the October 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. Sheila Wyont, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: William "Seth" Dover 9th grade representative; Sophia Foster 10th grade representative; Precious Booker 11th grade representative; Ashley Putnam 12th grade representative.

Mrs. Toni Osbourne, Counselor of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Middle School representatives: Madason Houser 6th grade representative, Jasmynn Crews 7th grade representative, and Hayden Garcia 8th grade representative.

Mrs. Caroline Black, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Central Elementary School representatives: Alyria Eilliott 3rd grade representative; Jaystaria Gill 4th grade representative; and Gage Croft 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Primary School representatives: Logan Patterson Kindergarten representative; Charley Floyd 1st grade representative; and Tyvegas Goode 2nd grade representative.

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:

Aaron Hayes of 110 W. Gaston Avenue addressed Council regarding theft at his residence. Mr. Hayes stated that he has experienced four break-ins during his two year stay in Bessemer City. Furthermore, Hayes expressed his dissatisfaction with the Bessemer City Police Department.

Bea Crocker of 311 S. Pinchback Avenue addressed Council regarding a Town Hall meeting. Mrs. Crocker stated that she and several members of the community would like to participate in a Town Hall meeting, whereby Mayor & Council could answer questions from the public.

Dawn Will of 901 Crowders Mountain Rd. addressed Council regarding the downtown gazebo. Mrs. Will reminded Council that the gazebo was a gift to the City from the Women's Club to replace the dilapidated structure placed years prior. As the structure was purchased in 2004, and adds value to the community, she believes it should not be torn down.

City Manager Inman informed the audience that a complaint regarding the structure's compliance with ADA and accessibility codes had been questioned. Mr. Inman further stated that this is not being done purposely by the City. However, the issue was brought about by a citizen.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of September 10th, 2018 and Work Session Meeting Minutes September 25th, 2018.
- Temporary Street Closure- City Staff is requesting a temporary street closure of West and East Virginia Avenue for Parks & Recreation's Community Tree Lighting, Christmas Parade and Festival.

Appointments-Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments

City Manager, James Inman reminded Council of the recent update to the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). The Bessemer City Planning Board shall be comprised of five (5) regular members as provided in section 4.4 and 4.5 of UDO. At least one (1) member, but no more than two (2) members, shall represent the extraterritorial jurisdiction. Initial terms of office shall be as follows: two members shall be appointed for a term of one year, two members shall be appointed for a term of two years, and one member shall be appointed for a term of three years. The City Council shall elect one (1) of the Planning Board members as Chair and one (1) as Vice-Chair, annually.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the following appointments to the planning and zoning board of adjustments were made:

-Danny Garrett, Chairman and Jean Floyd, Vice-Chair for 2018-2019 year
-Danny Garrett appointed to serve until June 30, 2021
-Jean Floyd appointed to serve until June 30, 2020
-Jeff Hunt appointed to serve until June 30, 2020

-Ellen Bullard appointed to serve until June 30, 2019
-Charlene Hill appointed to serve until June 30, 2019

CMAQ Highway 161 Capital Project Ordinance

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the CMAQ grant received for the Highway 161 sidewalk project. The highway 161 sidewalk project extends from S. 13th Street to Boston Avenue and requires a 20% match from the City.

By motion Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, City Council adopted the Highway 161 capital project ordinance. A copy of this ordinance is attached for citizen review.

City Manager's Report

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

Budget Amendment Said budget amendment is needed to address funds received from 3 items (two vehicles and house) Council declared surplus.

By motion of Sonny Boyd and unanimous vote, the October 2018 budget amendment was approved. A copy of this budget amendment is attached for citizen review.

General Cloniger Inc. was awarded the demolition bid for the 1207 Edgewood motel office building. Demolition is scheduled to start this week. Stinger Park application has been submitted for funding, before the October 1st deadline. A pump station upgrade was done for the Lithium Skyland location to save cost on infiltration. City Hall has a new HVAC system. Although there are some balancing issues, there is not any mold in the air. The public works building is scheduled to proceed as all permits have been obtained. The water replacement project has been completed. Contractors will be on sight to address minor concerns. We closed on the SunTrust bank building September 23, 2018. Renovations are being done.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member Kay McCathen stated that a citizen had inquired about the Vantine Cemetery gate. City Manager Inman informed Ms. McCathen that the gate in Vantine and Bessemer City Memorial were removed to aid in police patrol. Ms. McCathen also commended the Recreation Department for hosting great programs and taking care of seniors. Council member Donnie Griffin commended City staff and the Police and Fire Departments.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

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