REGULAR MEETING November 13th, 2018

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 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, Kay McCathen, Donnie Griffin and Alfred Carpenter were all present. City Manager, James Inman and City Attorney, Marshall Walker were also present. Council member Dan Boling was absent.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Bessemer City First Wesleyan Young Adult and Youth Pastor, Josh Baker led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith invited all present Veterans to led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the November Agenda

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the November 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. Tom Potter, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Madalyn Monaco, 9th grade representative; Payton Boone, 10th grade representative; Colby Lineberger, 11th grade representative, and Keishawn Jamerson, 12th grade representative.

Mrs. Hannah Clements, Counselor of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Middle School representatives: Kyann Pheagin, Olivia Pagan, Gianna Bartalotti, Wendy Torres, Holly Soard, Chloe Black, Cadence Perdickaris, Guadalupe Salgado, Amaiya Endsley.

Mrs. Caroline Black, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Central Elementary School representatives: Henry Cruz Cruz, 3rd grade representative, Parker Anderson, 4th grade representative, Micah Glaze, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Primary School representatives: Allen Loaisiga Carrillo, Kindergarten representative; Hannah Cable, 1st grade representative, and Hayden Mantooth, 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. There was no one present to speak.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of October 8th, 2018 and Work Session Meeting Minutes October 30th, 2018.
- New Year's Ridge Shooters-Authorization Request (Resolution)- City Staff would like for Council to consider approving an annual resolution authorizing the New Year's Shooters to perform their opening ceremonies in front of City Hall from 12:00 AM until 12:30 AM. Additional shooting will take place within the City Limits between the hours of 9:00 AM and 6:00 PM on New Year's Day. The Ridge Runners will provide the City with a schedule of events and a current roster of member names, addresses and phone numbers prior to the event.

Appeal 01-2018: 204 E. Virginia Avenue

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding 204 E. Virginia Avenue was opened at 7:18 PM.

City Manager Inman informed Council that property owners of 204 E. Virginia Avenue are not present due to an illness in the family. Said owners ask that the hearing be continued.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding 204 E. Virginia Avenue will be continued at the Monday, December 10th, 2018 regular meeting at 7:00 PM.

Demolition Ordinance- 307 E. Maine Avenue

Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Taylor addressed Council regarding the demolition ordinance of property at 307 East Maine Avenue. In November 2017, Council voted to close and vacate the home. Thus, giving property owners a year to make the needed repairs. The home owner has since relocated to another state, and does not have intentions on coming back to Bessemer City.

Light discussion was held regarding personal property disposal. Said property owner will be notified that he has 30 days to dispose or pick up items left in the home.

By motion Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, City Council adopted the demolition ordinance regarding property at 307 E. Maine Avenue. A copy of this ordinance is attached for citizen review.

Ordinance To Close & Vacate- 415 E. Virginia Avenue

Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Taylor addressed Council regarding the ordinance to close and vacate property located at 415 East Virginia Avenue. An in home inspection was completed January 9, 2018, whereby property owners were informed of all code violations. However, no permits have been issued.

Light discussion was had regarding the next steps for property owners at 415 E. Virginia Avenue. Said property owners will be notified that they have one year to address code violations in the home.

By motion Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Council adopted the ordinance to vacate and close property located at 415 E. Virginia Avenue. A copy of this ordinance is attached for citizen review.

Resolution- Support of Charlotte Airport Economic Development Study Adoption

Mark Cramer with the Greater Gaston Development Corporation addressed Council regarding a resolution of support for an economic development study. Mr. Cramer noted that City Manager, James Inman and Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross were vital members of the steering committee for the study. The purpose of the economic development study is to enhance and promote Gaston County, while building on the County's greatest asset, Charlotte Airport proximity. Some key outcomes of the study are to support a light rail and transit system in Gaston County. This is a countywide, comprehensive plan supported by several municipalities in Gaston County. Thus, Mr. Cramer is seeking approval from Bessemer City Council to complete the countywide effort.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Council adopted a resolution in support of the Charlotte Airport Economic Development Study.

Resolution-Support of Dallas, NC Fallen Officer

Mayor Smith read aloud a resolution in support of fallen Dallas Police Officer, Corporal Travis Wells. City Manager Inman informed Council that Bessemer City officers were the first to arrive on the scene. Bessemer City Police and Fire Department have worked countless hours to aid the town of Dallas in their time of need.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the resolution in support of the fallen Dallas, NC officer was adopted.

City Manager's Report

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

Budget Amendment

Said budget amendment is a request from Assistant City Manager Ramsey to improve City Storm water efficiency on West Louisiana Avenue.

By motion of Sonny Boyd and unanimous vote, the November 2018 budget amendment was approved. A copy of this budget amendment is available at City Hall.

Move Contract Employee to Part-Time

Since July, the City has contracted with two companies, N Focus and Benchmark to provide Planning & Zoning administrative services. An additional fee to the current contracted company, N Focus, is required, in exchange for a Planner two days a week. In the interest of saving money, the contracted company has agreed to let the City of Bessemer City hire Planner, Karen Floyd, part-time.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Karen Floyd will become a part-time Bessemer City employee on December 1, 2018.

General

The Stinger Park application has been submitted for funding to the USDA. A pump station upgrade was done for the Lithium Skyland location to save cost on infiltration. City Hall has a new HVAC system. The Public Works building construction is scheduled to proceed, as all permits have been obtained. The water replacement project has been completed. A ribbon cutting for City Hall Annex will be held once departments have moved in.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith led the discussion by informing all present that Council member, Dan Boling had been excused this evening to attend a recognition event in his honor. Council member Dan Boling's "Dan's Restaurant" was selected as the Bessemer City Area Chamber's 2018 Business of the Year. Mayor Pro Tem Will commended Police Chief Ellis for his assistance with the Dallas, NC fallen officer. Mr. Will stated that Gaston County Commissioner Hovis had called him and commended the City on their efforts to support the town of Dallas. Council member Donnie Griffin commended 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 8:14 PM.

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