WORK SESSION MEETING

November 27th, 2018

The Bessemer City Council met in work session on Tuesday, November 27th, 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, Sonny Boyd, Donnie Griffin, Joe Will, Kay McCathen and Alfred Carpenter were all present. Also present were City Manager, James Inman, department heads, and City intern Mikel Graham.

Department Head Reports

Bessemer City Department heads gave reports on their department status:

Parks & Recreation Director, JoD Franklin addressed Council regarding the Christmas Parade, Senior Bingo, and Employee Christmas Dinner. The Christmas Parade will be held Friday, December 7th and participants will be permitted to distribute candy. All participants are asked to be there by 4:15 PM. Senior Bingo is thriving, and will be held Monday, December 17th at the Allan Farris Community Center. The employee Christmas party will be held Tuesday, December 11th at First Baptist Church.

City Intern Mikel Graham informed Council of the various projects he is working on. Currently, he is working with City Clerk Hayes to complete the ordinance report requested by North Carolina General Assembly. In May 2018, North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 379 requiring all municipalities to submit an ordinance report that contains all ordinances with misdemeanor penalties. Mr. Graham is also working to complete a report that identifies vacant homes that have not had utility service in over a year for City Manager Inman. Per City ordinance, it is against code to have a house vacant for over a year.

Small Wireless Facility Model Ordinance

City Planner, Karen Floyd informed Council that the speaker for this issue was unable to make the meeting.

By general consensus, this item will be tabled to the next Work Session.

Public Art Project-Ella Mae Wiggins Statue

Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross addressed Council regarding a request from the Ella Mae Wiggins memorial citizen group. The memorial group would like to place a statue in memory of Ella Mae Wiggins in the park downtown next to the gazebo.

Light discussion regarding potential placement and maintenance were discussed.

By general consensus, Mr. Ross was tasked with drafting a comprehensive policy that addresses the vision and mission for the downtown park. Said policy would include a plan for future placement of monuments and maintenance.

City Hall Annex Signage

City Manager, James Inman reviewed several signage options for City Hall annex with Council. Light discussion regarding design and durability were held. Mr. Inman will gather all options and submit them to Council for a vote in the weeks to come.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the following:

City Hall Annex

City Hall annex construction is almost complete. Handicap accessibility and concrete pipes for security were addressed recently. City Hall departments are tentatively scheduled to open for business in the building around the 1st of the year.

Light discussion regarding daily closure of City Hall annex for Customer Service was held.

By general consensus, City Hall annex will close daily from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM for essential maintenance.

Information regarding a ribbon cutting for City Hall annex will come at a later date.

General

A complaint about ADA and handicap accessibility of the gazebo donated by the Bessemer City Women's Club had been received from the Gaston County Planning Department. The County Planning Department does not have jurisdiction over the area where the gazebo is located. However, they recommend that the issue be addressed, as litigation could be brought before the City regarding ADA accessibility.

By general consensus, all improvements needed to make the gazebo ADA and handicap accessibility compliant are approved.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey was tasked with checking on a pothole by East Iowa Avenue.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 PM by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote.

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