WORK SESSION MEETING

January 29th, 2019

The Bessemer City Council met in work session on Tuesday, January 29th, 2019 at 3:00PM in Council Chambers. 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 Father & Daughter dance, Youth Basketball, and the Staff luncheon. The Father & Daughter dance will be held Saturday, February 2nd and a few tickets are still available. Youth basketball is going well, games are held on Monday, Tuesday, and Saturday.

City Intern Mikel Graham gave Council an update on the vacant house database. Mr. Graham spent his summer 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. All homes in violation have been identified and a letter to property owners will be mailed in the weeks to come.

Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey addressed Council regarding gas bills. Mr. Ramsey reminded Council that utility billing is delayed, therefore citizens are will see an increase in their bills as it snowed last December. Furthermore, sewer line system smoke testing will begin in the months to come. A plan to notify citizens via the website, newsletter, and social media will be utilized.

Police Chief, Tom Ellis addressed Council regarding safety training. The department will undergo training soon to prepare officers for the changing field.

Public Art Project-Ella Mae Wiggins Statue

Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross addressed Council regarding 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.

Mr. Ross and City Planner, Karen Floyd have been working with a third party group to develop a plan. This plan will address logistics and planning for future monument placing.

City Manager's Report
City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the following:

2019-2020 Budget Retreat
The retreat will be held Thursday, February 28th and Friday, March 1st, 2019. Dennie Martin will lead the facilitation and department heads will discuss what they have accomplished, and plans for the future.

City Hall Annex
City Hall Annex is now open to the public. City Manager Inman commended Greg Thompson, Charles Morrow, Randy Causby and the inmate crew for their hard work this weekend. City Staff worked hard this past weekend to get the building ready for the public and staff.

127 West Pennsylvania Avenue
Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross addressed Council regarding marketing 127 West Pennsylvania Avenue for sale. Mr. Ross has been having conversations with a real estate agent to list the property for sale.

By general consensus, the listing of 127 West Pennsylvania Avenue for sale will be placed on the February 2019 regular agenda for a vote/

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 4:17 PM by motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote.

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