REGULAR MEETING February 11th, 2019

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, February 11th, 2019 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present

Mayor Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Alfred Carpenter, Sonny Boyd, Kay McCathen, Dan Boling, and Donnie Griffin were all present. Council member Joe Will was absent. City Manager, James Inman and City Attorney, David Smith, were also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Pastor, Thurman Clark led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the February Agenda

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

Special Presentations

City of Bessemer City Recognition- Mayor Smith and City Council recognized City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes for being selected as Tobacco Free Gaston's "biggest influencer". All present were invited to congratulate Ms. Hayes on her accomplishment.

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: Skylar Turner, 9th grade representative; Malachi Washington, 10th grade representative; Justice Davis, 11th grade representative, and Hunter Malone, 12th grade representative.

Dr. Jessica Melon, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Rylie Blanton, 6th grade representative; Ethan Wilson, 7th grade representative; and Andrew Castro 8th grade representative.

Mrs. Caroline Black, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Dax Morehead, 3rd grade representative; Kristofer Ellis, 4th grade representative; and Hannah Sanders, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Eva Koon, Kindergarten representative; Nathaniel Hord, 1st grade representative; and Leah Owens, 2nd grade representative.

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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 individual came forward:

- Robert Cooke of 103 Dover Drive- Mr. Cooke informed Council that he would like to make a complaint regarding a Police Officer. Mayor Smith informed Mr. Cooke that all personnel matters are to be handled directly by City Manager Inman. At this time, Mr. Cooke took the appropriate measures to schedule an appointment with City Manager Inman.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of January 14th, 2019 and Work Session Meeting Minutes January 29th, 2019.

City with a Heart Day Proclamation

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the City with a Heart Day Proclamation aloud and declared Thursday, February 14th, 2019 as City with a Heart Day. All present were encouraged to perform random acts of kindness on this day.

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

African-American History Month Proclamation

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the African-American History Month Proclamation aloud and declared February 2019 as African-American History Month. All present were encouraged to pay tribute to the noble struggle of African-Americans and attend programs that honor their significant contributions.

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

City Manager's Report

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

Marketing Property for Sale-127 W. Pennsylvania Avenue

City Manager Inman is requesting that Council approve a contract allowing a real estate agent to market the City's property located at 127 W. Pennsylvania Avenue. Said real estate agent has successfully marketed City property before. This contract serves as a listing agreement. Council approval and an upset bid process are required before the property can be sold.

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By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the contract regarding the marketing of property for sale at 127 W. Pennsylvania Avenue was approved.

Resolution- Home Trust Bank Loan

City Manager Inman is seeking approval of a resolution regarding a loan from Home Trust Bank. In a prior meeting, City Manager Inman informed Council that a new radio system would be needed for the Police Department in the upcoming year. Due to a change with the Gaston County Police dispatch system, the City will have to purchase around 50 radios. The new system will allow the fire and police departments to communicate more efficiently. This loan would also include the purchasing of 2 John Deere mowers, 1 John Deere UTV, and a Fire Brush truck with equipment.

Light discussion was held regarding the interest rate, years of payment, and supplemental documents needed for attorney review.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, financing through the Home Trust Banking for $328,500 was approved with the interest rate of 2.99% and 3 years of quarterly payments.

General

City Manager Inman thanked Mayor and Council for their calls and prayers for him and his family during their time of need.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith led the discussion by requesting that the Work Session be cancelled, as Council's retreat is scheduled two days after. By general consensus, the February 2019 Work Session was cancelled. Council member Dan Boling requested that someone check on two potholes on Maine Avenue. Mr. Inman assured Mr. Boling that said potholes would be addressed. Council member Sonny Boyd expressed concern regarding a broken street light at 8th and Alabama Avenue. City Manager Inman assured Mr. Boyd that these issues would be addressed. Council member Donnie Griffin commended City Manager Inman for addressing the standing water issue on 12th street and keeping the community clean.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 PM.

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

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