## REGULAR MEETING March 11th, 2019

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 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, Joe Will, Dan Boling, and Donnie Griffin were all present. 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. First Wesleyan Church Senior Pastor, Wes Brown led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the March Agenda**

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the March 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. Jessica Melon, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Wesley Brandon, 9th grade representative; Madison Ellis, 10th grade representative; Kiantai Degree, 11th grade representative, and Brianne Davis, 12th grade representative; Kaytelin Justice, 6th grade representative; Kaliyah Holmes, 7th grade representative; and Keyanna Diew 8th grade representative.

Mrs. Caroline Black, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Ryanasia Barnett, 3rd grade representative; Kelly De La Cruz, 4th grade representative; and Lacey Greene, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Ethan Gray, Kindergarten representative; Akayla Johnson, 1st grade representative; and Emily Cisneros, 2nd grade representative.

**Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. The following individual came forward:

- David Gray of Duke Energy Neighborhood Program- Mr. Gray addressed Council regarding an energy saving program in Bessemer City. Duke Energy will conducting free energy upgrades for homes on the North side of Bessemer City. The program will be held at the high school on March 15, 2019.

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**Consent Agenda**

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of February 11th, 2019 and Work Session Meeting Minutes February 26th, 2019.
- Street Closure-Sounds of Summer 2019 City administration is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West and East Virginia Avenue for the 2019 Sounds of Summer Series on the 4th Saturday of each month from April to September from the hours of 2:00PM-10:00PM.
- Street Closure-31st Annual Down Home Festival City administration is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West Virginia, East Virginia, and West Pennsylvania Avenue for the 31st Annual Down Home Day Festival on Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th, 2019.
- Street Closure- BC Primary Color Run The Bessemer City Primary Booster Club is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West Pennsylvania and other streets during their Color Run on Saturday, April 6, 2019.
- Retention Policy Update City administration is requesting permission to update the retention policy. As of March 1, 2019 the North Carolina Department of Cultural and Natural Resources state archives branch has released an updated retention policy.

**Resolution- Approving the Sell of Beer & Wine**

The local Backpack program would like to sell beer and wine at 2019 Down Home Festival and Community Concert & Cruise-Ins. All proceeds made will go directly to the backpack program.

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

**Demolition Ordinance-114 Costner School Rd.**

Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Taylor addressed Council regarding property at 114 Costner School Road. In October 2017, property owners were notified of minimum housing code violations. However, to date no permits have been obtained to begin repair work. Since then, it has come to the City's attention that a contract to purchase the property has been made. The new owner is aware of minimum housing code violations, and has offered to demolish the property.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the demolition ordinance regarding property at 114 Costner School road was adopted. A copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall.

**City Manager's Report**

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

Audit Contract

City Manager Inman is requesting that Council approve a new audit contract with the auditor, Eddie Carrick for the year end June 30th, 2019 budget.

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By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the contract regarding the year end June 30th, 2019 budget was approved.

Additional FY 2019-2020 Budget Work Session

City Manager Inman is seeking to add an additional budget work session of Tuesday, April 23rd at 3:00PM.

By general consensus, an additional budget work session will be held on Tuesday, April 23rd at 3:00PM in Council Chambers.

Additional BoardDocs Training

City Clerk Hayes addressed Council regarding an additional training session for the BoardDocs software. As the board has become familiar with the BoardDocs suite, City Clerk Hayes would like to provide additional training on the voting function of the software.

By general consensus, additional BoardDocs training may occur.

General

City Manager Inman informed Council that a grant to record much of the City's infrastructure had been received. The City received an environment grant match that will aid developers in the years to come.

**City Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member Dan Boling commended Police Chief Ellis and the Police Department. Mr. Boling expressed his gratitude regarding City trees, lighting, and patchwork that is being completed. Council member Kay McCathen expressed her concern regarding four wheelers in the area. City Manager Inman informed her that this was a City wide issue that the Police Department is looking into. Council member Donnie Griffin inquired about the Kiser Senior Center renovations. Mr. Inman informed him that progress is being made, and that announcements regarding the grand opening would be made at a later date.

**Closed Session**

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, Council went in Closed Session at 7:35 PM pursuit to N.C.G.S.§143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss a personnel matter.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, Council came out of Closed Session at 7:57 PM. No action was taken in closed session.

**Adjourn**

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

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

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