REGULAR MEETING April 8th, 2019

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 8th, 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 was present. City Attorney, David Smith, was absent.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Mt Pleasant Baptist Reverend, Sevilla Byers led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the April Agenda

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

Special Presentations

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) & North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality – Mayor and Council publicly announced two grants that the City recently received. The first grant received in the amount $750,000 was received from the North Carolina Department of Commerce Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). These grant funds will be used to rehabilitate owner occupied homes south of the Osage Mill. The second grant received in the amount of $300,000 was received from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These grant funds will be used to establish a comprehensive asset management program of City water and sewer lines.

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: Justice Cooper, 9th grade representative; Savanna McMurry, 10th grade representative; Catlyn Whisenant, 11th grade representative, and Ladameion Butler, 12th grade representative.

Ms. Toni Osbourne, Guidance Counselor of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Jessy Hernandez-Gonzalez, 6th grade representative; Alicia Medina Gonzalez, 7th grade representative; and Dalton Davis 8th grade representative.

Mrs. Caroline Black, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Kissiah Walker, 3rd grade representative; Breeanna Phillips, 4th grade representative; and Brittany Loaisiga Carrillo, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Brody Bane, Kindergarten representative; Serena Stroupe, 1st grade representative; and Samuel Ghantt, 2nd grade representative.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment
Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of March 11th, 2019 and Work Session Meeting Minutes March 26th, 2019.

Community Development Block Grant Administration
City Manager Inman informed Council that a request for proposals for CDBG administration had been disbursed via newspaper and email statewide. City Manager Inman requested that Council accept the proposal for grant administration services from Withers-Ravenel of Asheville, NC.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, Withers-Ravenel of Asheville, NC will be grant administrators for the Community Development Block Grant neighborhood revitalization program.

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

AMA Amendments
City Manager Inman is requesting that Council approve a text amendment for gas pipelines. Previously, Council approved a contract that allows the City to sell excess gas supply. The following amendment would allow City staff to sell the gas at this time.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the requested ama amendment regarding the selling of excess gas supply was approved.

Fire Truck Trade
During the 2019-2020 budget retreat Council was informed that the 2009 fire truck was out of date, as the company that produced the truck has went out of business. An offer to trade the fire truck for $90,000 has been made. City Manager Inman request that the offer be accepted.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the $90,000 fire truck trade was approved.

Property Sale – 127 W. Pennsylvania Avenue

Josh Ross, Economic Development Officer, addressed Council regarding the potential property sale of City owned building at 127 W. Pennsylvania Avenue. Council voted previously to approve the sale of the building. Since then, several parties have shown interest. One party has sent in an offer for $45,000. City Staff would like to counter the offer at $58,000, with Council permission. The listing price for the property was $60,000. The interested party who submitted an offer plans to have a business in the building.

Light discussion was held amongst Council and City Staff regarding the counter offer price.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Manager Inman has been given the authority to negotiate the price with the interested party. However, the City will not accept anything lower than $53,000 for the building.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. 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. Mayor Pro Tem, Joe Will, inquired about the Osage Mill redevelopment project. City Manager Inman informed him that the project is still progressing. Council members Alfred Carpenter and Donnie Griffin commended Mayor Smith on being a polished representative for the City.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

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