REGULAR MEETING May 13th, 2019

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 13th, 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 present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. First Wesleyan Assistant Pastor, Mark Tolan led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the May Agenda

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the May 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:

Mr. Tom Potter, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Austin Callejas, 9th grade representative; Alexzandria Stinnett, 10th grade representative; Ann Strickland, 11th grade representative, and Andrew Fain, 12th grade representative.

Mr. Tom Potter, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following Bessemer City Middle School students of the month: Janaiya Glen, 6th grade representative; Cameron Autry-Varner, 7th grade representative; and Brendan Long 8th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following Bessemer City Central students of the month: Brayden Falls, 3rd grade representative; Chase Sanders, 4th grade representative; and Bailee Howell, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Bentley Shuford, Kindergarten representative; Aydriannah Carroll, 1st grade representative; and Haylee Lynch, 2nd grade representative.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

DRAFT

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Kay McCathen:

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8th, 2019 and Work Session Meeting Minutes of April 23rd and April 30th, 2019.
- Temporary Street Closure Request (BCPD National Night Out)- City Staff is seeking Council approval on closing the 100 Block of West and East Virginia Avenue for the Bessemer City Police Department's 3rd National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6th, 2019 from the hours of 4:30PM-9:00PM.
- Temporary Street Closure Request (Additional Sounds of Summer)- City Staff is seeking Council approval on closing the 100 Block of West and East Virginia Avenue for the two additional Sounds of Summer Concert Series on Sunday, June 9th, 2019 and Saturday, September 7th, 2019 from the hours of 5PM-10PM.
- Temporary Street Closure Request (Juneteenth)- City Staff is seeking Council approval on closing the 100 Block of West Virginia Avenue for the Juneteenth festival on Friday, June 14th, 2019 from the hours of 2PM-10PM.
- Ratify National Day of Prayer- Council will consider ratifying a proclamation proclaiming Thursday, May 2nd, 2019 as the National Day of Prayer.

National Police Week Proclamation

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the National Police Week Proclamation aloud and declared Sunday, May 12th – Saturday, May 18th, 2019 as National Police Week in Bessemer City. On behalf of the City, Mayor and Council publicly salutes that service of law enforcement officers in our community.

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

Juneteenth Day 2019 Proclamation

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the Juneteenth Day Proclamation aloud and declared Wednesday, June 19th, 2019 as Juneteenth Day in Bessemer City. All present were encouraged to participate in celebrations and festivities that celebrate the African-American legacy and culture.

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

Establish Public Hearing: Recycling Ordinance

City staff requested that a public hearing regarding a proposed recycling ordinance be established for Council's next regular meeting.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding recycling will be held at 7:00PM in Council Chambers on Monday, June 10th, 2019.

DRAFT

Establish Public Hearing: 2019-2020 Proposed Budget Ordinance

City staff requested that a public hearing regarding the 2019-2020 proposed budget ordinance be established for Council's next regular meeting.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding the 2019-2020 proposed budget ordinance will be held at 7:00PM in Council Chambers on Monday, June 10th, 2019.

Establish Public Hearing: Amending Code of Ordinances on Grass and Debris within the Right of Way

City staff requested that a public hearing regarding a proposed grass debris amendment to the code of ordinances be established for Council's next regular meeting.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding a proposed grass debris amendment to the code of ordinances will be held at 7:00PM in Council Chambers on Monday, June 10th, 2019.

Demolition Ordinance-203 W. NC Highway 161

Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Taylor addressed Council regarding property at 203 W. NC Highway 161. In July 2018, property owners were notified of minimum code violations. Permits for repair work were obtained, however, the issues still remain. It has been 8 months since the order calling for repair work and inspection was sent. In an attempt to have property owner comply, certified mail notices were sent. However, all were returned to the City. Thus, City staff is requesting the approval of the demolition of property at 203 W. NC Highway 161.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the demolition ordinance regarding property at 203 W. NC Highway 161 was adopted. A copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall.

Resolution of Support- Gaston County Board of Health Rule Prohibiting Use of Tobacco Products

City Clerk, Hayes informed Council of a resolution of support created by members of the Tobacco Free Gaston (TFG) coalition. In an effort to show municipal support for the newly adopted Gaston County Board of Health rule prohibiting the use of tobacco on municipal and county grounds, TFG members created a resolution of support and has asked all Gaston County municipalities to adopt said resolution. Gaston County Commissioners are scheduled to vote on the Board of Health rule Tuesday, May 28th.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the Gaston County Board of Health rule prohibiting the use of tobacco resolution of support was adopted. A copy of the resolution is available at City Hall.

DRAFT

City Manager's Report

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

General

Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross will be hosting a job fair from 2:00PM-7:00PM on Thursday, May 30th. Over 17 industries will be in attendance. This is the City's first job fair and we are expecting a great turn out. Construction on the new Public Works building is underway. We have applied for USDA grants for the Stinger Park and Water Plant.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member Kay McCathen expressed her concern regarding the recent Duke Power outage. City Manager Inman informed her that the City was not informed of the scheduled maintenance and that over 1,500 in the City were without power for three brief hours. Council members Donnie Griffin commended City Manager Inman on his efforts to receive additional funding for the Stinger Park.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

_____ _____

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

DRAFT