REGULAR MEETING December 9th, 2019

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 9th, 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, Joe Will, 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. Mount Pleasant Pastor, Thurman Clark led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the December Agenda

By motion of Sonny Boyd and unanimous vote, the December agenda was approved with no revisions.

Special Presentations & Recognition

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: Janiyah Adams, 9th grade representative; Megan Sliney, 10th grade representative; Lily Shields, 11th grade representative, and Jack Stewart, 12th grade representative.

Mrs. Toni Osbourne, Counselor of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Ayden Ledford, 6th grade representative; Claudia Shere, 7th grade representative; and Madison Smith 8th grade representative.

Mrs. Caroline Black, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Lily Johnson, 3rd grade representative; Kaydence Ellis, 4th grade representative; and Alana Goode, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Rhiley Hamrick, Kindergarten representative; Gabrielle Darby, 1st grade representative; and Sawyer Garner, 2nd grade representative.

Approval of Minutes

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the Regular Meeting Minutes of November, 12th, 2019 and Work Session minutes of November 26, 2019 were approved.

Gaston County Official Canvass
By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the Gaston County canvass of the November 5th, 2019 election was adopted.

City Council General Discussion
Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. There was none.

Adjournment Sine Die of 2017-2019
By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the 2017 – 2019 Council session concluded.

Oath of Office
City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes administered the oath of office to Mayor, Becky S. Smith. Mayor, Becky S. Smith administered the oath of office to Council members Dan Boling (Ward 1), Joe Will (Ward 3) and Sonny Boyd (Ward 4). All present were invited to congratulate the officers on their new terms of office.

Call to Order
Mayor Smith called the meeting to order.

Approval of the December Agenda
By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the December agenda was approved with no revisions.

Mayor Pro Tem
By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, Dan Boling was appointed as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Appointments
The following appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Kay McCathen:

- Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) - Kay McCathen was appointed to serve as the CCOG representative from the City.

- ABC Board Liaison- Dan Boling was appointed to serve as the ABC Board Liaisons from the City.

- Steering Committee- Donnie Griffin was appointed to serve as the Steering Committee representative for the City.

- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)- Mayor, Becky S. Smith was appointed to serve as the MPO representative for the City.

- Downtown Development Liaison- Alfred Carpenter was appointed to serve as the Downtown Development representative for the City.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Joe Will:

- 2020 Annual Meeting and Holiday Schedule- The annual meeting schedule for Council Regular Meetings, Council Work Sessions, Planning Board/Board of Adjustments Meetings and holiday schedule for the City of Bessemer City.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Appointment

City Manager Inman addressed Council regarding the appointment of a Planning & Zoning Board Chairman to replace the member who resigned.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, Allen Hook was appointed as the Planning & Zoning Board Chairman until June 2020.

Resolution- Setting a Public Hearing on the Question of Closing & Withdrawing a Section of Public Street Right-Of-Way Named East Maine Avenue

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding the public hearing for the closing and withdrawing of a public right of way was adopted. The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, January 13th, 2020 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Resolution- To Proceed with Interim Financing

City Manager Inman informed Council that a resolution authorizing the City to begin the search for interim financing was needed per General Statute. Once this resolution is adopted, City staff will be permitted to advertise for proposals for the construction of the Stinger Park project.

Capital Project Ordinance-Water Treatment Plant & Stinger Park Water & Sewer Improvements

City Manager Inman informed Council that a formal capital project ordinance was needed to begin upgrades to the Water Plant and water system.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous, the Capital Project Ordinance for the Water Plant, Stinger Park, and Water & Sewer system improvements were approved. A copy of the ordinance is available at City Hall.

Ordinance- Close & Vacate- 709 Costner School Rd

Dave Taylor, Code Enforcement Officer addressed regarding property at 709 Costner School Road. In April 2018 property owners were notified of minimum housing code violations. Since then only minor repairs were made. Mr. Taylor requested that Council close and vacate the property until significant repairs are made.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the ordinance to close and vacate property at 709 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 progress of the Public Works building.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about the Osage Mill redevelopment project and charging stations. City Manager Inman informed Mr. Griffin that both projects are ongoing.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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