REGULAR MEETING **January 13th, 2020**

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 13th, 2020 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present

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

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. First Baptist Pastor, Olin Byrum III led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the January Agenda

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

Special Presentations & Recognition

Oath of Office-Fire Chief- Mayor Smith administered the Oath of Office to new Fire Department Chief, Charlie Harbin. All present were invited to congratulate the new Fire Chief.

Recognition-Retiring Fire Chief- Mayor Smith and City Manager Inman recognized retiring Fire Chief, Jamie Ramsey for his many years of dedication and service to the citizens of Bessemer City.

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: Guadalupe Salgado-Anastacio, 9th grade representative; Aleigha Lineberger, 10th grade representative; Micah Norman, 11th grade representative, and Corista Lipscomb, 12th grade representative.

Dr. Jessica Melon, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Micah Glaze, 6th grade representative; Tionna Pettus, 7th grade representative; and Moriah Wallace 8th grade representative.

Mr. Patrick Watson, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Trinity Clinton, 3rd grade representative; Angel Reyes, 4th grade representative; and Kimberly Alvarado Cordova, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Zachary Conner, Kindergarten representative; Ethan Gray, 1st

grade representative; and Manuel Lopez, 2nd grade representative.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of December 9th, 2019 and Work Session Meeting Minutes of December 19th, 2019.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

African-American Museum Presentation

Auriella Smith-Falls, African-American Museum Board Member addressed Council regarding the exhibit. Mrs. Smith-Falls informed Council of the efforts around the museum and the possibility of the City sponsoring the exhibit in the future.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation aloud and declared Monday, January 20th, 2020 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

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

Public Hearing- Maine Avenue Right-Of-Way Closure

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the public hearing was opened at 7:43 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the annexation. The following came forward:

-Eric Griffin of 202 E. Maine Avenue: Mr. Griffin addressed Council regarding landscaping issues regarding the open right-of-way. Mr. Griffin stated that closing the right-of-way would help with current landscaping issues.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition of the annexation. There was none.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the public hearing was closed at 7:45 PM.

Ordinance- Maine Avenue Right-Of-Way Closure

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the ordinance regarding the right-of-way located between Maine Avenue and N. 11th street was closed.

Resolution To Develop & Implement A Compliant Stormwater Management Program

City Manager Inman explained to Council that a resolution formally adopting an education program regarding a stormwater management was needed. We are currently at Stormwater Level 2.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the resolution adopting a compliant stormwater management program was approved. A copy of this resolution is available for citizen inspection at City Hall.

Resolution Declaring Property Surplus and Authorizing the Disposition of Said Property

City Manager Inman informed Council that a property that was previously listed as surplus in February 2018, was still available for purchase. This property is located at 408 S. 10th Street. An offer to purchase the property was made on January 10, 2020. City Manager Inman further explained that if and when the offer is accepted by the board, an upset bid process would have to occur.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the offer to purchase City property located 408 S. 10th Street was approved. The upset bid process will convene, according to the guidelines of NCGS 160A-269.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Services Bid

City Staff addressed Council regarding the CDBG services bid. In accordance to the NC Department of Commerce, the City advertised for a certified individual to do the repairs to local homes. One bid was received from Mark Bolick at $85,000. His salary and fees will be paid from the NC Department of Commerce CDBG Neighborhood Revitalization funds.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the services bid was awarded to Mark Bolick at $85,000.

Approval to Purchase Property

City Staff addressed Council regarding the potential purchase of property by Skyland and Logan Street. The purchase of 12.98 acres of land was currently for sale by the Water Plant. In an effort to preserve the integrity of the water plant in the future, City Staff recommend that the land be purchased for $42, 280.00.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the purchase of 12.98 acres of property by Skyland and Logan Street was approved.

Budget Amendments

City Manager, James Inman presented Council with budget amendments regarding the sale of a Fire Truck, flag pole, land purchase, and Police Department body cameras grant.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the January 2020 budget amendments were approved.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the progress of the Public Works building. He commended the Fire Department for their donation to the Bessemer City High School to pay outstanding lunch accounts for several local students. Additionally, Mr. Inman commended retired Fire Department Chief, Jamie Ramsey for being such a humble individual.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Kay McCathen acquired about how citizens could get involved with a City appointed boards. Mr. Inman informed Ms. McCathen to tell all interested citizens to contact City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes.

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