WORK SESSION MEETING

January 28th, 2020

The Bessemer City Council met in work session on Tuesday, January 28th, 2020 at 3:00PM in Council Chambers. Proper notice was given.

Call to Order

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order.

Members Present

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

Department Head Reports

Bessemer City department heads gave reports on their department's status:

Josh Ross, Economic Development Officer- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding a recent offer to purchase property, a census job fair, and an increase in development in the City. An upset bid offer was recently ran in the Gaston Gazette regarding City property for sale at 127 West Pennsylvania Avenue. An upset bid was received, thus prompting City staff to re-advertise the bid offer of $57,000. A 2020 Census job fair will be held Thursday, January 30th, from 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM. All are asked to help spread the word. The Census Bureau is looking to employ around 2,000 people at $17.00 an hour. Mr. Ross has seen an increase in local development interest.

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding several upcoming City events. City staff have received over 70 applications for the Senior Event Coordinator position. Initial interviews are set to begin this week. On Friday, February 17th everyone is asked to attend Ms. Adora's retirement reception. She has been with the City for 32 years and we will take time to recognize her. The annual Father & Daughter dance will be this Saturday, February 1st, 2020 at the Community Center. Tickets are for purchase at the Kiser Senior Center and Community Center. On Saturday, March 14th the first Bessemer City Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will take place at the First Baptist Church. Tickets are on sale for $30, all are encouraged to attend and help spread the word. The Stinger Park bid opening will be held on Thursday, January 30th at 2:00 PM in City Hall.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Officer- Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding new utility billing software issues. The Finance Department is currently working hard to address the gas billing amp issues. In addition, the City has contacted a specialist to aid in a critter problem in the attic of City Hall. A small critter gained entry and caused severe damage in the attic.

Jamie Ramsey, Assistant City Manager- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding the new Public Works Facility, Water Plant Upgrades, and a new water pump. The Public Works facility is coming along great. All of the buildings have arrived, and we are waiting on a certificate of occupancy. The Water Plant upgrades are still underway. Once we began with upgrades a new water pump will need to be installed. Thus, the City would need to purchase 2 acres of private property near the Arrowwood Reservoir. The owner of the property would like $5,000 per acre.

By general consensus, Council approved City Manager, James Inman and Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey to purchase additional property for the new Arrowwood Reservoir.

Charlie Harbin, Fire Chief- Chief Harbin addressed Council regarding the new fire truck.

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the membership dues for the Bessemer City Area Chamber of Commerce. Light discussion amongst Mr. Inman and Council ensued.

By general consensus, Council approved City Manager, James Inman to pay Bessemer City Area of Chamber of Commerce dues for the 2019-2020 billing cycle.

Stinger Park Installment Contract-Public Hearing

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the Stinger Park Installment Contract opened at 3:55 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor or the installment contract. The following individual came forth:

- Donnie Griffin, Council Member, Citizen of Ward 6 Mr. Griffin spoke in favor of this financing contract. Mr. Griffin stated that this project is important and it would attract new people to our City through our Parks & Recreation Department.

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

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding Stinger Park Installment Contract closed at 3:58 PM.

Resolution Approving Stinger Park Installment Contract

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the proposed resolution for installment financing contract. Council recently approved a resolution permitting City Manager Inman to solicit bank proposals for the construction of Stinger Park. Several proposals were received one from Home Trust, Truist, and PNC. Home Trust proposed an interest rate of 1.86% at one and a half years with a total cost interest and underwriting of $165, 140.10. Truist proposed an interest rate of 2.33% at one and a half years with a total cost interest and underwriting of $212,768.00. PNC proposed an interest rate of 1.76% at one and a half years with a total cost of interest and underwriting of $163,261.60. City Manager Inman recommended that Council award the installment financing contract to PNC. If approved, City Manager Inman would appear before the Local Government Commission (LGC) regarding said contract.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the PNC installment financing contact was approved.

Accept Offer to Purchase Property

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the offer to purchase property at 408 S. 10th Street. Council recently declared City property located at 408 S. 10th Street as surplus. An offer to purchase the property was received from Andy Lutz and ran in the Gaston Gazette according to N.C.G.S. 160A-269 for 10 days. No upset bid was received during that time. Therefore, City staff is seeking Council approval of the $4,500 offer to purchase City property at 408 S. 10th Street.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the offer to purchase City property at 408 S. 10th Street for $4,500 was approved.

FY 2020-2021 Planning Retreat

City Staff addressed Council regarding the 2020-2021 planning retreat logistics. Light discussion ensued between Council and City staff.

By general consensus, the 2020-2021 planning retreat will be Thursday, February 27th and Friday, February 28th at Dole Fresh Vegetables in Southridge Business Park.

Planning & Zoning Board –Member Resignation

City Staff informed Council that the representative, Jeff Hunt, from Ward 6 has recently resigned from the Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments. City Staff asked Council to consider a potential replacement in the days to come.

Council General Discussion

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

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 PM by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote.

_____ _____

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