REGULAR MEETING March 9th, 2020

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 9th, 2020 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Alfred Carpenter, Sonny Boyd, Dan Boling, Joe Will, and Donnie Griffin were all present. City Manager, James Inman and City Attorney, David Smith were present. Council member Kay McCathen was not present, due to an illness.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. First Wesleyan Senior Pastor, Matt Mitchell led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the March Agenda

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

Special Presentations & Recognition

Student Appreciation- Students from Bessemer City High 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. Tom Potter, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Raniyah Adams, 9th grade representative; Nicholas Grant, 10th grade representative; Azeneth Garcia Anastacio, 11th grade representative, and Colby Lineberger, 12th grade representative.

Mr. Trevor Boone, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Laylah Gainey, 6th grade representative; Alexis Odell, 7th grade representative; and Christopher Bynum 8th grade representative.

Mr. Patrick, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Addyson Morehead, 3rd grade representative; Johnathan Guiterrez, 4th grade representative; and Lucas Campos, 5th grade representative.

Dr. Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Availea Morrison, Kindergarten representative; Eva Koon, 1st grade representative; and Zenobia Smith, 2nd grade representative.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Community Health Assessment Data Presentation

Abigail Newton, of the Gaston County Health Department, spoke regarding the 2019 Community Health Assessment data from Bessemer City. Survey results showed that many citizens enjoy living in Bessemer City and the small town feel. Areas of improvement that were mentioned were economic development, substance abuse, mental health, and education.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Dan Boling:

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of February 10th, 2020 and Special Session Meeting Minutes of February 27th & 28th 2020.
- Street Closure-Sounds of Summer 2020 City administration is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West and East Virginia Avenue for the 2020 Sounds of Summer Series on the 4th Saturday of each month from April to September from the hours of 2:00PM-10:00PM.
- Street Closure-32nd Annual Down Home Day Festival Ordinance City administration is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West Virginia, East Virginia, and West Pennsylvania Avenue for the 32nd Annual Down Home Day Festival on Friday, May 8th and Saturday, May 9th, 2020.

Resolution- Approving the Sale of Beer & Wine

The local Backpack program would like to sell beer and wine at 2020 Down Home Festival and Community Concert & Cruise-Ins. All proceeds made will go directly to the backpack program.

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

Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments Appointment

Jeff Hunt, Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments member has moved out of the City and resigned. City Staff have received an application, and recommend Mr. Bob Noblett.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, Bob Noblett was appointed to serve on the Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments until June 2020.

Land Use Plan Update

The acceptance of the 2020 vision poster and land use plan is the first step in the process of developing a new UDO. There will be a session for the UDO as a drop in session at the Kiser Senior Center.

Budget Amendments

City Manager, James Inman presented Council with budget amendments regarding the purchase of additional storage to construct a storage area for salt, rock, and dirt..

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the March 2020 budget amendments were approved.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the draft budget, public works building, and Stinger Park funding.

Mr. Inman also asked Council to add an additional planning session in April 2020. By general consensus, there will be an additional planning session on Thursday, April 16th.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith led the discussion by reading a letter from the Lowell Mayor, thanking City Manager Inman for his assistance. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about property on Virginia Avenue and a Green light on N. 12th street.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

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