REGULAR MEETING June 8th, 2020

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 8th, 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.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the June Agenda

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

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of May 11th, 2020 and Work Session Meeting Minutes of May 26th 2020.

Proclamation- Juneteenth Sunday

Mayor Smith read aloud the proclamation declaring Sunday, June 14th Juneteenth Sunday in Bessemer City. This proclamation is a part of a week-long Juneteenth celebration with the Elements of Empowerment, Gastonia, and the City of Belmont.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the proclamation was adopted.

ABC Board Appointments

City Manager, James Inman made the following recommendations to City Council:
-Dr. Robert Crouch, 2020-2021 Chair
-Michael Meeks (3 years) Board Member

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, Dr. Robert Crouch and Michael Meeks were appointed to serve on the ACB Board until June 2021 and June 2023 respectively.

Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments Appointments

City Planner, Karen Floyd made the following recommendations to City Council:
-Allen Hook, 2020-2021 Chair
-Charlene Hill, 2020-2021 Vice Chair
-Wendy Burgess (3 years) Board Member

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, Allen Hook, Charlene Hill, and Wendy Burgess were appointed to serve on the Planning & ZBA Board until June 2021 and June 2023 respectively.

Downtown Development Appointments

City Manager, James Inman made the following recommendations to City Council:
-Donna Schroeder (3 years) Board Member

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, Donna Schroeder was appointed to serve on the Downtown Development Board until June 2023.

Public Hearing- 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

As required by NCGS 159-12, the City is required to hold a public hearing prior to adopting the fiscal budget. By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the public hearing was opened at 7:12PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the 2020-2021 proposed budget. There was none.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone to speak in opposition of the 2020-2021 proposed budget. There was none.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing to consider the 2020-2021 proposed budget was closed at 7:13PM.

Ordinance- 2020-2021 Proposed Budget

Light discussion between Council ensued regarding the proposed 2020-2021 budget.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the 2020-2021 proposed budget was adopted. A copy of this ordinance has been attached for citizen review.

Budget Amendments

City Manager, James Inman presented Council with budget amendments regarding the Fire Department.

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

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the support of a Powell Bill funding, Parks & Recreation, and the recycling program.

City Manager Inman informed Council that this resolution ask legislators to look at the NCDOT funding. There is a need to appropriate the Powell funding directly to the cities to maintain the roadways. By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the resolution in support of Powell Bill and NCDOT maintenance funding. A copy of the resolution is available upon public inspection.

The City Managers in Gaston County met to discuss the opening of City Parks & Recreation facilities like tennis courts, nets, and basketball courts. The picnic shelter and playgrounds are still closed.

It will take a month to get all of the recycling carts collected, as the Board cancelled the program at this time.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Light discussion between Council and City Manager Inman ensued regarding the collection of the recycling carts, Osage Mill, and Code Enforcement issues.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

_____ _____

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



2020-2021 Budget Ordinance

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Bessemer City, North Carolina:

Section 1. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2020 and ending June 30, 2021:

Ad Valorem Taxes	$	1,800,000
Ad Valorem Taxes State Board Assessed		40,000
Prior Year Taxes		15,000
Motor Vehicle License		175,000
Gross Rental Vehicle Tax		500
Penalties & Interest		5,000
Gaston County Local Sales Tax		20,000
North Carolina Local Sales Tax		500,000
Solid Waste Disposal Tax		3,500
Beer & Wine Tax		22,000
Franchise Tax		440,000
PD Fees for Services		500
Confiscated Drug Money		500
Fire Department Grants		13,694
PD – Grants		70,000
Landfill Fees		320,000
Grave Opening/Closing		20,000
Cemetery Lot Sales		1,000
Zoning Permits & Fees		3,500
Grant - Kiser Center		5,000
Code Enforcement Billing		500
Recreation Department Fees		7,000
Down Home Festival		50,000
Senior Events		4,000
Pool Fees		50,000
Investment Earnings		30,000
Rent- Land		1,100
Sale of General Fund Property		5,000
ABC Revenue		10,000

Miscellaneous Revenues		5,000
Insurance Proceeds		2,500
Administrative Charges - Enterprise Funds		925,000
Fund Balance Appropriated		61,009
Costner Building Grant		50,000
	$	**4,656,303**

Section 2. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in accordance with the established chart of accounts:

Governing Body & Legal	$	53,455
Administration & Finance		915,183
Police Department		1,451,973
Fire Department		149,346
Garage Operations		107,801
Public Works Department		299,900
Sanitation Department		271,700
Planning & Zoning		110,016
Economic Development		229,355
Debt Service		364,121
Recreation Department		535,375
Parks & Gym		28,000
Pool		97,578
Cemetery		42,500
Fund Balance		0
	$	**4,656,303**

Section 3. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the Water & Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

Water Sales	$	2,350,000
Sewer Sales		2,400,000
Tap Fees		7,000
Reconnect Fees		17,000
Penalties		35,000
Investment Earnings		500
Miscellaneous		45,000
Administrative Fee		15,000
Fund Balance		0
	$	**4,869,500**

Section 4. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water & Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in accordance with the established chart of accounts:

Debt Service	$	418,327
Administration		625,000
Water/Wastewater Treatment		2,260,523
Public Works		1,054,650
New Line Construction		511,000
	$	**4,869,500**

Section 5. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the Natural Gas Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

Sales of Gas	$	1,345,000
Cut-ons & Reconnects & Extension		2,500
Penalties		50,000
Miscellaneous		500
Fund Balance		19,629
	$	**1,417,629**

Section 6. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Natural Gas Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in accordance with the established chart of accounts:

Debt Service	$	183,120
Administration		300,000
Gas Operations		934,509
	$	**1,417,629**

Section 7. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the Storm Water Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

Storm Water Charges	$	98,000
	$	**98,000**

Section 8. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Storm Water Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in accordance with the established chart of accounts:

Debt Service	$	35,441
Operations		62,559
	$	**98,000**

Section 9. The following revenues are expected to be available in the Powell Bill Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021:

State Powell Bill Allocation	$	195,315
	$	**195,315**

Section 10. The following amount is hereby appropriated in the Powell Bill Fund for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in accordance with the established chart of accounts:

Debt Service	$	100,815
Street Operations		94,500
	$	**195,315**

Section 11. There is hereby levied a tax rate of forty-five ($.45) per one hundred dollars ($100) valuation of property taxes as of January 1, 2020 for the purpose of raising the revenue listed 'Ad Valorem Taxes' in the General Fund. This rate is on a total valuation of property for the purposes of taxation of $399,640,000 and an estimated rate of collection of 97%. The estimated rate of collection is based off of the fiscal 2019-2020 collection rate of 97%. The motor vehicle tag fee per G.S. 20.97 is set at $20 per vehicle.

Section 12. A fee of $11.00 per month per roll-out cart (residential, commercial or industrial) within the City when the City provides garbage/trash collection service shall be charged and collected as an addition to the utility bill for the purpose of Landfill and Disposal fees.

Section 13. A fee of $11.00 per month per roll-out can (commercial only) within the City when the City provides garbage/trash collection services shall be charged and collected for twice-weekly collection as an addition to the utility bill for the purpose of Landfill and disposal fees.

Section 14. A fee of $11.00 per month per residential/apartment unit within the City shall be charged and collected as an additional fee for bulk item, brush, and debris pickup if a solid waste fee is not charged.

Section 15. A fee for Storm Water Management shall be charged and collected as an addition to the utility bill as follows: Residential - $3.07 / month , Commercial - $6.00 / month, Industrial - $12.00 / month.

Section 16. Water and Sewer rates shall be charged as follows for meter readings on or after July 1, 2020:

Water:
$11.30 minimum per month for 2,000 gallons (treated water)
$6.95 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons (treated water)
$.95 per 1,000 gallons (raw water)
The rates for customers outside of the City limits are double the above amount

Deposits	$100/150/300
Reconnect	$35
Broken Lock	$300
Meter Tampering	$500
Administrative Fee	$40
Illegal Turn On	$150

Meter Reset	$150

Tap Fee Schedule*

¾ Inch Line:	$1,500
1 Inch Line:	$1,550
1 ½ Inch Line:	$1,600
2 Inch Line:	$1,650

**plus cost of meter*

Sewer: $15.35 minimum per month for 2,000 gallons
$11.75 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons
$6.65 per 1,000 gallons over 1,000,000 gallons
The rates for customers outside of the City limits are double the above amount

Tap Fee Schedule

4 Inch:	$1,850
6 Inch:	$1,950

The availability charge for customers not connected to water or sewer shall be a minimum charge for that service.

Availability Fee:

Inside customers connected to water but not sewer:	$15.35
Inside customers connected to sewer but not water:	$11.30
Inside customers not connected to water or sewer:	$26.65

Meters:

Meter Check: One free per year.
Defective meters replaced free of charge.
Non-defective meters will results in a charge of $25 plus the cost of testing.

Section 17: Natural Gas and other Fees shall be charged as follows after July 1, 2020

Natural Gas:

Residential (All Usage)	Operation Expense + $9.40 per MCF
Business Level 1 (1-24,000 MCF)	Cost at Gate + $5.00 per MCF
Business Level 2 (24,001-30,000 MCF)	Cost at Gate + $3.00 per MCF
Business Level 3 (30,001 MCF or More)	Cost at Gate + 1.50 per MCF

All rates above are based off of monthly usage.

Deposits:	$150/225/300
Reconnect:	$40
Seasonal Cutoff:	$100
Cut-off List Administrative Fee:	$15
After Hours Reconnect Fee:	$125

Administrative Fee:	$40

Minimum Availability Fees:

Residential:	$8.70
Small Commercial:	$9.10
Industrial- Firm:	$200
Industrial- Interruptible:	$400

Section 18: Planning / Zoning and other Fees shall be charged as follows after July 1, 2020

Board of Adjustments:

Variance Request	$150
Conditional Use Permit	$150
Appeal	$150
Special Exception	$150

Planning Board:

Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning)	$300
Text Amendment	$300

Zoning Fees:

New Single Family	$100
Additions	$50
New Multi-Family	$150+$5/Unit
Non-Residential: Up to 5,000 Sq. Ft	$100
Non-Residential: 5,001-10,000 Sq. Ft.	$200
Non-Residential: 10,001 Sq. Ft. Plus	$200 + $1/1,000 Sq. Ft.
Subdivision Plat- Minor	$50
Subdivision Plat- Major	$100+$5/Lot
Recombination Plat	$50
Sign Permit	$50
Accessory (No Building Permit)	$25
Accessory (Building Permit)	$50

Other Fees:

Zoning Certificate of Compliance	$50
Home Occupation	$50
Temporary Use	$25
Demolition	$25
Telecommunication Tower	$300
Co-Location	$250

Section 19: Other General Fees shall be charged as follows after July 1, 2020

General Other Fees:

Cemetery Lot	$600
Grave Opening	$425-700 (per Cemetery Ordinance)
Grave Marking	$100
Return Check Fee	$35
Administrative Fee for Utility Cut-Offs	$15
B & W Copies Up to 8 ½ X 14	$.45/Page
Color Copies Up to 8 ½ X 14	$.50/Page

Section 20: All other fees for service, surcharges, etc. previously established by Council shall remain the same unless adjusted at some future date. All billing not paid on the due date is subject to a 10% late penalty.

Section 21: The Budget Officer is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund as contained herein as follows:

a. The Budget Officer may transfer amounts between object of expenditure within a department as defined by Ordinance without limitations.
b. The Budget Officer may transfer amounts up to $7,500 between departments as designed by Ordinance of the same fund with report on such transfers at the next regular Council meeting.

Section 22: Copies of the Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to all Department Heads for guidance in the disbursement of funds. A copy shall always be available for public inspections in the City Clerk's office.

Adopted this the 8th day of June, 2020.

_____
Becky S. Smith, Mayor

_____
Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk

City of Bessemer City
Fee Schedule

SERVICE	2019-2020	2020-2021
WATER		
Treated Water- Inside City	$10.75 min. per month for 2,000 gal.	$11.30 min. per month for 2,000 gal.
	$6.60 per 1,000 gal. over 2,000	$6.95 per 1,000 gal. over 2,000
Treated Water- Outside City	Double Rates Above	Double Rates Above
Raw Water	$0.90 per 1,000 gal.	$0.95 per 1,000 gal.
Water Deposit	$100/$150/$300	$100/$150/$300
Reconnect Fee	$35	$35
Broken Lock Fee	$300	$300
Meter Tampering	$500	$500
Administrative Fee	$40	$40
Illegal Turn-on Fee	$150	$150
Meter Reset	$150	$150
Water Tap Fees*		
¾ Inch Line	$1,500	$1,500
1 Inch Line	$1,550	$1,550
1 ½ Inch Line	$1,600	$1,600
2 Inch Line	$1,650	$1,650
**plus cost of meter*		
SEWER		
Sewer- Inside City	$14.60 per month for 2,000 gal. of water metered	$15.35 min. per month for 2,000 gal. of water metered
	$11.20 per 1,000 gal. over 2,000 gal. of water metered	$11.75 per 1,000 gal. over 2,000 gal. of water metered
	$6.30 per 1,000 gal. over 1 million	$6.95 per 1,000 gal. over 1 million
Sewer- Outside City	Double Rates Above	Double Rates Above
Sewer Tap Fees		
4 Inch	$1,850	$1,850
6 Inch	$1,950	$1,950
SEWER USER SURCHARGES		
High Strength BOD	$.02400 per lb. (for high strength >250 mg/L)	
High Strength TSS	$0.0450 per lb. (for high strength >250 mg/L)	
High Strength O & G	$0.10 per lb. (for high strength >100 mg/L)	
High Strength TKN	$0.4830 per lb. (for high strength >25 mg/L)	
High Strength TP	$0.8470 per lb. (for high strength > 8 mg/L)	
Permit Fees		

Initial Issuance	SIU Fee- $1,000 Local Permit Fee- $500	
Annual Maintenance	SIU Fee- $250 Local Permit Fee- $100	
Reopening Fee	SIU Fee- $500 Local Permit Fee- $250	
Monitoring Fees (per event)		
Composite Sample Event	$300	
Acute Toxicity Screening	$600	
Chronic Toxicity Screening	$1,200	
TTO with Pesticide Analysis	$550	
TTO without Pesticide Analysis	$500	
AVAILABILITY FEES		
Water and Sewer Availability Fees	Inside Customers Connected to Water but not to Sewer- $14.60	Inside Customers Connected to Water but not to Sewer- $15.33
	Inside Customers Connected to Sewer but not to Water- $10.75	Inside Customers Connected to Sewer but not to Water- $11.30
	Inside Customers not Connected to Water or Sewer Service: $25.35 ($10.75 Water + $14.60 Sewer)	Inside Customers not Connected to Water or Sewer Service: $26.63 ($11.30 Water + $15.33 Sewer)
METER CHECKS		
	One Free Check Per Year	One Free Check Per Year
	Defective Meter replaced free of charge	Defective Meter replaced free of charge
	Non-Defective Meter will result in a charge of $25 + cost of testing	Non-Defective Meter will result in a charge of $25 + cost of testing
STORM WATER		
Residential	$3.07/Month	$3.07/Month
Commercial	$6.00/Month	$6.00/Month
Industrial	$12.00/Month	$12.00/Month
SOLID WASTE		
Waste Collection (Weekly)	Residential and Commercial: $11.00/month per container	Residential and Commercial: $11.00/month per container
Waste Collection (Twice-Weekly)	Commercial Only: $10.00/month per container	Commercial Only: $10.00/month per container
Solid Waste Fee (Bulk, Bush, and Debris)*	$10.00 per residential/apartment unit	$10.00 per residential/apartment unit
**This fee is only applied to units that are not charged a solid waste collection fee.*		
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
Board of Adjustment		
Variance Request	$150	$150
Appeals	$150	$150
Conditional Use Permit	$150	$150

Special Exception	$150	$150
Planning Board		
Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning)	$300	$300
Zoning Text Change	$300	$300
Other Fees		
Zoning Verification	$25	$25
New Single Family	$100	$100
New Multi Family	$150 + $5 per unit	$150 + $5 per unit
Additions	$20-$50	$20-$50
Accessory	$40	$40
Non- Residential up to 5,000 Square Feet	$100	$100
Non-Residential 5,001-10,000 Square Feet	$200 + $1 per 1,000 Sq. Ft.	$200 + $1 per 1,000 Sq. Ft.
Non-Residential Greater Than 10,0001 Square Feet	$300 + $1 per 1,000 Sq. Ft.	$300 + $1 per 1,000 Sq. Ft.
Minor Subdivision Plat	$50	$50
Major Sub Division Plat	$50	$50
Recombination Plate	$50	$50
Zoning Permits		
Sign Permit	$50	$50
Accessory Building Verification (No Building Permit Required)	$25	$25
Accessory Building Verification (Building Permit Required)	$50	$50
Zoning Certificate of Compliance	$50	$50
Demolition Permit	$25	$25
Home Occupation Permit	$50	$50
Temporary Use Permit	$25	$25
Telecommunication Tower Permit	$300	$300
Telecommunication Tower Permit (Co-Location)	$100	$100
CITY COUNCIL		
Code Enforcement Appeal	$150	$150
NATURAL GAS		
Gas Per MCF		
Residential (All Usage)/Month		Operating Expense + $9.40 per MCF
Business Level 1 (1-24,000 MCF)/Month		Cost at Gate + $5.00 per MCF
Business Level 2 (24,001-30,000 MCF)/Month		Cost at Gate + $3.00 per MCF
Business Level 3 (30,001 MCF or More) /Month		Cost at Gate + $1.50 per MCF

All Rates above are based off of monthly usage.		
Other Gas Fees		
Gas Taps	See Gas Tap and Rebate Policy	See Gas Tap and Rebate Policy
Gas Deposits	$150/$225/$300	$150/$225/$300
Gas Minimum Availability Fees	$15	$15
Cut-Off List Admin. Fee	$40	$40
Reconnect Fee	$125	$125
After Hours Cutoff	$100	$100
Administrative Fee	$40	$40
OTHER FEES		
Return Check Fee	$40	$35
Copies		
B & W up to 8 ½ X 14	$0.10/page	$0.45/page
Color up to 8 ½ X 14	$0.15/page	$0.50/page
City Truck Rental*	$50	$50
** Additional Fees may apply if waste exceeds 1 ton.*		
CEMETERY		
Cemetery Lot	$600	$600
Grave Marking Fee	$100	$100
Grave Opening	$425-$700	$425-$700