WORK SESSION MEETING

August 25th, 2020

The Bessemer City Council met in work session on Tuesday, August 25th, 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: Donnie Griffin, Kay McCathen, Brenda Boyd, Dan Boling, Joe Will and Alfred Carpenter were all present. Also present were City Manager, James Inman and Department Heads.

USDA Financing Presentation-Stinger Park
Nick Lattanzi, USDA Representative addressed Council regarding the USDA letter of conditions for the Sitnger Park project. The conditions of the financing were outlined, and there is currently an obligation of 40 years.

By motion of Dan Boling, second by Joe Will and unanimous vote, the terms of the letter of conditions regarding Stinger Park were adopted.

Resolution- Approving Financing Terms
City Manager, James Inman and Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey addressed Council regarding a resolution approving financing terms for a City leaf collector. Due to COVID-19, the City has seen a reduction in contracted help in the Public Works department. Thus, a leaf collector truck that only requires one employee to operate it is greatly needed. Light discussion amongst Council and City Staff ensued.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding financing terms with BB& T with a 1.69% interest rate in a 5-year period was approved.

Resolution- Approving Financing Terms
City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding a resolution approving financing terms for a Storage building.

By general consensus, this item was moved to the regular September 2020 meeting.

Right-of-Way Encroachment Discussion
City Planner, Karen Floyd and Economic Development Officer, Josh Ross addressed Council regarding an encroachment issue. A developer recently approached City staff about building 3 homes on West Lee Avenue. However, existing property owners located next to the developers lot have encroached on City right-of-way.

Light discussion amongst City Council and City Staff ensued. By general discussion, this item will be added to the next September 2020 City Council agenda.

UDO & Land Use Plan Update-Tom Low

Consultant, Tom Low and City Planner, Karen Floyd addressed Council with an update to the UDO & Land Use Plan revisions. A draft form based code was presented and discussed with Council. City Council tasked City Staff with engaging the community, and receiving feedback from the public during this update.

Department Head Reports

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

Josh Ross, Economic Development Officer- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding new developments around town. The hotel property by Edgewood Road is in the process of being sold.

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding the City Swimming Pool. The Pool has transitioned to only being open on the weekends, and will close after Labor Day weekend.

Karen Floyd, City Planner- Mrs. Floyd addressed Council regarding permits, the draft UDO, and permit fees. The County doubles fees for those working without a permit from the City.

Tom Ellis, Chief of Police- Mr. Ellis addressed Council regarding ongoing investigations and new City Personnel. The Police Department has a new SRO, investigator, and one full time employee will be moving to part time.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director- Ms. Diane addressed Council regarding the upcoming audit, two expired Executive Orders, and new Personnel. Auditors will be present in two weeks to begin the Budget audit. Executive Orders suspending utility payments from citizens by N.C. Governor Roy Cooper have expired. As of July 29th, customers must begin to pay their past and current bills. The City recently advertised for an opening in the Finance Department. Candidates will begin interviewing in the weeks to come.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Inman addressed Council regarding general business in the City.

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 4:25 PM by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote.

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