REGULAR MEETING December 14, 2020

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, December 14, 2020 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers of City Hall.

Members Present

Council Members: Alfred Carpenter, Kay McCathen, Brenda Boyd, Dan Boling, Joe Will, and Donnie Griffin were all present. City Manager, James Inman was also present. Mayor Becky Smith, City Attorney David Smith, were present by Zoom.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. City Manager, James Inman led the audience in prayer. Mayor ProTem, Dan Boling led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the December Agenda

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the December agenda was approved.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of November 9th, 2020.
- 2021 Annual Meeting and Holiday Schedule- The annual meeting schedule for Council Regular Meetings, Council Work Sessions, Planning Board/Board of Adjustments Meetings and holiday schedule for the City of Bessemer City.
- New Year's Ridge Shooters Authorization Request- City Staff is requesting a temporary authorization for ridge runner shooters on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Public Hearing- East Virginia Avenue Right-of-Way Closure

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the public hearing was opened at 7:05 PM.

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

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

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the public hearing was closed at 7:07 PM.

Ordinance-East Virginia Avenue Right-of-Way Closure

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the ordinance regarding the closure of the right-of-way located on E. Virginia Avenue was adopted.

Stinger Park Project Bid

McGill Associates, Doug Chapman addressed Council regarding the bid tabulation for the Stinger Park project. Some of the architectural design has been changed. However, the content and quality of the project remain. Mr. Chapman recommends Neill Grading & Construction.

Discussion regarding grants and loans for the project ensued between Council and City Manager, Inman.

By motion of Dan Boling and 5-1 vote, with Joe Will in opposition, the Stinger Park project bid with Neill Grading & Construction was approved.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the following:

Lowering Speed Limit – E. Pennsylvania Ave.

City Staff have received several complaints about lowering the speed limit. A public hearing is not required to lower the speed limit. Said area is on the 500 block of E. Pennsylvania Avenue. As there is no posting, the speed limit on said street is 35 mph. City Manager, Inman recommends that the speed limit be lowered from 35 mph to 20 mph.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the speed limit on the 500 block of E. Pennsylvania Ave. was lowered to 20 mph.

Alleyway Easement for 118, 120 & 124 East Lee Avenue

City Staff recommend that Council grant an easement to existing property owners and builders to maintain said portion of property. The easement will be used to provide new housing with driveways.

Attorney Smith addressed Council regarding the legal paperwork for the easement. Mr. Smith recommended that Council approve the concept, and allow him to add additional items to the easement agreement.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the easement for 118, 120 & 124 East Lee Avenue were approved.

General

Sales tax are up 15%, despite earlier predictions that it would be low because of COVID. We have a perfect audit for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Joe Will commended the Public Works department for their hard work regarding the leaf collection. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about the Osage Mill Redevelopment project. Mr. Griffin also commended all City Staff for their hard work and dedication.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

_____ _____

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