Bessemer City
NORTH CAROLINA EST.1893
City with a Heart



July 2024
City Newsletter

Elected Officials:
Becky S. Smith, Mayor
Michael Brooks, Ward 1
Nellie Floyd, Ward 2
Allen Hook, Ward 3, Mayor Pro Tempore
Brenda Boyd, Ward 4
Brent Guffey, Ward 5
Donnie Griffin, Ward 6

City Manager:
Joshua M. Ross, MPA

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Community Branding Project

The City of Bessemer City just launched a new project to complete a community brand for the city. The new branding is intended for community and business use and to increase place attachment and town pride among current residents, while inviting in new tourism and entrepreneurship to the community.

The Community Branding Project is strategically engaging the community through a Community Branding Committee (made up of local residents, business owners and stakeholders), along with facilitating community-wide surveys throughout the project to include input and ideas from Bessemer City citizens.

The branding, when finalized and approved by City Council, will be a tool that will help the City grow and tell its story moving forward. The final launch of the completed branding is anticipated to be announced in the fall of 2024.

Motley Local, a North Carolina-based placebased marketing and community development firm was hired to facilitate the Community Branding Project. This partnership is made possible by the NC Department of Commerce's Rural Transformation Grant Fund. Bessemer City was awarded the Rural Community Capacity Grant and is using part of those grant funds to launch this project.

The brand, once complete, will have an associated Instagram account for the town that promotes the community through its user-generated content—or photos shared by Bessemer City residents and visitors—to best tell the story.

"The City of Bessemer City is thrilled to unveil its Community Branding Project, marking a significant milestone for our community." says Mayor Becky Smith. "As we launch this project, we are excited to engage with our residents, businesses, and stakeholders to showcase the rich tapestry of qualities that define our beloved city".

Stay tuned for more updates by following the City of Bessemer City's Facebook page for community surveys and more! If you want to get involved further with the project, please contact Chelsea Dickey at Chelsea@motleylocal.com.

Take the Community Branding Survey Today!
Scan the QR Code below or visit:
www.bessemercity.com/community-branding-project/



2024-2025 Council Adopted Budget

City Council voted 4:2 on June 10, 2024 to adopt the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Budget. This year's budget process started in February 2024 with the City Council's Annual Planning Retreat.

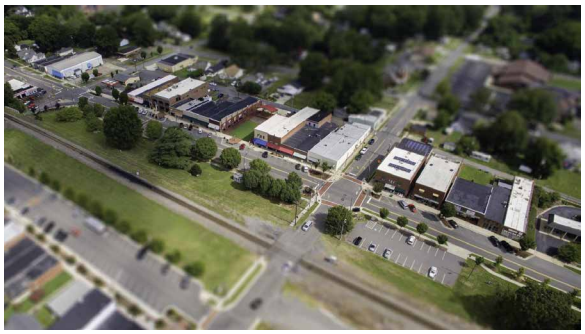
The adopted 2024-2025 budget includes a tax rate of $.55 per $100 of valuation along with fee increases in water, sewer, solid waste, and stormwater.



For more information about this year's budget process, including the items below, please visit www.bessemercity.com/budget



- 24-25 Budget Process Presentations
- 24-25 Requested Budget
- 24-25 Manager Recommended Budget
- 24-25 Budget Message
- 24-25 Council Adopted Budget
- 24-25 Adopted Budget and Fee Schedule
- 24-25 Council Adopted Budget Report



FY 2024-2025 Budget at a Glance- General Fund

$8,028,639
Total General Fund Budget

The General Fund is the principal financial support for a majority of City services such as the police and fire departments, parks and recreation, and general government operations such as administration, governing board, development services, human resources, finance and other internal services.

WHERE DOES GENERAL FUND REVENUE COME FROM?

The 2024-2025 Property Tax Rate for Bessemer City is 55¢ per $100 of Value

53%	**Property Tax**	$4,236,439 Projected
23%	**Sales and Other Tax**	$1,816,600 Projected
11%	**Event, Facility, & Service Fees**	$908,100 Projected
1%	**State, Federal, & Other Grants**	$105,000 Projected
12%	**Enterprise Charges & Other**	$962,500 Projected

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

PUBLIC SAFETY	ADMIN & FINANCE	DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	PARKS & RECREATION	PUBLIC WORKS	GENERAL GOV'T & INVESTMENTS
$2,631,261	$1,238,877	$219,973	$1,431,383	$1,096,765	$1,410,380
33%	15%	3%	18%	13%	18%



FY 2024-2025 Budget at a Glance- Water/Wastewater Fund

$5,562,000
Total Water/ Wastewater Fund

The Water/Wastewater Fund is an enterprise fund that provides water and wastewater services to citizens and businesses.

WHERE DOES WATER/WASTEWATER REVENUE COME FROM?

90% **Water & Sewer Utility Billing**
$4,995,000 Projected

10% **General Utility Fees & Other Sources**
$567,000 Projected

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS	ENTERPRISE INVESTMENTS	ADMINISTRATIVE SHARE
$4,227,542	$624,458	$710,000
76%	**11%**	**13%**

FY 2024-2025 Budget at a Glance- Natural Gas Fund

$1,241,500
Total Natural Gas Fund

The Natural Gas Fund is an enterprise fund that provides natural gas services to citizens and businesses.

WHERE DOES NATURAL GAS REVENUE COME FROM?

100% Natural Gas Utility Billing & Administrative Fees
$1,241,500 Projected

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS	ENTERPRISE INVESTMENTS	ADMINISTRATIVE SHARE
$974,745	$129,255	$137,500
79%	**10%**	**11%**

FY 2024-2025 Budget at a Glance- Stormwater Fund

$300,000
Total Stormwater Fund

The Stormwater Fund is an enterprise fund that provides stormwater management services to citizens and businesses.

WHERE DOES STORMWATER REVENUE COME FROM?

100% **Stormwater Fees**
$300,000 Projected

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS	ENTERPRISE INVESTMENTS	ADMINISTRATIVE SHARE
$164,042	$35,958	$100,000
55%	12%	33%

FY 2024-2025 Budget at a Glance- Powell Bill Fund

$180,000
Total Powell Bill Fund

The Powell Bill Fund provides capital for street improvements and repairs. This is a direct allocation from the State of North Carolina.

WHERE DOES POWELL BILL REVENUE COME FROM?

100% State Allocation
$180,000 Projected

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS	ENTERPRISE INVESTMENTS
$79,815	$100,815
44%	56%

City Calendar

Events & Programs:

Independence Day Celebration (Downtown)
Friday, June 28, 2024 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Music by: Julio and the Saltines
Fireworks Show!
Note- no car show

Senior Bingo* (Community Center)
Monday, July 15, 2024

Concert and Cruise-In
Saturday, July 27, 2024 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Music by: Tonez
Classic Car Cruise-In

*Tickets Required; contact the Parks and Rec. Department for details (704) 629-5111

Public Meetings:

Bessemer City Planning Board/Board of Adjustment (City Hall)
Cancelled in July

City Council Regular Session (City Hall)
Monday, July 8, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Bessemer City Parks & Recreation Board (Community Center)
Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Bessemer City Downtown Development (City Hall)
Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 9:30 am

Bessemer City ABC Board (ABC Store)
Monday, July 29, 2024 at 5:00 pm

City Council Work Session
Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 3:00 pm

Important Reminders:

City Utility Bill Due
Monday, July 10, 2024

Closings:

City Offices and facilities will be closed on Thursday, July 4, 2024 in observance of Independence Day.



What's New?

Did you know City Council Regular Meetings are now lived streamed on YouTube Live? Visit:

https://bessemercity.com/city-council-meetings/

WASTE COLLECTION REMINDERS

Bessemer City and Waste Pro would like to remind you to not overfill or place trash beside carts



Per City ordinance 54.22, every person owning or occupying a single- and/or multi-family residential unit shall store all garbage inside the 96-gallon roll-out cart provided by the City's contractor (Waste Pro). This will eliminate wind driven debris and unsightly litter in and about residential and business premises. Items such as sticks, yard clippings, leaves, and the like should NOT be placed in your cart.

Additional containers, if needed, may be requested from the Finance Department by calling (704) 629-5542.

Customers should bag all garbage before placing it in the garbage roll out cart. Loose garbage can scatter during the collection process and litter your property and neighborhood streets. The City and Waste Pro are not responsible for garbage that scatters during the collection process. Please be sure that your household is not overfilling your trash container. Trash bags left beside trash carts will not be collected. All trash must be placed directly in the bin. The lid should always be closed . An open lid is a sign that you may have overfilled your cart. **Fines may be assessed if excessive trash is left next to your bin**.

Violations of this section shall be a misdemeanor as provided in G.S. 14-4 or a civil penalty.

Other Reminders

1. Cans must be out by 7:00 am (We recommend putting them out the night before your scheduled pickup day).
2. Cans should not be overfilled and items should fit in the trash can. Packing the can to tight may result in the can not being fully emptied.
3. Lids should be completely closed.
4. Bags placed beside cans or loose trash will not be picked up.

Development Updates

Foundry Commercial: 280,000 square foot industrial project has been completed and awarded a Certificate of Occupancy (C.O.). This space is currently being marketed for lease. This project is complete.

Edgewood 85 Commerce Park: a 1,000,000 square foot industrial park scheduled to start in 2024 located off of Edgewood Road in Bessemer City.

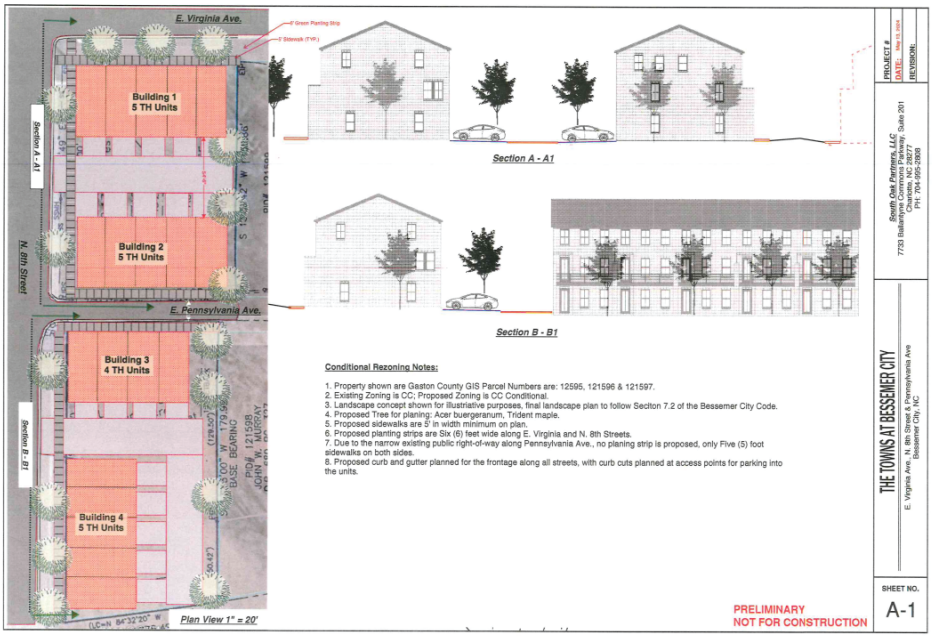
Lennar Homes: a 162 unit single family home project located off Costner School Road. The site is currently being graded and infrastructure install is scheduled to start in 2024. This project will have two entrances: 1) the main entrance will be at the Todd Dr./Costner School Rd. Intersection. 2) the secondary entrance will be off Arc St.

Stewart Crossings: a 99 unit single family home project located off Costner School Road. The site is currently being evaluated and engineering plans are being reviewed. This planned project will be located off of Costner School Rd directly behind the Ashley Park subdivision. This project is expected to have a pedestrian access bridge connecting residents to Stinger Park. This project may start in 2024.

Surf and Turf Townhome Project: in 2021, City Council approved a 91 unit townhome project located off N. 14th St. beside of Surf and Turf Lodge on both sides. At this time, the project is expected to start in late 2024 or early 2025.

Yellow Jacket Ln Townhomes: a developer is planning to construct 62-69 townhomes at the corner of Yellow Jacket Ln and Besstown Rd. This property is currently zoned as Urban Residential (UR). The developer is requesting to rezone the property to Urban Residential- Conditional District (UR-CD). This project went back to the Planning Board in May and received unanimous recommendation. City Council voted to approved the rezoning request at the May 2024 Regular City Council Meeting.

The Towns at Bessemer City: a developer is planning to construct 19 townhomes at the corner of E. Virginia Ave. and N. 8th Street. This site requires rezoning from City Center (CC) to City Center- Conditional District (CC-CD). The Planning Board unanimously recommended the rezoning. The Public Hearing and City Council consideration will take place on Monday July 8, 2024 at the Regular City Council Meeting.



For More Information About Development Projects, visit:
https://bessemercity.com/development-projects/

Above: General Site Plan for the Towns at Bessemer City

General Reminders from the City

Utility Payments: Utility bills are due the 10th of each month. Late fees are assessed on the 11th (15%) and utility cut off occurs after the 19th of the month. The City provides multiple options for utility payment:

In-Person: cash, check, debit and credit (note- 3% merchant fee applies for debit and credit payments) are accepted at the City Hall Annex during business hours (M-F 8am-12:30 pm & 1:30pm-5:00pm)

Drop Box: cash, money order, and checks can be placed in the night-drop box outside of City Hall Annex. Please include account number and address with payment.

Drive-Thru: cash, check, money orders and credit payments can be accepted at the City Hall Annex drive-thru during business hours (M-F 8am-12:30 pm & 1:30 pm-5pm)

Online Bill Pay: debit and credit payments are accepted through our online bill pay system ($2 + 3% merchant fee). Visit us online at www.bessemercity.com for details.

ACH Draft Payments: setup automatic ACH payments with your financial institution with the City. The City and its third-party administrator does not charge for this service.

Code Enforcement: The City's Code Enforcement Division works diligently to address all code violations in accordance to local ordinances and North Carolina General Statutes (NCGS). To report a violation, please call (704) 629-5542 and selection option 4.

For more information on City codes, including the Code of Ordinances and Land Development Code (LDC), visit:

bessemercity.com/administration/city-codes/

<-- Scan Here

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CCR Report: The City of Bessemer City meets all standards for drinking water quality. The report is available now online at:
https://bessemercity.com/download/2023-consumer-confidence-report-ccr/

Paper copies of the report are also available for pickup at the Bessemer City Library (207 North 12th Street), the City Annex Building (125 East Virginia Avenue) and City Hall (132 West Virginia Avenue). You may also call 704-629-5684, we will mail you a copy of the report.

The City of Bessemer City is an equal opportunity provider

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Let's Connect

(704) 629-5542

bessemercity.com

@BessemerCity

@CityofBC

City Hall and BCPD
132 West Virginia Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
City Hall: (704) 629-5542
Police (non-emergency): (704) 629-2235

City Hall Annex
125 East Virginia Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5542

Bessemer City Fire Department
119 West Washington Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5396

Allan Farris Community Center
220 South 14th Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5111

Kiser Senior Center
123 West Pennsylvania Avenue
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 729-6465

J.V. Tarpley Water Treatment Plant
298 Logan Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5542

Bessemer City Public Works
405 North 9th Street
Bessemer City, NC 28016
(704) 629-5542