



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 at 2:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order.

Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Michael Brooks, Brenda Boyd, Brent Guffey, Donnie Griffin, Nellie Floyd, and Allen Hook were all present. City Manager, Josh Ross, and department heads were present as well. A quorum was present.

Department Head Reports

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

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding the 1st Concert & Cruise-In and Down Home Festival. This year the Gaston County Police Department will have a "Safe Kids" booth on Thursday night to coincide with family festival night.

Nathan Hester, Development Services Director – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding the Lennar homes project, the City's new online development services portal, and the Planning Boards next meeting.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director – Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the upcoming audit.

Deputy Chief, David James & Police Captain, Chris Vaughn- Mr. James & Vaughn addressed Council regarding the recent police shooting in Charlotte. The task force team that lost 3 members was a great asset to the City.

Interviews for Appointed Boards

Light discussion was held regarding the process of reviewing advisory board applicants. City Staff suggested that a sub-committee be created to interview board applicants and report back to the larger group.

Nellie Floyd made a motion to create the sub-committee with the advisory board liaison and two other Council members. This motion failed, with 5 opposed: Brenda Boyd, Michael Brooks, Brent Guffey, Donnie Griffin, and Allen Hook.

Mayor Smith instructed City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes to invite the upcoming Board members to the May 2024 Work Session. This will give City Council the opportunity to meet with all of the candidates.

Streaming of City Meetings

City Manager, Josh Ross addressed City Council regarding the streaming of City Meetings. He inquired about streaming regular and work session meetings. Light discussion was held regarding sound and mic logistics. The meetings will be streamed to YouTube Live to be more accessible to the public.

By motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote, regular meetings will be streamed beginning in May 2024.

FY 2024-2025 Budget Session #2

City Manager, Josh Ross addressed City Council regarding the proposed budget. This proposed budget has an increase of solid waste, sewer, and stormwater fees for non-residential units. A decrease in transfers is anticipated, and the fund balance will not be used to balance the budget. There is a proposed tax increase of \$0.45 to \$0.60. This increase will aid in 24/7 fire department coverage, among other pertinent items. There are 5 factors that drove this proposed budget:

- Additional debt services in the general fund and water/wastewater fund
- Additional operational expenses (inflation)
- Fund balance
- Investments for growth
- Decrease in utility usage

We are a growing community, and we will need to increase fees to maintain our services with the growth.

By general consensus, Manager Ross is permitted to hold conversations with Waste Pro to negotiate the \$35 bulk rate and \$16 per can rate.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about the Optimist Club baseball program. Council member, Allen Hook stated that all of the advisory board members didn't need to come in person. Light discussion ensued about the board applicant process again. City Manager, Josh Ross informed the Board that he and City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes would work on drafting a process for Council to review.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM by motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk