



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 3:00 PM

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### MINUTES

#### **Call to Order**

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order.

#### **Members Present**

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd and Donnie Griffin were present. City Manager, Josh Ross, and department heads were present as well. Council members, Nellie Floyd, Michael Brooks, Brent Guffey and Allen Hook were absent. A quorum was not present, therefore, no action took place during the meeting.

#### **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 upcoming July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration and the NC Dixie Girls Softball Tournament. There will be a band and fireworks downtown on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The girls softball tournament will be held on July 5<sup>th</sup> thru July 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be 36 teams playing at Stinger Park and Tryon, and 25 teams playing at West Lincoln. Opening ceremonies will be on Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at Sims Park in Gastonia. The park will not be closed to Bessemer City citizens. Visiting citizens will be given a different color armband. If the visiting public would like to watch the games, a gaming armband will need to be purchased.

Jamie Ramsey, Director of Operations- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding bids for repairs to Gibson Branch Creek caused by flooding that has washed out a large embankment, which has caused areas of the trail at Stinger Park to be closed for safety reasons. We need rain, we may have to open the City's second reservoir to properly obtain the amount of water needed to run the system.

Police Captain, Chris Vaughn- Mr. Vaughn addressed Council regarding the new cadet who will be joining the department after his graduation from BLET this weekend. We have 2 School Resource Officers (SRO) who are training for the upcoming school year. The Chief will be back in the office on a part-time basis beginning July 1, 2024.

Hydeia Hayes, City Clerk & Human Resources Director- City Clerk & Human Resources Director, Hydeia Hayes informed the Board of openings and received applications for the Downtown Development and Parks & Recreation Advisory Boards. Light discussion was held regarding the process of reviewing advisory board applicants.

### **Resolution by Governing Body of Applicant**

City Staff is seeking approval for City Manager, Josh Ross to sign as an authorized representative to submit a grant application for the Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA). The City is preparing to ask for \$9,698,947.00 in federal grant funds with no match required by the City. If awarded the City would receive notice in March 2025.

### **Budget Amendments**

City Manager, Josh Ross and Diane Jenkins, Finance Director reviewed budget amendments by fund and project. The amendments account for balancing each budget or project. The amendments also address accounting for past capital projects already approved by Council.

Additionally, Mr. Ross informed Council that the City did receive a EPA Brownfields Grant. EPA's Brownfields Program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, states, tribes and others to assess, safely clean up and sustainably reuse contaminated properties. These monies are a federal grant and require no matching funds from the City. The FY 2024-2025 adopted budget and fee schedule have been posted online for public inspection. City Staff has been speaking with Boys & Girls Club officials to better coordinate the groups visits to the City pool. When the club visits the pool, the adult to child ratio is low.

### **Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith thanked City Manager, Josh Ross and department heads for working diligently on this year's budget. Council member, Brenda Boyd thanked the City Manager for being an open book and providing so much details through the budget process. Members of the public have expressed their gratitude to her. Additionally, Mrs. Boyd thanked Pamela Gladney for her comments during open comment at the last regular meeting.

Since there was not a quorum at the meeting, Mayor Smith called a special session meeting, which will be held on Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 3:30 PM to vote on the FY 2023-2024 budget amendments and the resolution by governing body.

### **Adjourn**

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:21 PM.

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor

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Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk