



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order.

Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Joe Will, Kay McCathen, Brent Guffey, Dan Boling, and Donnie Griffin were all present. Council Member: Brenda Boyd was absent. City Manager, James Inman and department heads was present as well. A quorum was present.

Department Head Reports

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

Josh Ross, Director of Administration- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding private investments, Osage Mill Redevelopment, and the Farmers (Hive) Market. The City continues to grow and spur private investment. Andrea Nixon, Event and Recreation Supervisor recently secured a \$10,000 sponsorship from Caromont.

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding the City Pool, Meals on Wheels, Stinger Park, and the Hall of Fame banquet. Stinger Park ball lights are going up this week. Hall of Fame tickets are \$25, the banquet will be held on Saturday, July 30th.

Jamie Ramsey, Assistant City Manager- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding upgrades at the water plant and a new employee. Chris Massey began working with the City on Monday as a mechanic helping Wade Brown, Director of Fleet Services.

Tom Ellis, Police Chief – Mr. Ellis addressed Council regarding a new birth to a Police Officer and the possibility of hosting an Officers Banquet. Discussion was held regarding the SRO program at Bessemer City Middle School.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director – Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the upcoming audit, the payment kiosk, and general Finance and Customer Service department progress.

Nathan Hester, City Planner – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding project Foundry. They will be submitting paperwork to be annexed in to the City soon.

Code of Ordinance Changes

Chapter 93: City Planner, Nathan Hester, explained to the board the recommended changes that staff and an independent Consultant have for the Code of Ordinance chapter. These changes are necessary to be compatible with both Chapter 93 of the Code of Ordinances, but also with NC General Statute 160D, and more specifically General Statute 106-645, which regulates beekeeping. City Staff suggest adding additional standards for these classes to ensure that uses are consistent with the class requirements. We offer the following in 2.8.V. Agricultural Uses.

Class I

1. Chicken (Hen) Keeping. Where the minimum lot size meets or exceeds seven thousand (7,000) square feet, up to eight (8) hens are allowed subject to meeting standards below and following Chapter 93 of the Code of Ordinances.
 - a. Hens are permitted on lots with single-family detached dwelling units only.
 - b. Hens must be kept in a coop and pen, or portable chicken tractors, and such coops and enclosures may not include residential structures or garages. All hens must be secured in the chicken coop during non-daylight hours.
 - c. Chicken coops, pens, and tractors (whether stationary or moveable) must be located in rear yards only (behind the line formed by the back wall of the residence.)
 - d. A minimum setback of fifteen (15) feet is required from the side and rear property lines.
 - e. The coop and pen must be closer to the chicken owner's primary residential unit than neighboring residential unit.
 - f. No more than eight (8) hens are permitted on any lot within the municipal limits of Bessemer City. Roosters are prohibited and shall not be considered a Class I agricultural use.
 - g. All aspects of keeping chickens shall be personal and noncommercial. No sales of rendered eggs shall be permitted on the property.

Discussion about beekeeping in this chapter was also discussed. Beekeeping. The City encourages domestic beekeeping as a hobby, but beekeeping at a scale that is indicative of a production process shall be operated as an agriculture operation (Class II) and located on suitable lands, not as an accessory use. Domestic beekeeping shall be permitted as an accessory use and shall only occur in accordance with the following requirements:

- a. Beekeeping shall only be allowed on properties with single-family, detached units only.
- b. The minimum lot area required for beekeeping shall be ten thousand (10,000) square feet.
- c. The maximum number of hives allowed on properties within the City limits shall be determined, based on lot size, as follows:
 - (1) The maximum number of hives allowed within the City shall be five (5) hives, plus one (1) hive per additional ten thousand (10,000) square feet of lot area. There shall be no maximum number of hives allowed outside the City limits provided all other requirements are met.

Lot Area (square feet)	Maximum Number of Hives Allowed
10,000 or Greater	5
20,000 or Greater	6
30,000 or Greater	7
40,000 or Greater	8

- (2) Outside of the City limits, regardless of tract size, where all hives are situated at least one hundred (100) feet in any direction from the primary structure of the tract on which the hives are situated, and one-hundred fifty (150) feet from any residential structure on an adjacent property, there shall be no limit to the number of hives allowed.
- (3) No hive shall be established or kept within fifteen (15) feet of any property line.
- (4) A constant and adequate on-site source of freshwater shall be provided and shall be located closer to the hive than any water source on adjacent property.
- (5) The hives shall be placed at ground level or otherwise securely attached to an anchor or stand.

2. Chapter 150: City Planner, Nathan Hester, explained to the board the recommended changes that staff and an independent Consultant have for the Code of Ordinance chapter. These changes are for the penalties section. City Staff would like to make tents an unlawful use by City code.

Potential Ordinances – Camping & Mobile Vendor

City Planner, Nathan Hester addressed the Board regarding the potential new ordinances. One is for mobile food vendors. This would place certain restrictions and regulations on local vendors. This ordinance would require the mobile food vendors to be certain feet away from stationary things and not impeded pedestrian traffic. There would be time constraints between 7 AM – 10 PM. The second ordinance discussed was the Camping ordinance. This ordinance is needed to allow for camping throughout the City. Some of the prohibited actions on public property are:

It shall be unlawful for anyone to camp on any public property owned by the city including public right-of-way and sidewalks. Camping as defined in this section is deemed a public nuisance and the city may summarily remove a temporary shelter, bedding or personal belongings. It shall be unlawful to light or use a campfire or bonfire on public property except as may be specifically authorized by a permit.

Budget Amendment

City Staff is requesting the approval of a budget amendment regarding the lights at Stinger Park. Council has already approved the contract for the lights, however, an amendment is needed to appropriate the funds.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the budget amendment in the amount of \$1,300,000.00 was approved.

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 4:46 PM by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk