



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, August 31, 2021 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: Alfred Carpenter, Kay McCathen, Brenda Boyd, Dan Boling, Joe Will, and Donnie Griffin were all present. City Manager, James Inman was present as well.

Department Head Reports

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

Josh Ross, Director of Administration- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding the upcoming job fair and new downtown businesses. On Thursday, September 16th the City will host a job fair at the Allan Farris Community Center. Downtown development projects along West Virginia Avenue continues to progress. Soon there will be two restaurants opening.

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding the Stinger Park and Indian Springs. The old playground equipment located at Indian Springs Park has been removed and the new equipment will be arriving soon. Progress is being made at Stinger Park. City Staff will follow up with the engineers and provide a drawing of the final design for the concession stand and restroom facilities.

Charlie Harbin, Fire Chief- Mr. Harbin addressed Council regarding the cascade air filter system. The new Cascade system has been installed. Mr. Harbin showed Council pictures of the new system.

City Planner, Nathan Hester- Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding the old water tank on the hill. Years ago the City used the water tank on S. Skyland Drive. However, a new tank is in use and a bid had been received for demolishing the tank. The total price would be \$26,500. Discussion regarding the demolition of property located on 1210 Edgewood Dr. The owners of 1210 Edgewood Dr. have signed a contract to demolish the old service building at this location.

Attorney Contract Approval – CDBG Revitalization

Josh Ross, Director of Administration addressed City Council regarding an attorney contract approval. Mr. Ross wanted to make sure that Council was aware that staff procured attorney David Smith for legal services for the CDBG-NR project as of May 2021.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the legal services agreement with Attorney David Smith since May 2021 was formally approved.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board By Laws

City Staff addressed Council regarding the bylaws for the Park & Recreation Board. The draft bylaws include a 7 person board, compromised of citizens who live in the Bessemer City area and surrounding community. The terms of this Board would be served on a 3 year basis. City Staff asked Council to review the bylaws and draft a list of people that would like to serve on the Board.

Light discussion was held regarding the document and revisions were given to staff. The Board should be representative of all ages, there will be a Council liaison appointed, and Council will select the Chair and Vice Chair. Per Council, the potential candidates who will serve on the Board will be invited to the September 2021 Work Session.

Interlocal Agreement for Collection of Taxes

City Manager, James Inman informed Council that an agreement regarding the collection of taxes had been received from the County. The County has doubled the collection rate from \$6,000 to \$12,000.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the interlocal agreement for the collection of taxes was approved.

Water Plant Option

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the water plant upgrades and the Stinger Park sewer line project. Additional grant funds have been received; however, additional loan funds must be acquired.

By general consensus, Council permitted City Manager, James Inman to accept the grant funds and accept additional loan funds for the project.

Flanigan Discussion

City Manager, James Inman informed Council about a pending litigation suit.

City Manager's Report

General

Mr. Inman addressed Council regarding the monitoring of COVID-19, the paving project that will start on Monday, September 13th, and new Economic Development projects throughout the City.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about a code enforcement issue. Council member, Joe Will thanked City Staff for posting a speed limit sign in his ward.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:52 PM by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk