



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, July 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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### MINUTES

#### **Members Present**

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd, Kay McCathen, Donnie Griffin, Brent Guffey, Dan Boling, and Joe Will were all present. City Manager, Josh Ross and City Attorney, David Smith were present as well.

#### **Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Council member, Brenda Boyd led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda**

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the July agenda was approved with no revisions.

#### **Special Presentations**

Proclamation - Recognizing Police Department: Mayor Smith read a proclamation aloud recognizing the City of Bessemer City's Police Department for 10 years of service to the community. Mayor Smith asked all present to join her in commending the Police Department.

#### **Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals came forth:

- Christiana Thomas at 305 E. Lee Avenue: Mrs. Thomas addressed Council regarding City water. Thomas shared her concerns of city water and health standards. Thomas stated that she received the notice about a water violation for the City. She stated that there is bacteria in her water that produces a pink tint on her dishes. Thomas stated that she boils her drinking water. Thomas requested that City Staff do something to improve the quality of water.

- Shirley Hince at 705 S. Skyland Drive: Mrs. Hince addressed Council regarding sidewalks, speed bumps, and water in the Vantine Community. Hince stated that she has witnessed people speeding down her road. Hince would like to see the City install sidewalks and better lighting in the Vantine community.

- John Setzer at 905 West Georgia Avenue: Mr. Setzer addressed Council regarding a sewer problem. Mr. Setzer stated that he has been at this location for over 30 years. Mr. Setzer stated that he has brought this problem to City staff to no avail. Setzer requested that this be fixed.

- David Lutz at 408 N. 12<sup>th</sup> Street: Mr. Lutz addressed Council about excessive speeding downtown. Lutz suggested that the speed be monitored by video tapped recording. Doing this would encourage residents to drive slower.

- Aaron Grosdider at 517 Costner School Road: Mr. Grosdider addressed Council regarding the budget and the ABC store. Grosdider stated that he only saw \$500 of drug money listed in the budget. He did not see any revenue listed from the ABC store. Grosdider stated that he didn't see where any revenue had been listed for Code Enforcement cases. Thus, he inquired about why this was not listed. Grosdider inquired about the mass communication system Nixle. On the day of the Livent fire, residents were not notified to evacuate. City Staff disburse other information through this software, one should have been sent regarding the fire.

### **Public Comment Acknowledgment**

Mayor Smith recognized City Manager, Josh Ross to provide clarification on some items discussed during public comment.

- In May 2023, Bessemer City sent out a water violation notice notifying customers that the City did not meet disinfection of byproducts (DBP) for treatment technicians as required for total organic carbon (TOC). This notice was for the reporting period of October 1, 2022-December 31, 2022. Essentially, our staff should have submitted a report with this information. Staff submitted this report quarterly; however, the regulation changed requiring the report to be submitted monthly. The reporting issue has been resolved. There was no change in water quality or the way we process water. This was a reporting error. Subsequently, in June 2023, a violation notice was sent out to notify customers that the City missed the required 1.00 removal ratio of Total Organic Carbon (TOC) in our treatment process for reporting period January 1, 2023-March 31, 2023. During this time, The City was removing TOC at .99, missing the required removal ratio by only .01. Current improvements to the system and our treatment process will help this removal ratio moving forward. We have gone from a single stage flocculation to a two-stage flocculation system as of June 8, 2023. We have also changed our visual monitoring of flocculation chambers as well. Total Organic Carbon (TOC) has no health effects.
- If anyone has a concern with their water, they can contact the City and we can come out and conduct a test.
- Additionally, the City budget includes placeholders in revenue lines. There is not a set number for revenues. Many times the amount can vary by what the City actually collects. Revenues are projections for monies anticipated to be received.
- The ABC store is regulated by the Bessemer City ABC Board. City Council only appoints the board members. City Council does not control the store or it's budget.

### **Consent Agenda**

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Donnie Griffin:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of the June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Work Session Meeting minutes of the June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.

### **Establish Public Hearing - Besstown Rd:**

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, a public hearing will be held on Monday, August 14th at 7:00 PM to hear public comment regarding a rezoning request from Exponential Development for property located at tax parcel #151220 (14.155 acres), from Rural (R) to Urban Residential Conditional District (URCD).

### **Establish Public Hearing - Petition for Voluntary Annexation Besstown Rd:**

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, a public hearing will be held on Monday, August 14th at 7:00 PM to hear public comment regarding a voluntary annexation petition from Exponential Development for property located at tax parcel #151220 (14.155 acres).

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager, Josh Ross, addressed Council regarding the following:

- General: I would like to extend a public thank you to all of our neighboring communities that came to aid in the Livent fire on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. City Staff from every department worked together to contain the fire. All economic development projects are underway, Kintegra health, Foundry Commercial, and Osage Mill. The coworking located at 108 West Virginia Avenue is almost complete. This property will hold 8 to 10 businesses and offer a meeting space. Stinger Park is officially open to the public. We hosted the Dixie Youth Tournament on June 30-July 5. The Bessemer City 12U Girls won the 2023 Dixie Girls Softball Ponytails State Championship. Also, Bessemer City also won the Sportsmanship Trophy, and the girls will be going to the World Series in Louisiana on July 28<sup>th</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023. In regards to walkability the City is aware that sidewalks are needed along Highway 161 and the Vantine community. However, the City has not received funds from the state to begin installing the sidewalks. Highway 161 is a state-maintained road, thus we can not begin the project without receiving their approval and funding. Additionally, Nixle was not used on the day of the Livent fire, as there was no need to evacuate the community. Everyone was safe, and emergency personnel were on site to contain the fire.

### **Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Dan Boling commended the youth girls 11-12U team for winning the championship. They will be going to Louisiana in July to compete for the national title. Mr. Boling also inquired about a pothole on S. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. Council member, Donnie Griffin commended City Staff and lifeguard personnel for a successful tournament at Stinger Park during opening weekend. Mr. Griffin asked if Mason Chastain, could be recognized for going above and beyond during the tournament. Mr. Chastain has been a dedicated lifeguard for 2 years. Council member, Brent Guffey inquired about yard waste and bulk pick up being delayed. Council member, Brenda Boyd commended City Staff on a great tournament.

### **Closed Session**

By motion of Brenda and unanimous vote, City Council entered in to closed session to discuss a personnel and economic development matter pursuant to NCGS143-318(a)(4)(6) at 7:41 PM.

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, City Council came out of closed session at 8:14 PM. No action was taken.

### **Establish a Public Hearing**

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, City Council will hold a public hearing for Monday, August 14th at 7:00 PM for an Economic Development project.

### **Adjournment**

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor

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Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk