



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 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: Brenda Boyd, Donnie Griffin, Nellie Floyd, Michael Brooks, Brent Guffey and Allen Hook were 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 upcoming Parks and Recreation programs and events. The Brew & Que Festival will be held Saturday, September 21st, 2024, Touch a Truck will be held on Wednesday, September 24th, 2024, and a 9/11 Service in front of City Hall at 8:30 AM. Mr. Franklin indicated that the 2024 pool season went well and ended on Sunday, August 11th. City Staff met last week to begin a capital plan for the swimming pool renovations in the spring 2024.

Public Safety Director, Tom Ellis- Mr. Ellis addressed the Council regarding police department auditor visits, service calls, and School Resource Officers (SRO). The fire department had over 41 calls this month, and the police department had 716. Code Enforcement Officers are working well and handling their caseload well. The City's fleet department is handling recalls and general maintenance issues.

Hydeia Hayes, City Clerk & Human Resources Director- City Clerk & Human Resources Director, Hydeia Hayes the new UNC Lead Fellow, Hannah Dove who has joined the City for a year. Ms. Hayes also noted annual City Manager review discussion and the Labor Day Holiday closure. City Hall will be closed Monday, September 2nd, 2024 and trash services will be delayed one day.

Public Safety Capital Improvement Discussion

City Manager, Josh Ross addressed the Board about improvement concepts to utilize the \$2.15 million federal grant for a new police and fire station. Staff had hoped that additional proceeds would be received. However, a plan is being devised now to utilize funds. Light discussion was held amongst City Council and City Manager Ross.

At this time, the plan includes the following:

- Sell the Annex
- Move finance staff to City Hall

- Move City Council meetings to the AFCC
- Build a new Fire Department
- Renovate old Fire Department into new Police Department
- Police Department moves into old Fire Department

Tryon Community Water Line Project

City Staff will be meeting with Gaston County representatives next week to further discuss the water line project. The County is using ARPA funds to install a 5-mile-long waterline from Bessemer City to the Tryon community. Gaston County will be covering connection and meter cost for Tryon community residents to connect to the water line. City Council may want to change the fee schedule and system development fees to entice outside residents to connect. City Staff will present Council with various options to entice new customers to connect to the line.

Sunset Ridge Subdivision Project Review

City Council will hold a public hearing at the September 2024 Regular Meeting regarding a rezoning request for property located at tax parcels #151640, #151644, and #151645 (35.77 acres) from Neighborhood Residential (#151645) and Rural (#151644 & 151640) to Neighborhood Residential Conditional District to accommodate the development of a single-family residential community that will consist of 93 single family units, with the intent to voluntarily annex tax parcels 151640 and 151644 into the Bessemer City limits. The Planning Board previously heard this request at their August 5th meeting and recommended approval of the request to City Council. However, on August 19th the developer contacted City staff regarding a change in relief request and conditions. Thus, this will be heard at the Planning Board meeting next week. Once the Planning Board meets again and provide a recommendation, the project will be placed on the Council's September 9th agenda for a public hearing and possible adoption.

Community Branding Project Update Review

The community branding project is underway. City staff, city committee volunteers, and the consultant have met twice to brainstorm different concepts. A formal presentation will be made to City Council once drafts have been obtained. City staff seeks to include public input in this governance rebrand. Survey data and interviews are also being used in this process.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Josh Ross informed Council that city staff is working to address the PFAS concerns. City staff is working to apply for grant funds to study the presence of PFAS in the City's water supply. City staff will come before City Council with a resolution permitting staff to complete the grant application. Additionally, City Staff is working to apply for a grant to improve the 11th Street underpass. Staff and Central School students have a desire to have an art expression tunnel here. Remaining RC2 grant funds will be used to redesign the City's website during the community branding project. City staff is exploring options with NCDOT regarding a "2023 & 2024 Dixie Youth Champions" signs placed at entrance signs to the City.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion Council member, Michael Brooks informed Council that the ABC store is doing well. The store has seen a 29% increase in sales. Council member, Brent Guffey inquired about a street sign at Bess Road. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about Stinger Park engineering and bidding guidelines.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at 4:31 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk