



## **CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

**City Council Chambers**

**Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 3:00 PM**

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### **MINUTES**

#### **Members Present**

Mayor Becky Smith, Council Members: Donnie Griffin, Kay McCathen, Brenda Boyd, Dan Boling, Joe Will and Alfred Carpenter were all present. Also present were City Manager, James Inman and department heads.

#### **Call to Order**

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order.

#### **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 Osage Mill and Land Development Code. The Osage Mill is still underway, The redevelopment team plans to Zoom in to the next Work Session to provide Council with an update. Some changes have been made to the Land Development Code (LDC). City Staff plans to bring the LDC before Council for a formal vote at the July 2021 Regular Meeting.

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding the City's pool, Summer Feed program, the Youth Baseball program, and the upcoming Cruise-In. The City pool has seen an influx of new patrons. Mr. Franklin believes this is because other area pools have not opened for the season. The Summer Feed program created by Event and Recreation Supervisor, Andrea Nixon is going well. Staff distributes over 20-30 meals a day, Monday through Thursday at the City pool. The Youth Baseball program 9-10 year old received the "Sportsmanship" trophy at the District 3 All Stars tournament. The next Cruise-In will be Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> downtown. This Cruise-In will feature a fireworks show and inflatables for children.

Jamie Ramsey, Assistant City Manager- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding inmate labor and general progress in the Public Works department. Gaston County Corrections is in the process of phasing workers back in to work.

Tom Ellis, Chief of Police- Mr. Ellis addressed Council regarding the bear sighting in town and a new employee who will began working for the City in July.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director- Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the budget, the upcoming audit, and state financial reporting.

Karen Floyd, City Planner – Mrs. Floyd addressed Council regarding her last day with the City. Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> will be Karen’s last day with the City. City Manager, James Inman commended her on her three (3) years of service to the City.

Nathan Hester, Code Enforcement Officer- Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding general Code Enforcement progress, the Land Development Code (LDC), the proposed linear park plan, and plans of creating a committee to help with the park plan. An agreement with the County to aid in compliance with the City code is being discussed. This agreement would incorporate an internal check with the City regarding zoning regulations when it comes to County building permits. This would ensure that structures are being built on the correct property lines. Mr. Hester presented Council with a draft of the park plan. Light discussion ensued between Council and City staff. The City intends to complete the park in phases, doing one piece at a time. The Veteran’s Memorial was discussed as being the first piece completed for the Linear Park plan. By general consensus, Council agreed that a park committee should be created. Council will begin to brainstorm who they would like to serve on the committee.

### **Board Appointment Discussion**

Mayor & Council met with the following applicants who applied to serve on the Downtown Development Board: JC Vargas, Lauren Hogan, and Jonathan Fioritto.

By general consensus, these applicants will be placed on the July 2021 Regular Meeting agenda for appointment.

### **Historic Preservation Commission Discussion**

City Staff informed Council that Gaston County has asked for an update to an existing agreement regarding the City’s historic preservation authority. City Staff recommend that the agreement be updated. However, the City has the option to develop its own commission. The City of Belmont is an example of a municipality with their own commission.

By general consensus, this item will be placed on the July 2021 Regular Meeting agenda for a formal vote from Council.

### **Budget Amendments**

City Manager, James Inman explained that the following Budget Amendments were needed to close out the FY 2020-2021. A copy of the budget amendments are on file at City Hall.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the June 2021 Budget Amendments were approved.

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

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the following:

#### Capital Project Ordinance- ARPA Funds-

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were discussed. We had a pre-bid meeting and didn’t receive any bids. Thus, City Staff will work to readvertise for the street paving project.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the Capital Project Ordinance was approved.

Crowders Mountain Fire Department – The Crowder’s Fire Department will be closing its station in Bessemer City. The County has asked if the City, along with Gastonia and Kings Mountain, would like to take over a portion of their jurisdiction. Taking over this jurisdiction would allow the City to charge a fire district tax for servicing that area.

**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 4:49 PM by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote.

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor

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Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk