



## **CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION**

### **City Council Chambers**

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 3:00 PM**

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## **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 Osage Mill Redevelopment Project, the September 2021 Job Fair, and a request for an Artisans market event. The Osage Mill Redevelopment Project is still underway. A new development group is set to take over from the previous owners and execute the project. The September 2021 job fair had 12 employers and over 50 participants. A request to allow a temporary use of the parking lot on the 100 Block of East Virginia on Saturdays for a fall artisan and craft vendor event.

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding the Health Fair, Movie in the Park, and the Christmas in the City Festival. The Health Fair will be held on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 10AM -12Noon at the Allan Farris Center. Seniors and City Staff will attend this year's fair. The Movie in the Park event will be held on Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM in Centennial Park downtown. Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church will be providing the popcorn, cotton candy, and more at the event. The Christmas in the City Committee met last week. The Committee recommends that the City combine the Tree Lighting, Christmas Parade, and Christmas in the City festival in to one event. The Committee also recommended that a College Band be contacted to be in the parade as well as changing the date. As City Staff have to return to work during the holiday period. Per both recommendations, City Staff is seeking approval to combine all of the events and moving the event to Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Franklin also addressed Council about the date for the Annual Down Home Festival. City Staff is seeking Council consensus to have it on Mother's Day weekend May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> or the following weekend.

By general Consensus, the Tree Lighting, Christmas Parade, and Christmas in the City festival will be one event held on Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Down Home Festival will be Friday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Charlie Harbin, Fire Chief- Mr. Harbin addressed Council regarding the new roof, the upcoming ISO inspection, and the recruitment of Volunteer Firefighters.

City Planner, Nathan Hester- Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding the demolition of several houses.

Jamie Ramsey, Assistant City Manager- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding the paving project and the Gastonia Booster Station. The Paving project has begun and will continue in to the colder months. Per Council, a write up regarding the project and the methodology of the street selection will be included in the next newsletter. The engineering firm used a computer to select the streets, based on a mathematical algorithm. The Gastonia Booster Station is now complete.

Tom Ellis, Police Chief- Mr. Ellis addressed Council regarding ongoing investigations and open positions in the department.

### **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Applications**

Josh Ross, Director of Administration and JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director addressed Council regarding the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Applications received. Light discussion was held regarding the applications and bylaws.

By general Consensus, the establishment of the Board, Appointment of Members, and adoption of Bylaws will be placed on the October 2021 Regular Meeting Agenda.

### **House Bill 890- Social Districts**

City Manager, James Inman and Josh Ross, Director of Administration addressed Council regarding new legislation, House Bill 890. This bill permits and allows alcohol zones for local restaurants. Light discussion was held, and City Staff will continue to update Council on the creation of the zones.

### **CDBG- Rehabilitation Administrator-**

Director of Administration, Josh Ross addressed Council regarding a change in the CDBG rehabilitation administrator. Due to unforeseen circumstance, the City has to select a new administrator in order to continue with the rehabilitation of the selected homes. The CCOG has someone on staff who can serve as the administrator.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the CCOG has been selected as the new CDBG Rehabilitation Administrator.

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

Mr. Inman informed Council that the Stormwater program is still under review. At the next Budget Retreat, Council will be asked to review the assessed fee and make changes to the program.

### **Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith inquired about Halloween and if the City would issue a statement. Mayor Smith also commended the Parks & Recreation Program on a great Community Concert & Cruise In Season this Summer. Council member, Joe Will inquired about a mailer that was sent to citizens about recycling. This is a private company, and he asks that a notice be included in the newsletter to insure that citizens realize that this is not a City program.

### **Adjourn**

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:09 PM by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote.