

SPECIAL MEETING

May 12, 2022

The Bessemer City Council met in special session on Thursday, May 12th, 2022 at 3:00PM in Council Chambers of City Hall. Proper notice was given.

Members Present

Mayor Becky Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd, Kay McCathen, Dan Boling, Joe Will, and Donnie Griffin. The following Council Member was absent: Brent Guffey. Also present were City Manager, James Inman and department heads: Jamie Ramsey, Charlie Harbin, Joshua Ross, and Hydeia Hayes.

Call to Order

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order and explained that this meeting was to discuss improvements on Sunset Drive and proposed 2022-2023 budget.

Sunset Drive Improvements

Doug Chapman, McGill Associates Engineer addressed Council regarding potential improvements to Sunset Drive. Council could either gravel, close, or pave the street. Light discussion ensued between City Staff, Doug, and Council.

By general consensus, Sunset Drive will be repaired by graveling the road.

FY 2022- 2023 Budget Discussion

City Manager, James Inman led the discussion.

Light discussion amongst Council and department heads ensued regarding spending priorities and needed improvements. City Staff requested that a current position be transitioned from Water Services to Garage Operations in the Public Works department.

By general consensus, this transition was approved. City Staff is permitted to hire an additional mechanic to help with the City fleet. Also, Wade Brown current City mechanic will be reclassified to Director of Fleet Services.

Discussion was held regarding the anticipated Storm water increase. City Council directed City Staff to work on educating the citizenry of the increase via the City website, newsletter, and social media outlets.

By general consensus, City Council chose the following action regarding the Storm water fee increase: Starting January 1, 2023 begin charging large Industries, and January 1, 2024 begin charging all others. City Staff will need to educate the public beginning July 1, 2022 –January 1, 2024. The City will charge half rate starting January 1, 2024 for the public. Then begin charging the full rate starting July 1, 2024 (except large industries). City Manager, James Inman is checking the legality of this option. If unable to charge large industries a different rate starting off, then the following option will be followed: begin charging everyone half the rate in January 1, 2024 and educate the public beginning July 1, 2022 –January 1, 2024. The City will charge half rate starting January 1, 2024 and then begin charging the full rate starting July 1, 2024.

By general consensus, the following rates were selected for the fee schedule regarding the Natural Gas Options:

Option	Current MCF		Current Minimum	2022-2023 MCF	2022-2023 Minimum
1	<i>Residential (All Usage)/Month</i>	Operating Expense + \$9.40 per MCF	\$8.70/\$9.10/\$200/\$400	Operating Expense + \$10.40 per MCF	\$8.70/\$9.10/\$200/\$400
	<i>Business Level 1 (1-24,000 MCF)/Month</i>	Cost at Gate + \$5.00 per MCF		Cost at Gate + \$6.00 per MCF	
	<i>Business Level 2 (24,001-30,000 MCF)/Month</i>	Cost at Gate + \$3.00 per MCF		Cost at Gate + \$4.00 per MCF	
	<i>Business Level 3 (30,001 MCF or More) /Month</i>	Cost at Gate + \$1.50 per MCF		Cost at Gate + \$2.50 per MCF	

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 PM

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk