



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Chris Parker, Pastor of Walnut Grove Baptist 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 December agenda was approved with no revisions.

Special Presentations

Student Appreciation- Students from Bessemer City High School, Bessemer City Central Elementary School, and Bessemer City Primary School were recognized by their principals and City Council as part of the Student Appreciation Program:

Dr. Tom Potter, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Azaria Figueroa, 9th grade representative; Destiny Wooton, 10th grade representative; Braylan Zurita Salinas, 11th grade representative and Ethan Waiters 12th grade representative.

Mr. Logan McGuire, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Jayden Rote, 6th grade representative; Rihanna Williams, 7th grade representative; and Julian Walker 8th grade representative.

Mr. Kessler, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Brooklyn Bowers, 3rd grade representative; Sophia Mendez Sandoval, 4th grade, Hanke Johnson, Kindergarten representative; Gabriel Sharpe, 1st grade representative; and Milago Flores, 2nd grade representative.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Aaron Grosdidier of 517 Costner School Road- Mr. Grosdider addressed Council regarding his concerns of Police and City vehicles not being numbered and grant funds for the CDBG rehabilitation project. Mr. Grosdider stated that several citizens were promised repairs via the CDBG rehabilitation program to no avail. He stated that the City used \$30,000 to pay a consultant

to disburse the CDBG funds, yet nothing has been done. Mr. Grosdider inquired about the Highway 161 Capital project regarding sidewalks. The City received grant funds from the State and have not started or completed the project. Mr. Grosdider furthermore stated that the City needs a nursing home and a dog park.

- David Lutz of 408 N. 12 Street- Mr. Lutz addressed Council regarding communication with citizens. Mr. Lutz feels that the public doesn't know what the City is working to accomplish. Thus, the City should do more to inform citizens of the issues Council are addressing.
- City Manager, Josh Ross- Mayor Smith recognized City Manager, Josh to provide clarity on some items discussed during public comment. The CDBG project has been delayed per the NC Department of Commerce. Per the NC Department of Commerce, 5 of the 10 homes have received emergency repairs to their HVAC unit. During this time the City has been working with the CDBG administration to receive Sole Source procurement to move forward with the one contractor who bid the project. Typically the State requires at least three contractors to bid. Also, the City was awarded a grant for the Highway 161 sidewalks. However, the City has not yet received the funds. The NCDOT has not yet sent the disbursement. Additionally, the City has held several "Coffee with the Mayor" events to invite the public to come out and learn about City objectives. Not many attended these events.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Dan Boling:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of November 14th, 2022.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Work Session Meeting minutes of November 29th, 2022.
3. **2023 Annual Meeting Schedule:** City Council will consider adopting the proposed 2023 holiday schedule that establishes when the City will observe certain holidays.

Establish a Public Hearing - Foundry Commercial:

City Staff received a request from Foundry Commercial to voluntarily annex their property located at tax parcel number #308279 in to the City limits.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding a voluntary annexation will be held on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers. Public notice will be given per NC General Statutes.

City Manager's Report

Director of Administration, Josh Ross, addressed Council regarding the following:

- General: There are several Economic Development projects going on: Foundry, Osage Mill, and Livent recently had a groundbreaking. The Recreation Department continues to thrive with over 200

signed up for basketball. Also, Sergeant Carlos Duque answered a call outside of the City limits to help with an emergency call regarding an infant not breathing.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Dan Boling and Brenda Boyd commended Sergeant Carlos Duque for going above and beyond to answer the call of duty and save a baby's life. Mr. Boling also inquired about the hole on Alabama Avenue and the electrical work that's being done downtown. Council member, Joe Will commended the Parks & Recreation Department for a great Christmas in the City festival, Parade, and Tree lighting. Council member, Donnie Griffin commended Sergeant Duque and inquired about recognizing Mr. Duque formally.

Closed Session

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, City Council entered in to closed session to discuss a property and legal matter pursuant to NCGS143-318(a)(1)(3)(4)(5)(6) at 7:43 PM.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, City Council came out of closed session at 8:21 PM. No action was taken.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk