



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order. Mayor Smith thanked everyone for checking on her and her family during their time of loss.

Members Present

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

Audit Presentation

Tony Brewer, CPA addressed Council regarding the 2022 financial audit. Overall the City received a clean audit report. Mr. Brewer presented to Council specific indicators in the report. Mr. Brewer identified 6 Financial Performance Indicators (FPIC) of concern. The City is required to prepare correspondence to the Local Government Commission (LGC) within 60 days regarding these issues. The FPIC were as follows:

- FPIC 1. Water and Sewer Quick Ratio
- FPIC 2. Water and Sewer Unrestricted Cash
- FPIC 3. Audit Not Submitted on Time
- FPIC 4. Uncollected Tax Levy
- FPIC 5. Budget Violation and Pre-Audit Process
- FPIC 6. Material Weaknesses, Significant Decencies or Statutory Violations

Identified FPIC's were mainly contributed to budgetary timing issues and the audit delay with the City's component unit, the ABC store.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the 2021- 2022 budget audit was accepted.

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 a new staff member, Stinger Park, and programmed athletics. Stinger Park is 90% complete, and is in the substantial completion stage. Baseball and softball are underway, and we have a total of 14 teams in the league.

Jamie Ramsey, Director of Operations & Special Projects- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding the gas extension bid request. City Staff is requesting bids for the Natural Gas System Improvements in Southridge Parkway – Phase 1. This is a natural gas line that will feed Foundry Commercial's new \$15 million investment. Bids will be taken until Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 2 PM at which time they will be

publicly opened and read. This project involves the installation, tie-ins to the existing natural gas distribution system and commissioning of approximately 3,000 linear feet of 6-inch, 4-inch and 2-inch polyethylene natural gas mains and appurtenances. The methods of installation for the mains will include direct bury, bore, and horizontal directional drill.

Tom Ellis, Director of Public Safety- Chief Ellis addressed Council about the recent incident at the high school, ongoing investigations, Code Enforcement, and the operations. All division are functioning great. The City recently received a good report from the recent NC Department of Standards and DCI audits. The Fire Department is doing well, and is preparing for their next ISO inspection.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director- Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the financing audit and general changes to reporting. The 2022-2023 audit will be completed by the same firm, Eddie Carrick, CPA, PC.

Allan Farris Community Center Rental Policy

JoD Franklin, Parks & Recreation Director addressed Council regarding the proposed changes to the Community Center and the Swimming Pool. The fees for the Center have not been increased since 2016, and the swimming pool since 2007. Also, the City's insurance carrier has informed staff that patrons utilizing public property for private use must obtain an insurance policy. The following fees were approved by general consensus:

Allan Farris Community Center

Effective July 1st

\$300 Rental (5 hours)

\$150 Cleaning/Security Deposit (Refundable)

\$100 General Liability Policy (completed and paid via online link <https://gatherguard.com/> -must submit copy of proof with remaining payment)

Additional time \$50 per hour

**\$150 Deposit due with application*

**City Staff will be paid \$30 an hour for working rental*

Bessemer City Swimming Pool

Effective April 1st

\$250 (Up to 75 guest) OR **\$300** (76-100+ guest)

\$100 General Liability Policy (completed and paid via online link <https://gatherguard.com/> -must submit copy of proof with remaining payment)

\$50 Security Deposit due with application

Appointed Advisory Boards

City Staff informed the Board of upcoming openings on the Boards. Per Council request, the initial dates of appointment were added to a detailed spreadsheet. On April 1st, City Staff will begin advertising for new applicants, as well as notify current applicants serving on the Board that their terms will expire June 30, 2023.

City Manager's Report

Josh Ross, City Manager- Mr. Ross addressed Council about the CDBG project, potential offer to purchase City property, the FY 23-24 budget, and Stinger Park. City Staff was contacted by an interested party to purchase a portion of City owned property to develop single family housing. Said portion of land is unutilized land around the memorial cemetery. The interested party plans to submit a formal offer for a future meeting. This would initiate the upset bid process. At the next Work Session the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023 – 2024 will be reviewed.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about Stinger Park contractors repairing a neighbors building. City Staff informed him that contractors have already began conversations with the citizen to get his property fixed, as it was damaged during construction. Council member, Kay McCathen inquired about the new restaurant downtown. City Staff informed her that it should be opened within the next 60 – 90 days.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:32 PM by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk