



## CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, January 09, 2023 at 7:00 PM

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### MINUTES

#### Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd, Brent Guffey, Kay McCathen, Dan Boling, Donnie Griffin and Joe Will were all present. 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. David Mauldin, Pastor of Sunnyside 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 Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the January 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. Sheila Wyont, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Paschon Crank, 9<sup>th</sup> grade representative; Andrew Correa, 10<sup>th</sup> grade representative; Imani Rhodes, 11<sup>th</sup> grade representative and Jade Norman, 12<sup>th</sup> grade representative.

Dr. Jessica Mellon, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Emily Cisneros, 6<sup>th</sup> grade representative; Harlee Owens, 7<sup>th</sup> grade representative; and Jaydan Morris 7<sup>th</sup> grade representative.

Dr. April Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Serenity Hardy, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade representative; Lyric Murphy, 4<sup>th</sup> grade representative; and Mila Revis, 5<sup>th</sup> grade representative.

Mrs. Erin Morehead, Guidance Counselor of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Ava Capell, Kindergarten representative; Kensley Ramsey, 1<sup>st</sup> grade representative; and Jahson Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Highway 161

sidewalk project. Mr. Grosdider states that per NCGS 14-3.1 it is illegal to obstruct your license plate with a plate cover. Furthermore, Mr. Grosdider stated that minutes from previous years indicate that grant funds were received from NCDOT for the Highway 161 sidewalk project. Mr. Grosdider also inquired about a letter from NC Commerce permitting the City to use sole source procurement in the CDBG rehabilitation project.

- Pamela Gladney of 502 E. Ohio- Ms. Gladney addressed Council regarding the proposed Foundry annexation. She inquired about a buffer zone and screening.

### **Consent Agenda**

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Donnie Griffin:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of the December 12th, 2022 meeting.
2. **Declare Property Surplus** - City Staff is requesting that a 2013 Ford F-150 be declared as property surplus.

### **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation**

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation aloud and declared Monday, January 16th, 2023 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the proclamation was adopted. A copy of the proclamation is available at City Hall.

### **Public Hearing – (Petition for Voluntary Annexation (Foundry Commercial)):**

City Council held a public hearing regarding a request for voluntary annexation from Foundry Commercial for property located at Tax Parcel #308279 (29.89 acres).

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the voluntary annexation was opened at 7:37 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the voluntary annexation. There was none.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition of the voluntary annexation. There was none.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the voluntary annexation was closed at 7:38 PM.

### **Ordinance to Extend The Corporate Limits of the City of Bessemer City, North Carolina**

Per NCGS 160A-31, City Clerk Hayes provided a certificate of sufficiency for Council review regarding a petition received by Foundry Commercial on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Public hearing notice of the annexation was published in the local newspaper for public inspection ten (10) days prior to public hearing.

By motion Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Council adopted an ordinance extending the corporate limits of the City of Bessemer City to include property located at tax parcel #308279. A copy of this ordinance is available for citizen review.

**Boundary Line Agreement-112 S. Pinchback Avenue:**

City Staff is requesting the approval of a Boundary Line agreement with Better Path Homes for property located at 112 S. Pinchback Avenue. Per property deeds there is a 12 foot discrepancy between Better Path Homes and the City's property. Thus, a line agreement has been created to split the 12 feet equally between both parties.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the line agreement for property located 112 S. Pinchback Avenue was approved.

**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 agreement with previous property owners of the Central Drug store will be complete soon. The City recently received outside seating furniture for the downtown businesses to utilize and spur growth.

**Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Dan Boling inquired about the street closure on Alabama Avenue due to a sinkhole. Council member, Joe Will inquired about an abandoned structure on South Skyland Drive. City Council voted to demolish this structure in the previous years. City Staff will be revisiting this code enforcement case. Council member, Brent Guffey inquired about the possibility of streaming meetings online for the citizenry. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about potholes on Alabama Avenue and 12<sup>th</sup> Street. City Staff informed him that both cases had been reported to the NCDOT, as those are state owned roads. Mr. Griffin also inquired about the City purchasing a real tree to grow where the old tree had been. During the week of Christmas there was high wind and the artificial Christmas tree collapsed.

**Adjournment**

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor

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Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk