



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
City Council Chambers
Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 3:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order.

Members Present

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

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 the Breakfast with Santa event, the light up Bessemer City contest, and youth sports. This year's Breakfast with Santa event will be held on Saturday, December 9th at 9 AM at the Allan Farris Community Center. The annual light up Bessemer City contest will convene soon. More details will be released as the event nears. Basketball sign ups have begun. The annual Christmas Parade, Tree Lighting, and Christmas in the City festival went well. There were some issues with generators, however, City staff was able to address these concerns on the spot. Mayor Smith and City Council congratulated Mr. Franklin on being recognized as Citizen of the Year by the Bessemer City Area Chamber.

David James, Deputy Police Chief – Mr. James addressed Council regarding new Police Officers and a stabbing that took place on Thanksgiving day.

Nathan Hester, Development Services Director – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding the Lennar Homes project, the Osage Mill, and the Main Street program. The Lennar Homes project is fully underway. City Council and City Staff toured the Osage Mill today. The Main Street program will have a night to celebrate new businesses in downtown Bessemer City. This event will be held December 6th in City Hall. All are encouraged to attend. Meritage Homes took over the Eastwood project. They will come before Council to update the project plans. The Kintegra project is fully underway as well. They plan to house a medical facility, optometrist, and pharmacy in the complex.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director – Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the audit, W-2s, and ACA reporting. The auditors are almost complete with the audit. Once the audit is submitted and accepted by the State, the auditors have 45 days to come and present their findings to the Board at a public meeting. This is a new requirement by the State. City staff anticipate that this presentation should be sometime in January. The finance department will be working on W-2s and ACA reporting for the end of the year.

Jamie Ramsey, Director of Operations- Mr. Ramsey informed Council that the Osage Mill project will be a gas user. The project will use City gas to heat their hot water heater. City staff is working on possible plans for a streetscape project. City Staff is hoping to receive grant funds from Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) to complete this project. We have had several water main breaks along West Virginia Avenue and South Pinchback. We have one truck picking up leaves this season. The City will be working to extend water lines to Tryon Courthouse Road. More information will come once City staff meet with County officials.

Hydeia Hayes, City Clerk & Human Capital Director- Ms. Hayes addressed Council regarding the upcoming Staff Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 5th. Additionally, Ms. Hayes mentioned that the Planning & Zoning Board as well as the Downtown Development Boards will all be going through an dissolution and re-establishment process. Several public hearings will be held at the December 2023 to re-establish both boards. Additionally, City Council has received 3 resignations: Allen Hook from the Planning & Zoning Board, Michael Brooks from the ABC Board, and Nellie Floyd from the Downtown Development Board.

City Manager's Report

Josh Ross, City Manager- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding the following:

General: The City is moving forward in small claims court regarding several sewer only customers. As previously reported there are four citizens who are sewer only customers who have not paid their utility bill. The Christmas in the City festival and Tree Lighting program went well and is a wonderful time to see all of Staff.

Water Discoloration: Mr. Dennis Wells, ORC for the Water Plant was brought in to inform Council of the water situation. The City of Bessemer City continues to treat water for discoloration which started at the beginning of November 2023. The discoloration is due to sporadic temperature changes during November, which changes iron and manganese levels. Additionally, as drought conditions continue, Arrowood Lake (the City's main water reservoir) levels remain several feet below average, meaning water feeds to the plant from a lower depth. Lastly, as we move from fall into winter, lake turnover will occur which can impact water discoloration. The City is treating water at the plant for discoloration. The City is also flushing lines to mitigate the presence of discoloration. Water is tested daily. Water in the system is treated at the plant and does not contain dirt or any harmful material. The water is stained by changing mineral levels due to the above mentioned (needed space between words) reasons, which ultimately affects the clarity of the water (turbidity). Water processed at the plant is safe for consumption and use. Water is tested daily in accordance to all North Carolina and Federal laws.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. There was none.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM by motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk