



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, July 25, 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, Kay McCathen, Brenda Boyd, Brent Guffey, 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 Stinger Park, the Community Bbq, and upcoming tournaments. This will be the second year that we have hosted the community bbq, it will be held at Stinger Park. There are several tournaments scheduled throughout the year. Light discussion was held regarding car placement at the Sounds of Summer Cruise-In series. The purchase of a restroom trailer for City events was discussed. Projected cost for such endeavors is around \$60,000 to \$80,000.

Jamie Ramsey, Director of Operations- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding the paving project and improvements to Stinger Park. Paving on City various City streets will begin soon. Upgrades will be made to the walking trail and embankment area by the Soccer field. Council directed Mr. Ramsey to follow up with a resident in Ward 2 regarding a drainage issue.

Tom Ellis, Police Chief – Mr. Ellis addressed Council regarding call volume and general operations of the Police Department. Overall call volume is up. This is in line with the volume from last summer. City Staff will be working with the local middle and high school to strengthen the department's law enforcement presence in the schools.

Nathan Hester, Development Services Director – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding upcoming presentations at the August 2023 Regular Meeting. There will be a public hearing on the potential rezoning and annexation of apartments on Bess Town Road from Exponential Development Inc. Exponential Development will be conducting a traffic study once school is in session. The project will consist of market rate one and two bedroom apartments.

Hydeia Hayes, Human Capital Officer & City Clerk – Ms. Hayes addressed Council regarding the recent Board appointments Council made earlier this month. All applicants have completed their oaths of office and been notified of their placement on their respective Board.

Advisory Board Appointments Discussion

Mayor and City Council reviewed the application received by Andrea McLeymore to serve on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, Andrea McLeymore was appointed to serve on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. She will serve until 2026.

Establish A Public Hearing

Development Services Director, Nathan Hester informed Council that Mrs. Ellis and her husband recently purchased the property in question from Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. The Ellis' would like to have the parcel rezoned to extend the limits for their livestock.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, a public hearing will be held on Monday, August 14th at 7:00 PM to hear public comment regarding a rezoning request from Stacy Ellis for property located at tax parcel #204346 from business campus to rural for purposes of maintaining livestock.

Stewart Crossing

Development Services Director, Nathan Hester informed Council regarding the residential development off of Costner School Rd. The residential neighborhood was formerly approved when Eastwood Homes submitted a rezoning application. Now Meritage has taken control of the project. City Staff will work with Meritage homes to complete the necessary documents for annexation in the future.

City Manager's Report

Josh Ross, City Manager- Mr. Ross informed Council that the City will be closing on the old theatre on 110 West Virginia Avenue, City Council approved the purchase of the building with Business Accelerator Program (BAP) funds in June 2023. Stinger Park is now completed. The ribbon cutting will be held Friday, August 11th. The City's final amount due to Neil Grading was \$63,000. However, per Council a credit towards the liquidated damage amount for items not included in the project was permitted. Thus, the final payment to Neil Grading will be \$48,500. The Manger recommended that this would be the preferred method to include items without increasing the project budget. City Staff recently met with a consultant to discuss future plans for a public safety facility.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Joe Will inquired about a change to the minutes from the June 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. Mr. Will would like to see his remarks about the previous City Manager mentioned. Additionally, he would like to see the minutes amended to reflect that the citizens of Bessemer City will see a tax increase although the rate remained at \$0.45 per \$100. Mayor Smith informed Mr. Will to bring this as a motion before Council at the next meeting.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 PM by motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk