



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
City Council Chambers
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 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, Brent Guffey, Brenda Boyd, Dan Boling, and Donnie Griffin were all present. City Manager, Josh Ross and department heads was present as well. A quorum was present.

Offer to Purchase Property- Kevin Millwood Park

City Staff informed Council that the Park had not been solicited to sell. Rather a company addressed City Staff to purchase, thus it was brought to Council at their regular meeting. By law City Staff is required to present the offer to City Council.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the offer to purchase Kevin Millwood Park located at 501 E. Washington Avenue Parcel ID #121527 was rejected.

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 department highlights. The first Brew & Que Festival held on Saturday, October 15th went well. Mr. Franklin also informed Council that the Christmas in the City festival would be held on Sunday, November 20th this year. There will be several bands performing. The Soccer season is going well.

Jamie Ramsey, Assistant City Manager- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding the water extension project progress and joint efforts of the Public Works and Parks & Recreation department.

Nathan Hester, City Planner – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding new economic development project Foundry and Trinity Capital. Mr. Hester will be meeting with Duke Energy soon to analyze the study results on West Virginia Avenue.

Tom Ellis, Police Chief- Chief Ellis addressed Council about ongoing investigations and new Police Department equipment. The new cameras that were purchased to monitor traffic are working out well. Some needed equipment has been purchased for the Fire Department.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Chair, Andrew Baxter thanked Mayor and Council for allowing them to attend today's meeting. The Board met this past Thursday about the future of Kevin Millwood Park. The Board would like to create a master site plan for Kevin Millwood Park, to ensure that the City has a vision for future growth.

City Manager, Josh Ross spoke regarding the community wide growth that we are seeing. In order to ensure that the City succeeds, we need plans in place to guide us and articulate how City Council wants to utilize buildings and City owned spaces.

City Manager's Report

Josh Ross, City Manager- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding the Business Accelerator Grant (BAP) to purchase downtown property 112 W. Virginia Avenue. Council approved this at its last regular meeting. The documents are being prepared to complete this purchase of property. City Staff is working on a brochure to recruit additional properties that could benefit from the BAP grant. The payment kiosk that Council voted to place at the Annex is here. It will be installed in the coming weeks.

Mr. Ross also informed Council that the owner of 127 W. Pennsylvania Avenue has shared a proposal to utilize the back area of the Kiser Senior Center as a shared space. JoD Franklin, Parks & Recreation Director stated that the proposal does not interfere with senior activities. Thus, he is on board with the proposal. Council Member, Joe Will is open to the possibility of a shared space. However, he would like more detailed specifics of how the property will be utilized.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith led the discussion with a procedural change during the public comment portion of regular council meetings. Mayor Smith and City Council permit City Manager, Josh Ross to address any incorrect statements made in a public meeting. By doing this City Council and Staff will be able to ensure that the facts are shared with the Community. Council member, Brent Guffey shared that he would like to have the meetings live streamed. Mr. Guffey also inquired if City Staff planned to address the use and permitting of animals at Stinger Park. City Staff informed him that they would generally be allowed. However, we would have to consult City ordinance and possibly the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee for anything other than general use. Additionally, Stinger Park hours was discussed. Staff is still working on this.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 PM by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk