



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 2:00 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 was 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 and the City Swimming Pool. Stinger Park is currently still undergoing work and has not reached completion. The City Manager, Josh Ross explained liquidated damages regarding Stinger Park. A recommendation was provided to apply a credit towards the liquidated damage amount for items not included in the project. The Manger recommended that this would be the preferred method to include items without increasing the project budget. By consensus Council approved said recommendation. Additionally, City Staff has been working with contractors to fix the drainage issue at the City pool. The pool will be able to open on time, during Memorial Day weekend.

Tom Ellis, Director of Public Safety- Chief Ellis addressed Council about the upcoming Police Banquet. At this banquet officers and community partners will be recognized.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director- Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the new customer service kiosk and the audit response letter. The new kiosk will be up and ready to take payments on July 1st of this year. Staff are still working with the service vendor to complete the installation process. City Staff constructed a response letter to address the Financial Performance Indicators (FPIC) of concern. The letter was accepted by the Local Government Commission (LGC).

Nathan Hester, Development Services Officer- Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding the Robinson Drug Store and text amendments. The new drug store, Robinson's located on 805 Gastonia Highway would like to have a ribbon cutting. The store is open and conducting business. City Staff will reach out at a later date with the details for the ribbon cutting. Also at the next regular meeting in May 2023, Mr. Hester will be addressing Council regarding several text amendments.

City Manager's Report

Josh Ross, City Manager- Mr. Ross addressed Council the FY 23-24 budget. The proposed budget seeks to conduct operations according to Council's newly adopted mission, vision, values, and goals. There was an increase in personal and property ad valorem. This proposed budget includes a recommendation that the tax rate remain at \$0.45 per \$100. The proposed budget is balanced and primarily includes payroll, general operations, and debt service.

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 4:27 PM by motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk