



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, March 11, 2024 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd, Donnie Griffin, Nellie Floyd, Michael Brooks, Brent Guffey and Allen Hook were all present. City Manager, Josh Ross and Attorney, Marshall Walker were present filling in for City Attorney, David Smith.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Scott Rudisill, Pastor of Westview Baptist Church 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 March agenda was approved with no revisions.

Special Presentations

Student Appreciation- Students from Bessemer City High School, Bessemer City Central Elementary School, Tryon Elementary and Bessemer City Primary School were recognized by their principals and City Council as part of the Student Appreciation Program. Bessemer City Middle School was unable to attend:

Mrs. Doneen Johnson, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Kari McElhaney, 9th grade representative; Rodrigo Mondragon Rivera, 10th grade representative; Jaylin Tanner, 11th grade representative and Bradley Hughes, 12th grade representative.

Dr. April Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Central School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Jasmine Stitt; 3rd grade representative; 4th grade representative McKinley Mitchell; and 5th grade representative Luz Perez Cardenas.

Dr. Bill Kessler, Principal of Bessemer City Primary and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Mirkala Pantigoso, Kindergarten representative; Jonathan Vargas, 1st grade representative, and Everleigh Moss, 2nd grade representative.

Mrs. Kelsey Nixon, Kindergarten Administrator of Tryon Elementary and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Rylan Welch, Pre K representative; Christopher Waters, Kindergarten representative; Own Bridges, 1st grade, Evangeline Hall, 2nd grade representative, D'avon Sewell, 3rd grade representative; Noelle Jolly, 4th grade representative; and Noah Jolly, 5th grade representative.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. The following individuals came forth:

- Pamela Gladney of 502 E. Ohio Avenue: Mrs. Gladney addressed Council regarding the ordinance amending the zoning map for the Development Solutions Group. This item is on City Council's docket for discussion and a vote this evening. Ms. Gladney attended City Council's last work session and realized that the Council had the same concerns as the Planning Board. Additionally, Mrs. Gladney stated that the Planning Board's recommendations weren't fully expressed to City Council via City Staff. Ms. Gladney would like for the Planning Board to be able to review the new scope of work prior to City Council consideration and adoption.

-David Lutz at 408 N. 12th Street: Mr. Lutz addressed Council regarding the close and vacate order on property at 112 West Georgia Avenue. Council chose to give the property owner a 30 day extension at the last City Council meeting. Mr. Lutz appreciates Council consideration on this matter.

-Bea Crocker at 311 S. Pinchback: Ms. Crocker addressed Council regarding industrial piping on her property. There is a pile of piping located on the empty lot next to Ms. Crocker's property. However, no one asked for permission. She would like this to be addressed and the piping removed.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Brent Guffey:

- 1. Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting Regular Meeting minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting Special Session Meeting minutes of February 22, 2024.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting Special Session Meeting minutes of February 23, 2024.
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting Work Session Meeting minutes of February 27, 2024.
- 5. Local Water Supply Plan:** City Council will consider approving a resolution adopting the local water supply plan. The Local Water Supply Plan provides a comprehensive assessment of water supply needs, water use, and water availability.
- 6. Street Closure-36th Annual Down Home Festival Ordinance** - City administration is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West Virginia, East Virginia, West Pennsylvania Avenue, and the 100 Block of North and South 12th Street for the 36th Annual Down Home Day Festival on Thursday, May 9th, Friday, May 10th and Saturday, May 11th, 2024.
- 7. Street Closure-Sounds of Summer 2024** - City administration is requesting the temporary closure of the 100 Block of West and East Virginia Avenue and the 100 Block of North and South 12th Street for the 2024 Sounds of Summer Series on the 4th Saturday of each month from April to September from the hours of 2:00PM-10:00PM.

Resolution - Approving the Sale of Beer & Wine

By motion of Michael Brooks and a 4:2 vote, with Brenda Boyd and Donnie Griffin in opposition, the resolution approving the sale of beer and wine at the 2024 Community Concert & Cruise-In Series and 36th Annual Down Home Festival was approved. The Illusions Dance Troup, LLC from Belmont, NC will be the third party organization selling the beer and wine.

Tryon Community Waterline Interlocal Agreement

At the FY 2024-2025 Planning Retreat City Council received a presentation from Gaston County representatives regarding a Tryon Community Waterline Interlocal Agreement. Gaston County received ARPA funds to provide with water projects. The project will design and install drinking water infrastructure to serve the Tryon Community: Tryon Elementary School, Tryon Park, Tryon Recycling Center, and the property owners adjacent to the waterline will be able to connect to the waterline. The corridor for the project is over 5 miles. The County will handle and pay for all project logistics. The City will own and operate the waterline once the project is completed.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the Tryon Community Waterline Interlocal agreement was approved.

Ordinance Amending Zoning Map (Development Solutions Group)

City Manager, Joshua Ross addressed Council regarding a rezoning request from Development Solutions Group to rezone tax parcel ID 151678 from Urban Residential (UR) to Urban Residential Conditional District (URCD) for the purposes of developing a residential townhome community. The proposed project is for new town homes on 6.3 acres along Yellow Jacket Lane. City Council received an amended project scope at the February 2024 Work Session. A public hearing regarding this ordinance was held on Monday, February 12, 2024. The developer has worked with City Staff and formed a number of areas of relief and conditions for Council consideration.

By motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote, this ordinance was tabled to the next Work Session. This matter will be sent back to the planning board for additional review and comment.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Josh Ross, addressed Council regarding the following:

- General: City Staff is working to update the City's website. This is the primary location for accurate information and engagement for citizens. We will continue to complete hydrant testing. If anyone notices discolored water, please reach out to customer service and report this. Annual testing is needed to comply with regulatory requirements and check PSI pressure. The FY 2024-2025 budget process is underway. The City's Saturday farmers market will be moved to Sunday beginning Sunday, April 7th. City Staff is hoping to attract additional artisans and community members with this endeavor. Summer 2024 City Swimming Pool rentals will begin on Monday, April 1st at the Community Center. The City has received a \$340,000 grant to aid in stormwater planning. This additional funding will allow the City to comply with regulations and administer an storm water management plan.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council Member, Michael Brooks informed City Staff about someone cutting the fence behind a body shop and a water issue on Davis Street. Council Member, Allen Hook inquired about the pipes Ms. Crocker mentioned during public comment. City Manager Ross informed him that he would let staff know about this and look into the matter. Council Member, Brenda Boyd commended City Staff for repairing the potholes on 11th Street. Council Member, Brent Guffey inquired about the potential of video streaming Council meetings. Light discussion ensued about the possibility of allowing streaming and the upfitting needs to complete this task. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about a potentially stopped up stormwater drain on West Georgia Avenue.

By general consensus, the March 2024 Work Session will be moved to Tuesday, April 2nd at 2:00 PM. City Staff will update the schedule per Council's change and notify the public per NCGS.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk