



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd, Kay McCathen, Donnie Griffin and Joe Will were all present. City Manager, Josh Ross and City Attorney, Dan O'Shea were present as well. City Council member, Brent Guffey and Dan Boling were absent.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Thurman Clark, Pastor of Mt. Pleasant 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 Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the April agenda was approved with the following revision:

- (Additional Item) Establish Public Hearing: City Council will consider holding a public hearing to consider text amendments to section 3.2.B Accessory Structures, 3.7 Lighting, 4.7.D Street Lighting, 7.1.D Development Approvals chart, 7.1.E.6 Review Process, 7.3.C Special Use Permit, Major Site Plans, and Major Subdivisions of the City of Bessemer City Land Development Code.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Aaron Grosdidier of 517 Costner School Road – Mr. Grosdidier addressed Council regarding the Gaston County property tax rate and an emergency response incident. Mr. Grosdidier stated that he felt that the Police Department could be more empathetic when dealing with the elderly population. He stated that an elderly man needed help, during the emergency response the Police broke his door, and his gun was subsequently stolen. He stated that he believed that the Gaston County tax rate should be lowered.
- City Manager, Josh Ross- Mayor Smith recognized City Manager, Josh Ross to provide clarity on some items discussed during public comment. City Manager, Josh Ross stated that all comments made were opinions. Thus, a response was not needed.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Donnie Griffin:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of the March 13th, 2023 meeting.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Work Session Meeting minutes of the March 28th, 2023 meeting.
3. **Adoption of City Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals:** City Council will consider adopting a new mission, vision, values, and goals.

Honey Hunters -

Veronica Jeon, COO of the Momentous Group addressed Council regarding the Gastonia Honey Hunters. The Momentous Group is a cutting-edge experiential company that focuses on delivering memorable customer experiences through strategic business segments that include sports & entertainment, hospitality, venue management, and marketing. Together with its subsidiaries, The Momentous Group serves the diverse needs of a constantly growing and evolving sports and entertainment sector. The Momentous Group has been hosting corporate events, musical concerts, and more at the Caromont Health Park. This summer the Honey Hunters will also host a youth baseball camp.

115 West Pennsylvania Avenue Building Rehabilitation Incentive Grant (BRIG):

City Staff is requesting the approval of a Building Rehabilitation Incentive Grant (BRIG) for property owners of 115 West Pennsylvania Avenue. The building is currently undergoing changes to become a retail space. Currently, there is a body care shop in the back who would like to expand. The grant is a dollar per dollar match up to \$10,000.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the Building Rehabilitation Incentive Grant (BRIG) was approved for property at 115 West Pennsylvania Avenue.

Resolution- Water & Sewer System Revenue Bonds:

By motion Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, City Council approved two revenue bonds for the Water Treatment Plant. The first bond amount is \$4,865,000 (Series 2023A) and the second is \$133,000 (Series 2023B).

Loan Closing Approval:

City Staff is requesting the approval of a resolution regarding a Stormwater Grant application. The City applied for funds last year and was not awarded the grant. Thus, Staff would like to apply again.

By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding a Stormwater Grant application was approved.

City Manager's Report

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

- Budget Amendment #1: By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding a replacement City Christmas Tree was approved.
- General: The first Community concert and cruise in will be Saturday, April 22nd in downtown Bessemer City. The 35th Down Home Festival will be held Thursday, May 11th – Saturday, May 13th, 2023.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Joe Will commended the Parks & Recreation Department's landscaping team. The City Cemetery looks great, and there are no weeds. Council member, Donnie Griffin commended City Staff and expressed his excitement for the new businesses joining the Southridge Industrial Park.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk