



## CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, August 30, 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, James Inman 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 pool highlights from the summer. Over 20,000 patrons visited the pool this summer, and we were open 77 days. October Brew & Que Festival will be held on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Franklin provided Council with a general update on the Stinger Park.

Jamie Ramsey, Assistant City Manager- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding upgrades at the water plant and general Public Works affair.

Nathan Hester, City Planner – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding upcoming items on the next Council meeting. A major subdivision is proposing to build 95 new homes by Arc Street. This request was submitted by Eastwood Homes. Mr. Hester will send out proposed elevations. Foundry Inc. will be applying for an Economic Development Grant. This will formally come before Council at the September Regular 2022 meeting.

Charlie Harbin, Fire Chief – Mr. Harbin addressed Council regarding fire hydrants.

Tom Ellis, Police Chief- Chief Ellis addressed Council about ongoing investigations and the departments increasing service call volume.

#### **Emergency Close & Vacate Order- 501 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street**

City Staff is requesting an emergency close and vacate order at property located at 501 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street. City Staff was contacted by Gaston County Social Services to conduct an in home inspection to determine if a newborn could be bought in to the home. It was determined that the home does not meet minimum housing code. There are several issues to the structure and condition of the home.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the emergency close and vacate order for property located at 501 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street was approved.

### **Sunset Drive - Paving**

City Staff addressed Council regarding the paving of Sunset Drive. McGill Associates Engineer, Doug Chapman presented several options to Council about the cost of paving Sunset Drive.

By general consensus, Doug Chapman will regroup and provide Council with another option at the September 2022 Work Session.

### **Truist Proposal – City of Bessemer City Replacement Hardware**

City Staff is requesting the approval of a financing proposal to replace City IT hardware. This resolution would allow the City to enter into a 5 year financing term at 3.09% interest rate.

By motion of Joe Will and the unanimous vote, the resolution from Truist for 5 years was approved.

### **City Manager's Report**

Josh Ross, Director of Administration- Mr. Ross addressed Council about the Groundbreaking ceremony at 10:30 AM on Thursday morning. This will be at the Water Plant and in partnership with the USDA. City Staff received a request to create a shared greenspace on the back side of West Pennsylvania Avenue. This area will be utilized by the public to eat or sit.

By general consensus, Council approved City Staff exploring a greenspace agreement regarding public and private business.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, Jamie Ramsey be permitted to sign on the City's behalf regarding USDA loan and grant documents.

### **Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Kay McCathen inquired about citizens receiving calls from a third party. She was informed that this is probably a scam.

### **Closed Session**

By motion of Brenda and unanimous vote, City Council entered in to closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to NCGS143-318(a)(6) at 4:55 PM.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, City Council came out of closed session at 5:29 PM. No action was taken.

### **New Positions**

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, City Council approved the creation of 3 positions:

- Part-Time I.T. Services Technician
- Water Maintenance Technician I
- Part time Fire Chief

**Adjourn**

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:31 PM by motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote.

---

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

---

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk