



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, July 26, 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, Brenda Boyd, Dan Boling, and Donnie Griffin were all present. Council Member: Brent Guffey was absent. City Manager, James Inman and department heads was present as well. A quorum was present.

Board Applications

Mayor & Council met with the following applicants who applied to serve on an appointed Board:

- Michelle Inman (Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments)
- Peter Feldman (Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments)
- Katie Cox (ABC Board)

Department Head Reports

Bessemer City department heads gave reports on their department's status:

Josh Ross, Director of Administration- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding the newsletter, annexing City owned property, and the Land Development Code. The City owns 5 or 6 parcels that are not in the City limits. In order to provide emergency services and have jurisdiction over these parcels, they will need to be annexed in to the City. These parcels will be placed on the August Regular agenda to be annexed in September. Due to COVID, the price of the monthly newsletter has increased substantially. City Staff would like to propose that this operation be brought in house.

By general consensus, the City newsletter will be printed in house and placed at various locations throughout the City. However, the City will maintain the ability to place single inserts in the bill.

Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding some communications received from local builders about the Land Development Code (LDC). It has come to City Staff's attention that some residents and builders have questions regarding the new LDC.

By general consensus, the City will hold an educational Town Hall meeting to inform the public of the new LDC changes and answer any questions.

JoD Franklin, Parks and Recreation Director- Mr. Franklin addressed Council regarding the upcoming Hall of Fame banquet and revenue at the City Swimming Pool. The City has made over \$100,000 and seen over

13,000 patrons since we opened for the season. The Hall of Fame banquet will be held Saturday, July 30th at 5 PM at the First Wesleyan Church.

Jamie Ramsey, Assistant City Manager- Mr. Ramsey addressed Council regarding upgrades at the water plant and the new AEDs the Fire Department received. The AEDs have been working well, and all of the Firemen have completed their CPR training.

Nathan Hester, City Planner – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding a new retail strategy, the 1st Annual Brew & Que Festival, the Lennar Major Subdivision, and the Eastwood Project. City Staff is working with a Retail Coach to recruit businesses to the downtown area. The Retail Coach will conduct a study and inform Staff about which businesses would be most successful. The Brew & Que Festival will be held on Saturday, October 15th from 12 Noon until 9:30 PM. The Eastwood Homes project will hold a public hearing at the September Regular City Council meeting, and the Lennar Subdivision will be discussed at the August Regular meeting.

Charlie Harbin, Fire Chief – Mr. Harbin addressed Council regarding the upcoming Fire inspection. Next week City Staff will completion an inspection of the ladders, pumps, and etc.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director – Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the Finance Officers conference and the Workers Comp. and City Finance audit. Ms. Jenkins is also still working with Tyler technologies to establish the service kiosk that Council voted for at their annual retreat.

Tom Ellis, Police Chief- Chief Ellis addressed Council about ongoing investigations, the SRO program at the Middle School, and the departments increasing service call volume.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the following:

- General: We are seeing an uptick in the homeless population. Please be aware, City Staff will enforce the Camping Ordinance adopted by City Council at the last Regular meeting.

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.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk