



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION

City Council Chambers

Tuesday, January 30, 2024 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: Michael Brooks, Brenda Boyd, Brent Guffey, Nellie Floyd, Allen Hook and Donnie Griffin were all present. City Manager, Josh Ross and department heads were 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 the Basketball and softball program, and Stinger Park sponsorships. The basketball season is underway and has many children in the program. Last years Softball team did very well, City Staff would like to have additional teams this year. The Diamond Youth Baseball program will hold a tournament in the summer at Stinger Park. City Staff has begun to prepare for the tournament. During the annual retreat City Staff will discuss a capital improvement plan for the City Swimming pool.

Nathan Hester, Development Services Director – Mr. Hester addressed Council regarding the upcoming rezoning request from Development Solutions Group (DSG). Development Solutions Group (DSG) would like 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. This will go before the Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustments on Monday, February 5th and come before City Council on Monday, February 12th.

Diane Jenkins, Finance Director – Ms. Jenkins addressed Council regarding the new budget year. The budget has been uploaded to the portal, so that Department heads may begin entering the expenditures.

Jamie Ramsey, Director of Operations- Mr. Ramsey informed Council about the EPA's lead and copper rule. Lead and copper enter drinking water primarily through plumbing materials. Exposure to lead and copper may cause health problems ranging from stomach distress to brain damage. The EPA revised the Lead and Copper Rule to enhance implementation in the areas of monitoring, treatment, customer awareness, and lead service line replacement. The update also enhanced public education requirements and ensured drinking water consumers receive is: meaningful, timely and useful information. Thus, the City will be responsible for creating a summary survey of streets with lead and copper in them. City Staff doesn't believe that there are many streets like this, but will comply with the new mandate and review the lines.

The EPA is requesting the summary survey to be completed in October 2024. City Staff has reached out to officials to inquire about additional timing to accurately perform the survey.

Hydeia Hayes, City Clerk & Human Capital Director- Ms. Hayes addressed Council regarding the upcoming retirement party for David Splawn. The City will hold a party on February 8th to thank him for 44 years of amazing service.

Audit Presentation

Tony Brewer, CPA addressed Council regarding the 2023 financial audit. Overall the City received a clean audit report. Mr. Brewer presented to Council specific indicators in the report. Mr. Brewer identified 6 Financial Performance Indicators (FPIC) of concern. The City is required to prepare correspondence to the Local Government Commission (LGC) within 60 days regarding these issues. The FPIC were as follows:

- FPIC 1. Fund Balance Available
- FPIC 2. General Fund Balance Operations
- FPIC 3. Quick Ratio – Water & Sewer
- FPIC 4. Operating Net Income Loss
- FPIC 5. Unrestricted Cash Flow

Identified FPIC's were mainly contributed to budgetary timing issues.

Appointed Advisory Boards

City Staff informed the Board of upcoming openings on the Boards. City Staff advertised for new applicants to fill new terms on the re-established downtown development board. Other applications were received as well.

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, Sue Propst and Fatmir Fejzullahu (Harvey) were appointed to serve on the Downtown Development Board until June 30, 2027.

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, Daniel Guin and Kelsie Nixon will be interviewed at the February 2024 Work Session.

City Manager's Report

Josh Ross, City Manager- Mr. Ross addressed Council regarding the following:

General: The Annual Retreat is coming up in late February. This year's Retreat will be off site. Department Heads are preparing their budgets. Light discussion was held regarding Stinger and Kevin Millwood parks.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Light discussion was held about street parking along 8th Street.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 PM by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk