



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
City Council Chambers
Monday, December 11, 2023 at 8:15 PM (After-Sine)

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Oath of Office

City Clerk, Hydeia Hayes administered the Oath of Office to Mayor, Becky S. Smith. Once sworn in Mayor Smith administered the Oath of Office to Allen Hook, Michael Brooks, and Brenda Boyd.

Call to Order

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 8:15 PM.

Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda

By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the December agenda was approved with no revisions.

Mayor Pro Tem – General Statutes direct that the City Council, at its organizational meeting, elect a mayor pro tempore, who is to serve at its pleasure. The direct role of the pro tem is to preside over council meetings in the mayor's absence. While presiding, the mayor pro tem may vote as a council member but may not, as chairing officer, vote to break a tie. (In the absence of both the Mayor and Pro Tem, the council members present may select a temporary presiding officer). City Council will select a Mayor Pro Tem for the 2023- 2025 Council session.

By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, Allen Hook was selected as the Mayor Pro Tem.

Appointments

The following appointments were unanimously approved by motion of Dan Boling:

Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG)- This delegate serves as Bessemer City's member of the COG Board, which oversees the operation of the local Council of Governments. Meetings are held every quarter. Council should appoint a delegate and an alternate delegate to the CCOG Board. Donnie Griffin and Brent Guffey were appointed to serve as the representatives for the Board, by motion of Nellie Floyd and unanimous vote.

Metropolitan Planning Organization- The Gaston-Cleveland-Lincoln Metropolitan Planning Organization (GCLMPO) is a multi-jurisdictional entity made up of 34 local governments, NCDOT, USDOT, and other providers of transportation services. Allen Hook was appointed to serve as the representative, and Becky S. Smith as the alternate, by motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote.

ABC Board Liaison- While not a formal position, the ABC Board has requested for a number of years that a Council member be appointed to serve as a liaison between the City and the ABC Board. Board meetings are held monthly on the fourth Monday at 5:00 PM. Michael Brooks was appointed to serve as the representative for the Board, by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board- This Board is dedicated to making a great community and committed to providing a safe and inviting parks and facilities in Bessemer City. Brenda Boyd was appointed to serve as the representative for the Board, by motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote.

Downtown Development Board- This Board is designed to inspire place making through building asset-based economic development strategies that achieve measurable results such as investment, business growth, and jobs. Nellie Floyd was appointed to serve as the representative for the Board, by motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Aaron Grosdider at 517 Costner School Road: Mr. Grosdider addressed Council regarding the recent election, City water, and City vehicles. Grosdider congratulated all of the newly elected and appointed Council members. Mr. Grosdider made personal remarks on the City's water TOC, Iron, and Manganese levels and discoloration. Additionally, a news article was released stating that raw sewage leaked in the City's water system. Aaron stated that the reports are vague and unclear to the public regarding the City's water situation. Mr. Grosdider requested that the City vehicles have numbers on them for safety reasons.

Public Comment Acknowledgment

Mayor Smith recognized City Manager, Josh Ross to provide clarification on some items discussed during public comment.

- The City has a triple redundancy when it comes to water systems. We have connections to the City of Gastonia and Kings Mountain. During a brief period last week we were purchasing water from Gastonia. However, we are back operating on our own system. We bought water as we were in drought conditions and experienced some lightning damage to our system. However, the discolored water does not pose a safety or health risk. The City is required to send out certain notices about the water due to the plants TOC level being low. The City's water plant didn't operate during the month of May and June. Thus, the City was not producing water and maintaining a TOC level. TOC levels are maintained on a running average. The City did have a water break due to low temperatures, unfortunately, some sewage was leaked. However, the City took the appropriate measures to notify the news media and public. The damage and leak was handled within an hour.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Michael Brooks:

- 2024 Annual Meeting and Holiday Schedule- The annual meeting schedule for Council Regular Meetings, Council Work Sessions, Planning Board/Board of Adjustments Meetings and holiday schedule for the City of Bessemer City.
- Resolution of Authorization: City Council will consider approving a resolution that authorizes the Ridge Runners to hold their annual event with certain guidelines on New Year's Eve.

Establish Annual Planning Retreat:

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, City Council will hold their annual Planning Retreat on Thursday, February 22 and Friday, February 23, 2024 at Dhollandia.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Josh Ross reminded Council that there will not be a Work Session in December. Additionally, he thanked Council for all that they do for the City and employees.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith asked everyone to remember Fire Chief, Brent Gordon's family. Mr. Gordon recently loss his Dad. Council member, Brenda Boyd inquired about the speed limit on the 500 block of Pennsylvania Avenue. There have been a number of cars speeding in that area. Council member, Brent Guffey inquired about IT, the splashpad, and the fence at Stinger Park and signage at Bess Drive.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:54 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk