



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Van Spencer, Pastor of Concord United Methodist Church led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith recognized Veterans who were present, and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, the November agenda was approved with no revisions.

Special Presentations

Oath of Office- City Manager- Mayor Smith administered the oath of Office to newly appointed City Manager, Josh Ross. Mayor Smith invited everyone present to congratulate the new City Manager.

Student Appreciation- Students from Bessemer City High School, Bessemer City Central Elementary School, and Bessemer City Primary School were recognized by their principals and City Council as part of the Student Appreciation Program:

Dr. Shelia Wyont, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Angela Santiago Sanchez, 9th grade representative; Lucien Kada Smith, 10th grade representative; Kristinia Rae Smart, 11th grade representative and Taylor Madison Walker 12th grade representative.

Dr. April Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Yomileth Cruz Flores, 3rd grade representative; Aaliyah Roberts, 4th grade representative; and Braydon Cooley, 5th grade representative.

Mrs. Erin Morehead, Guidance Counselor of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Ayva Leach, Kindergarten representative; Casyn Houser, 1st grade representative; and Marie Lopez, 2nd grade representative.

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. Grosdider addressed Council regarding his concerns of Police and City vehicles not being numbered and Stinger Park funds. Mr. Grosdider stated that the Stinger Park project was missing over \$2 million and that the City should not have purchased the \$25 million bonds for the Osage Mill Redevelopment project. Also Mr. Grosdidier stated that his previous public comment minutes are not available online.
- David Lutz of 408 N. 12 Street- Mr. Lutz addressed Council regarding the water disconnection fee. Mr. Lutz stated that the fee was too high and that many citizens are unable to pay the reconnect fee once their water is disconnected.
- Pamela Gladney of 502 E. Ohio Avenue – Ms. Gladney addressed Council regarding the strategic park plan and the Kiser Senior Center. Ms. Gladney stated that there needs to be transparency about future recreation plans and that the Christmas decorations went up to early.
- City Manager, Josh Ross- Mayor Smith recognized City Manager, Josh to provide clarity on some items discussed during public comment. The minutes are posted online once they are approved by Council. The bonds purchased for the Osage Mill redevelopment project are private bonds. They were not purchased by the City. Stinger Park is fully funded. The water disconnect fee is established by City policy. The fee applies to residents who have been disconnected on numerous occasions.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Brenda Boyd:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of October 10, 2022.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Work Session Meeting minutes of October 25, 2022.
3. **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 a Public Hearing - Foundry Commercial:

City Staff received a request from Foundry Commercial to voluntarily annex their property located at tax parcel number #308279 in to the City limits.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding a voluntary annexation will be held on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers. Public notice will be given per NC General Statutes.

Gaston County Historic Preservation- Stonewall & Ollie Durham House:

Mr. Ted Carpenter of the Gaston County Historic Preservation Association addressed Council regarding the historic preservation designation. The Gaston County Historic Preservation Association declared the Osage Mill a historic site on October 23, 2022.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the Stonewall and Ollie Durham house was declared a historic site.

Public Hearing –Sunset Drive:

City Council held a public hearing regarding potential improvements to an unpaved portion of roadway on Sunset Drive. Doug Chapman, of McGill Engineering Associates addressed Council regarding several potential improvements. Mr. Chapman presented Council with 4 options:

	Initial Cost	20 Year Cost
Gravel	\$90,000	\$360,000
Tar & Gravel	\$170,000	\$255,000
Asphalt (Thru)	\$300,000	\$300,000 (no additional cost)
Asphalt (Cul-de-sacs)	\$410,000	\$410,000 (no additional cost)

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding Sunset Drive was opened at 8:02 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of Sunset Drive improvements. The following came forth:

- Barry Boheler of 960 Sunset Drive – Mr. Boheler addressed Council regarding his support of the asphalt option with speed bumps. Currently the unpaved portion has a speed limit of 35 mph and the paved portion is 25 mph. Mr. Boheler believes that traffic will increase with the paving of the road. Thus, speed bumps or tables are needed.
- Charles Grooves of 1000 Sunset Drive – Mr. Grooves addressed Council regarding his support of the asphalt option with one Cul-de-sac. Mr. Grooves also mentioned that City staff may want to do something soon, as the run off from the current gravel is depositing in to the Arrowood Lake.
- Charles Woollaston of 960 Sunset Drive – Mrs. Woollaston addressed Council regarding her support of the asphalt option. The speed of vehicles will not increase.
- Sherry Reynolds of 503 Sunset Drive – Mrs. Reynolds addressed Council regarding the Cul-de-sacs. She is in favor of paving the road. However, the Culd-de-sacs would hinder emergency response units. Thus this could prove to be problematic for her and her family.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition of Sunset Drive improvements. There was none.

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the economic development incentive was closed at 8:10 PM.

SRF Capital Project Ordinance

City Staff informed Council that a Capital Project Ordinance was needed to allocate funds for the vantine pump station and various sewer replacements.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the SRF Capital Project Ordinance was adopted. A copy of this ordinance is available for public inspection at City Hall.

Sewer Capacity Agreement – Two Rivers Utilities

City Staff informed Council that this is a standard agreement with the City of Gastonia and Two Rivers Utilities for sanitary sewer service in the City of Bessemer City. This new agreement would allow the City to consolidate two agreements into one.

By motion of Boling and unanimous vote, the Sewer Capacity agreement was approved.

Ordinance - Repealing Close & Vacate Ordinance (205 E. Washington Avenue):

City Planner, Nathan Hester addressed Council regarding the repealing of a close and vacate order for property located at 205 E. Washington Avenue. The original structure has been demolished, and 3 new homes have been built on the lot. In order for the homes to be sold, property owners have requested that the close and vacate order to be repealed.

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, the ordinance repealing the close and vacate ordinance for property located at 205 E. Washington Avenue was approved. A copy of this ordinance is on file at City Hall.

City Manager's Report

Director of Administration, Josh Ross, addressed Council regarding the following:

- Budget Amendment #1: By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding the financing of Police department equipment and Stinger Park project was approved.
- General: The annual Christmas in the City Festival, Parade, and Tree Lighting will be held on Sunday, November 20th at 3 PM in downtown Bessemer City. Livent recently had a ceremony for their \$1 million dollar expansion.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Dan Boling inquired about the Livent expansion and pothole on Washington Avenue by Kevin Millwood Park. Council member, Brent Guffey informed Council that the Fire Department BBQ went well. Mr. Guffey inquired about the leave removal machine. The City is currently down a machine, thus delaying the collection cycle. Council member, Donnie Griffin commended City Staff on the new growth.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk