



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, January 08, 2024 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

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

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Olin Byrum, Pastor of First Baptist Church led the audience in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adjustment and Approval of the Agenda

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

Special Presentations

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

Mrs. Doneen Johnson, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Azayla Bolton, 9th grade representative; Cirilio Rodriguez Estrada, 10th grade representative; Janaiya Glenn, 11th grade representative and Seth Samonds, 12th grade representative.

Dr. April Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Central School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Sophia Valeriano Rico; 3rd grade representative; 4th grade representative Uriel de la Cruz; and 5th grade representative Estefani Franco Rivas.

Mrs. Erin Morehead, Guidance Counselor of Bessemer City Primary and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Alaya Smith, Kindergarten representative; Amiyah Dumas, 1st grade representative, and Latravius Williams, 2nd grade representative.

Mrs. Kelsey Nixon, Kindergarten Administrator of Tryon Elementary and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Kali Fox Dixon, Pre K representative; Ky'ere White, Kindergarten representative; Keira Greene, 1st grade, Cohen Lovelace, 2nd grade representative, Colt Raxter, 3rd grade representative; Bianca Centeno and Nathan Rhyne, 4th grade representative; Grayson Venable, SAC representative; and Eli Miller, 5th grade representative.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Pamela Gladney of 502 E. Ohio Avenue: Mrs. Gladney addressed Council regarding the NC Main Street program and the streaming of City Council meetings. Gladney stated that it would be beneficial for City Council to live stream the meetings for those who are unable to attend the meetings. The minutes of the meeting are not meant to be verbatim. Thus, a live stream option would allow citizens to recall what was discussed during a various meeting. Additionally, Mrs. Gladney would like to see the Main Street program grow into it's full potential. The annual Main Street program conference will be held in Goldsboro in March. The City should allow two members attend along with City Staff.

-John Setzer at 905 W Georgia Avenue: Mr. Setzer addressed Council regarding the manhole flooding issue he brought before Council in a previous meeting. With new residential development, this will only hinder the City's sewer system. Thus, creating more flooding on his street. Mr. Setzer provided pictures of the issues he sees in front of his home. He would like to see this resolved soon. City Staff has told him that there will be a new pump station installed, but he would like to see action taken now.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Donnie Griffin:

2. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of the Pre-Sine Die December 11, 2023 meeting.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of the After-Sine Die December 11, 2023 meeting.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation aloud and declared Monday, January 15th, 2024 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

By motion of Nellie Floyd and unanimous vote, the proclamation was adopted. A copy of the proclamation is available at City Hall.

Establish Public Hearing

Development Services Officer, Nathan Hester addressed Council regarding a rezoning request from Development Solutions Group for 77 new town homes on 6.3 acres. The planning and zoning board will hold a public hearing and hear the request and provide a recommendation for City Council at their February 2024 meeting.

By motion of Allen Hook and unanimous vote, a public hearing will be held at the February 2024 Regular Meeting on Monday, February 12th, 2024 at 7:00 PM to hear public comment regarding a rezoning request from Development Solutions Group 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.

Board Appointment

City Council reviewed the received applications and made several Board member and Chair appointments. By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, Linda Willis was appointed to serve on the board until June 2027. By motion of Allen Hook and unanimous vote, Bryan Hoffman was appointed to serve on the board until June 2027. By motion of Allen Hook and unanimous vote, Constantine Tsambmourinery was appointed to serve on the board until June 2025. By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, David Bruce Absher was appointed to serve as Chair until June 2024.

Joint BRIG & FIG Agreement for Wicked Waffle Company

City Administration addressed Council regarding the approval of a Building Rehabilitation Incentive Grant (BRIG) and Façade Improvement Grant (FIG) for property located at 130 West Virginia Avenue. If approved, this would be a retroactive payment. The property owner has made the necessary repairs and received her Certificate of Occupancy (CO). This is a dollar for dollar match, and the projected reimbursement amount is for \$1,000.

By motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote, the BRIG and FIG agreement for the Wicked Waffle Company was approved.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Josh Ross, addressed Council regarding the following:

- Budget Amendment: A budget amendment regarding fire personnel pay is needed. This will provide additional funding for firefighter staffing. By motion of Michael Brooks and unanimous vote, the budget amendment in the amount of \$130,000 was approved.
- Budget Amendment: A budget amendment regarding park utilities is needed. This will provide additional funding for the sewer utility at Stinger park. The expenditure for the sewer cost have come in higher than projected due to increased rainfall. Additionally, water that flows in the splashpad is treated as sewer. By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the budget amendment in the amount of \$110,000 was approved.
- General: Bessemer City is expected to receive a lot of rainfall and wind gust tomorrow. City staff and public safety personnel are continuously monitoring the weather alerts. City Hall and administrative offices will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The trash service next week is scheduled to remain on schedule.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council Member, Michael Brooks inquired about the speed limit on S. 11th Street. Council Member, Nellie Floyd inquired about the sewer issue that Mr. Setzer spoke of on Georgia Avenue. Council Member, Donnie Griffin inquired about speeding in the Industrial Park.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk