



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, February 13, 2023 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. City Manager, Josh Ross and City Attorney, Dan O'Shea were present as well. Council member, Kay McCathen was absent.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Christie Brown, Associate Pastor of Shepherd's Grove Holiness 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 February agenda was approved with the following revision:

- Item 9A- Boundary Line Agreement (Add)

Special Presentations

Student Appreciation- Students from Bessemer City High School, Bessemer City Middle 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. Sheila Wyont, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Samantha Guess, 9th grade representative; Jamari Gaddy, 10th grade representative; Abigail Ratte, 11th grade representative and Juan David Jimenez, 12th grade representative.

Dr. Jessica Mellon, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Madeline Hendrix, 6th grade representative; Jamal Smarr, 7th grade representative; and Emily Ruiz 8th grade representative.

Mr. Bill Kessler, Principal of Bessemer City Primary and Central School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Nolan Longwell, Kindergarten representative; Jacqueline Garrido Vasquez, 1st grade representative; Ariana Urbina Olivia, 2nd grade representative; Elmer Villamil Guzman; 3rd grade representative; 4th Allen Laasiga Carilla; and 5th Katie Radeumcher.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Matthew Evers of 404 Pinchback Avenue- Mr. Evers addressed Council regarding his concerns of roadway issues. There is water running across Pinchback Avenue after it storms.

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 the January 9th, 2023 meeting.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Work Session Meeting minutes of the January 31st, 2023 meeting.

Establish Public Hearing- Economic Development Grant (Foundry):

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, City Council will holding a public hearing to hear public comment regarding an Economic Development Incentive Level 2 for Foundry Commercial on Monday, March 13th at 7:00 PM.

Proclamation: City With A Heart Day:

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the City With a Heart Day Proclamation aloud and declared Tuesday, February 14th, 2023 as City with a Heart Day.

By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, the Proclamation was adopted.

Proclamation: African American History Month -

Mayor, Becky S. Smith read the African American History month Proclamation aloud and declared February 2023 as African American month.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the Proclamation was adopted.

Public Hearing – (Petition for Voluntary Annexation - 304 E. Cleveland Avenue):

City Council held a public hearing regarding a request for voluntary annexation from Home Team Property for property located at Tax Parcel #152621.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the voluntary annexation was opened at 7:32 PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in favor of the voluntary annexation. There was none.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition of the voluntary annexation. There was none.

By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the public hearing regarding the voluntary annexation was closed at 7:33 PM.

Boundary Line Agreement (304 E. Cleveland Avenue):

City Council previously discussed this matter in closed session several months prior. This agreement is needed to properly address property lines. Current property owners had a misunderstanding regarding the metes and bounds of the City's right of way dimensions. Said agreement would properly record the City's right of way and the new property lines.

By motion Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, City Council adopted the boundary line agreement for property located at 304 E. Cleveland Avenue. This agreement states that both parties herein agree that the

new boundary lines of the Home Team Property and the 80' Right-of-Way of E. Cleveland Avenue shall be contiguous.

Ordinance to Extend The Corporate Limits of the City of Bessemer City, North Carolina

Per NCGS 160A-31, City Clerk Hayes provided a certificate of sufficiency for Council review regarding a petition received by Home Team Property Management on January 18th, 2023. Public hearing notice of the annexation was published in the local newspaper for public inspection ten (10) days prior to public hearing.

By motion Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Council adopted an ordinance extending the corporate limits of the City of Bessemer City to include property located at tax parcel #152621. A copy of this ordinance is available for citizen review.

108 West Virginia Avenue:

City Staff is requesting the approval of a Building Rehabilitation Incentive Grant (BRIG) for property owners of 108 West Virginia Avenue. The building is currently undergoing changes to become a teleworking space. The owners have completed a project similar to this one in Fuquay-Varina. This building will offer 8 private offices, a lunch area, and one shared common conference room. The grant is a dollar per dollar match up to \$10,000. Once the building owners have received the certificate of occupancy, the City would reimburse the property owners up to \$10,000.00.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the BRIG grant for property located 108 West Virginia Avenue was approved.

City Manager's Report

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

- Budget Amendment #1: By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding the financing of new IT services was approved.
- Budget Amendment #2: By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding HVAC services at the City Hall Annex was approved.
- Budget Amendment #3: By motion of Brent Guffey and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding Parks & Recreation department supplies for Down Home Festival was approved.
- General: Amazon has received approval from Duke Energy for power line construction to begin.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Dan Boling inquired about blue lights on personal trucks. The lights have a blinding effect, and should only be used on emergency vehicles. Council member, Joe Will commended City workers for the lights on the underpass. Council member, Brent Guffey inquired about the homes on Texas Avenue and their relation to the sewer pumps and landscaping. He also inquired about the old light pole on 12th Street it is still leaning. Council member Brenda Boyd thanked City Staff for speaking with NCDOT and getting Alabama Avenue re-opened as it was closed due to a road hazard. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about a tree being down in the graveyard and a ditch on the 100 block of Helen Avenue.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk