



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

City Council Chambers

Monday, October 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Members Present

Mayor, Becky S. Smith, Council Members: Brenda Boyd, Kay McCathen, Dan Boling, Donnie Griffin and Joe Will were all present. Council Member, Brent Guffey 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. Dennis Gomez, Pastor of New Life 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 October agenda was approved with the following revisions:

- Remove Item #9: Sewer Capacity Agreement- Two Rivers Utilities
- Change to Consent Agenda: Remove N. 11th Street from the Street Closure & Attorney Name in the Regular Meeting Minutes

Special Presentations

Student Appreciation- Students from 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. Jessica Melon, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Joshua Marlow, 6th grade representative; Alexis Walker, 7th grade representative; and Tessa Holcombe 8th grade representative.

Dr. April Conley, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Carmon Pagan, 3rd grade representative; Kaliyah Allison, 4th grade representative; and Zoey Pearson, 5th grade representative.

Mr. Bill Kessler, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, recognized the following students of the month: Keegan Lowery, Kindergarten representative; Kaitlyn Strawn, 1st grade representative; and Sara Bryant, 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 vehicles not being numbered and the Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG). Mr. Grosdider stated that CDBG recipients have not received help from the City and that the City should not sell Kevin Millwood Park.

- Belinda Harmon of 406 E. Ohio Avenue- Ms. Harmon addressed Council regarding the sale of Kevin Millwood Park. She suggest that the City keep the park to preserve its small town charm.
- Pamela Gladney of 502 E. Ohio Avenue – Ms. Gladney addressed Council regarding the sale of Kevin Millwood Park. She suggest that the City decline the offer and improve the park. She lives adjacent to the park, and believes that it is a local landmark.

Consent Agenda

The following items on the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Dan Boling:

2. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Regular Meeting minutes of September 12, 2022.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** City Council will consider adopting the Work Session Meeting minutes of September 27, 2022.
4. **Street Closure- Christmas in the City Festival & Parade:** City Staff is requesting a temporary street closure of the 100 block of West, 100 Block East Virginia Avenue and the 100 block of N. 12th, for the Parks & Recreation Christmas in the City festival, Parade, and Community Tree Lighting on Sunday, November 20th from 12:00 Noon until 9:00 PM.

Establish a Public Hearing - Eastwood Homes:

City Staff received a request from Eastwood Homes to voluntarily annex their property located at tax parcel numbers #304904, 306573, 306572, 306571, 306570, and 306569 (36.07 acres) in to the City limits.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding a voluntary annexation will be held on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers. Public notice will be given per NC General Statutes.

Establish a Public Hearing – Sunset Drive:

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, a public hearing regarding a potential improvements to an unpaved portion of roadway on Sunset Drive will be held on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00PM in Council Chambers. Public notice will be given per NC General Statutes.

Osage Mill Encroachment Agreement

City Staff informed Council that this is an agreement to allow the Osage Mill Redevelopment project to utilize S. 11th Street for parking.

By motion Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the Osage Mill Encroachment agreement was approved.

Extension of maturity date on Interim Financing (Stinger Park)

City Staff informed Council that an extension on the Interim Financing was needed. Due to delayed shipping of materials the subcontractors are behind on the Stinger Park project. City Staff would like to move the date from October 21, 2022 to April 21, 2023.

By motion Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the maturity date on the interim financing date was extended to April 21, 2023.

City Manager's Report

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

- Budget Amendment #1: By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding the Stormwater Fee Analysis was approved.
- Budget Amendment #2: By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding the Fire Department grant for \$10,000 to be used for COVID expenses was approved.
- Budget Amendment #3: By motion of Brenda Boyd and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding the electrical upgrades to the downtown corridor by Smart Electric was approved.
- Budget Amendment #4: By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding an additional Fire Department grant was approved.
- Budget Amendment #5: By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the budget amendment regarding the redirecting of funds from the General Fund and Water & Sewer Fund for Stinger Park was approved.
- Offer to Sell Property: By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the offer to sell property discussion was tabled until the November 2022 Regular Session. The City received an offer to purchase City property located at 501 E. Washington Avenue from Development Solutions Group (DSG).
- Business Accelerator Program (BAP): By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the City will use BAP grant funds to purchase property at 112 West Virginia Avenue. The City received \$500,000 in grants funds for the Business Accelerator Program (BAP) last year. This program was designed to help leverage economic growth in downtown by purchasing and rehabilitating historic buildings. Capital from the sale of property would be used to purchase and rehabilitate other historic buildings.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member, Joe Will commended City Staff for propelling the City forward. There has been a lot of good change. Council member, Brenda Boyd commended City Staff for their continuous hard work. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about notifying NCDOT about potential roadway hazards on 12th Street and Alabama Avenue.

Closed Session

By motion of Brenda and unanimous vote, City Council entered in to closed session to discuss a personnel matter pursuant to NCGS143-318(a)(6) at 7:39 PM.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, City Council came out of closed session at 8:00 PM. No action was taken.

City Manager Contract – New Appointment

By motion of Brenda and unanimous vote, Mayor Smith is hereby permitted to execute the City Manager contract with the City of Bessemer City and Joshua Ross.

Adjournment

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, City Clerk