

REGULAR MEETING

May 9th, 2016

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, May 9th, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

Members Present

Mayor Becky Smith, Council Members: Dan Boling, Kay McCathen, Joe Will, Howard Jones, Alfred Carpenter, and Donnie Griffin. Attorney, David Smith and City Manager, James Inman, were also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Concord United Methodist Reverend Cindy Spicer led in prayer. Mayor Smith followed by leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the May Agenda

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the May Agenda was approved.

Special Presentations

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

Mr. James Montgomery, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to Kelsey McNeely, Sierra Suarez, Jennifer Ray, and Keely Bolt.

Dr. Rebecca Wilson, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to Bessemer City Middle School students: Emily Aponte, Dylan Mejia, Garrett Tate, Kaitlyn Robinson, Monica Rico, Azeneth Garcia, Moncerath Catalan, Sierra Scott, Chieko Hensley and Haley Mayberry.

Mrs. Beth Germain, Principal of Bessemer City Central Elementary, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to students: Jaden Borgo, Caleb Norris, and Caleb Summey.

Mrs. Kristi Gornto, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to Sarai Estrada-Garcia, Keeny Vasquez Cruz, and Tekayla Belton.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment.

Michael Meeks of 502 Virginia thanked Mayor Smith and City Council for coming to the Veterans event in Gastonia.

Scott Noblett of 109 South Inman Avenue stated that kids need safer walk way to school 274 intersection at West Virginia and North 14th Street. He also stated that there is a problem with cars running the stop sign at this intersection. Also, Mr. Noblet shared that the newsletter is a great thing and mentioned that maybe a noise ordinance reminder can be placed in the next newsletter.

Consent Agenda

The following items for the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Howard Jones:

- a. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting Minutes of April 11th, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes of April 11th, 2016 and Work Session Meeting Minutes of April 26th, 2016.
- b. Request for Overnight Travel- Finance Director, Diane Jenkins, is requesting overnight travel for the North Carolina Government Finance Officers Association conference in Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina May 17th-May 19th
- c. Ratify Proclamation- To ratify the National Day of Prayer that took place May 5th in City Hall
- d. Resolution-A1A Grants- To ratify the \$50,000.00 AIA grant to map and establish a database for Bessemer City sewer lines.

Proclamation: National Police Week 2016

Mayor Smith presented to City Council a Proclamation to declare May 15th- May 21st, 2016 as “National Police Week”. By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the National Police Week 2016 proclamation was adopted.

A copy of this proclamation is on file at City Hall.

Resolution-Rezoning Request: 601 Gastonia Highway

Howard Eaves, owner of 301 Gastonia Highway, is requesting to change the property’s zoning from C-I (Light Commercial) to C-2 (Highway Commercial) at the April Regular Council Meeting. At that meeting council approved the change with a 4:3 vote. Per North Carolina Statute the resolution must be presented again because the resolution did not reach a majority vote at the April meeting.

Council Member Joe Will made a motion to deny the rezoning request. Those in favor were Joe Will and Howard Jones. Those against were Dan Boling, Alfred Carpenter, Kay McCathen and Donnie Griffin. The motion failed with a 2:4 vote.

Council Member Dan Boling made a motion to approve the rezoning request. Those in favor were Dan Boling, Alfred Carpenter, Kay McCathen and Donnie Griffin. Those against were Joe Will and Howard Jones. The motion carries with a 4:2 vote.

Interlocal Agreement: Enforcement of State Fire Code

City Manager, James Inman, explained that the City's fire inspector was not sufficiently completing duties in a timely manner; therefore, the City has propose an Inter-local Agreement with the Gaston County Fire Marshalls occur. The Fire Marshalls have been assisting the City. The agreement would span over one year for \$12,120 that automatically renews.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, City Council approved the agreement.

Budget Amendment: Fire Department Renovation Project

City Manager, James Inman, explained the \$4,000 amendment was to bring the project into balance.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, City Council approved the budget amendment.

Budget Modification: Water/Sewer and Parks & Recreation

City Manager, James Inman, explained that as the budget officer he could not move more than \$7, 000 at a time. Therefore, City Council approval is needed to move larger amounts. City Manager explained that the modification does not mean an increase or decrease it is only to move line items.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Council approved the budget modification.

Setting a Public Hearing: 2016-2017 Proposed Budget

By motion of Council Member Howard Jones and unanimous vote, the public hearing for the 2016-2017 Proposed Budget was set for Monday, June 13th at 7:00 PM.

City Manager's Report

Pennsylvania Streetscape Project- James Inman, City Manager explained that the project is 98% complete. The street is paved and marked, and the decorative street lights will be installed soon. Council Member Joe Will, asked about having the state restripe the area on highway 161. City Manager also mentioned a ribbon cutting upon completion.

Community Center James Inman, City Manager explained the center is 85% complete. Anticipated dedication is Saturday, June 25th, at 10:30 AM.

Centennial Park- Mr. Inman provided a review of the park expansion with photos displayed to all in attendance.

Sewer Line Replacement- A review of the Sewer Line Replacement Project with photos were displayed to City Council and the all in attendance. City Manager answered led discussion on topic.

New Position- James Inman, City Manager explained that a motion is needed to approve the job description and permission to hire the new employee May 23rd. The new position title is Public Relations and Communications Specialist.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the motions were approved.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. City Council Members Donnie Griffin and Alfred Carpenter thanked City Manager for having the grate at the underpass fixed. City Attorney, David Smith, advised Council that three parcels at the park needed to be combined for recording. Attorney Smith also has drafted an agreement for the motel case.

Closed Session

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, City Council went into closed session at 8:12 PM.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, City Council came out of closed session at 8:45PM.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Hydeia Hayes, Deputy Clerk

Becky S. Smith, Mayor