

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

**April 11, 2016**

The Bessemer City Council met in Special Session on Monday April 11, 2016 at 8:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

### **Members Present**

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

### **Call to Order**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order at 8:00PM and stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear public comments regarding a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) Application the City plans to submit for the construction of a new park. The meeting was advertised in the Gaston Gazette as required by the application.

### **Park Overview**

Parks and Recreation Director, JoD Franklin, gave an overview of the proposed park being submitted in the PARTF Grant Application. Mr. Franklin described the park uses, funding sources, partnerships, and positive impact to the community. General discussion was held.

### **Public Comment**

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the floor was opened for public comment. Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone wanting to speak in favor of the grant and newly proposed park.

Michael Meeks of 812 West Virginia Avenue spoke in favor of the park by suggestion that Bessemer City needed a park of this size in the community. He believes this will have a positive impact to citizen recreational opportunities.

Mike Peregory of 914 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street spoke in favor of the park and thought that the location is strategically placed between neighborhoods and schools.

Adora Alford of 315 McKee Drive spoke in favor of the park by stating it would be an ideal location for ball tournaments, corporate outings, and encourage new business development in the community.

JoD Franklin of 503 Dover Drive spoke in favor of the park because he believes it will be a huge asset for the community. Mr. Franklin also presented letters of support to Mayor Smith and City Council from local schools and organizations.

David Lutz of 408 North 12<sup>th</sup> Street spoke in favor of the park and said he is in full support of the project.

Nellie Floyd of 916 West Carolina Avenue spoke in favor of the project because it can be utilized by neighboring schools.

Bee Crocker of 311 South Pinchback Avenue spoke in favor of the project because it will give children in the community more recreational opportunities.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone to speak against the park. There was none.

James Inman, City Manager, made a comment regarding the proximity of his home and the park's location. Mr. Inman wanted to be clear that the location was selected because of the availability of land and is in no way associated with his home's proximity to the park.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the public hearing was closed for comment.

**Adoption of North Park Master Plan**

Mayor Smith and City Council were presented with the North Park Master Plan. By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the plan was adopted.

**Adoption of the Bessemer City Comprehensive Plan for Parks and Recreation**

Mayor Smith and City Council were presented with the Comprehensive Plan for Parks and Recreation. By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the comprehensive plan was adopted.

**Adoption of the North Park CIP**

Mayor Smith and City Council were presented with the CIP schedule for the North Park Project. By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the CIP was adopted.

**Resolution: PARTF Application**

Mayor Smith and City Council were presented with PARTF Application Resolution. By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, the resolution was adopted. A copy of this resolution is on file at City Hall.

**Council General Discussion**

Council Member Dan Boling asked if the local paper could be contacted about the PARTF submission. Council Member Donnie Griffin stated that the neighborhood near the proposed location of the park is okay with its location.

Being no further business, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 PM by motion of Alfred Carpenter.

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Joshua M. Ross, City Clerk

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor

April 11, 2016 Special Meeting Minutes will be officially adopted at the Regular Schedule Meeting on Monday, May 9, 2016. This copy is only a draft and has not been approved by City Council.

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Joshua M. Ross, City Clerk