

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

### **Members Present**

Mayor Becky Smith, Council Members: Dan Boling, Joe Will, Kay McCathen, Howard Jones, Alfred Carpenter, and Donnie Griffin were all present. 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. Pastor Libby Toler of Grace Lutheran Church led in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of the April Agenda**

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the April agenda was approved with following changes: Item 11 (Demolition Ordinance-605 E. Boston Ave) removed, and Item 12 (Demolition Ordinance-1207 Edgewood Rd) moved to immediate discussion.

### **Demolition Ordinance-1207 Edgewood Road**

City Attorney, David Smith addressed Council about the possible demolition of the Edgewood Motel located at 1207 Edgewood Road. Attorney Smith stated that the owners had an agreement with the City to bring the building up to code. However, as the building failed to comply with City code by January 2017, the building went into default, per the agreement between the City and Edgewood Motel owners. Attorney Smith attested that at that time the Edgewood Motel owners were notified that they were in default, and needed to submit plans immediately. Attorney Smith and City Planner, Jeffrey Kirchner informed Council that the Edgewood Motel owners had submitted plans to renovate the building, but said plans were incomplete and incoherent. By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote City Manager, James Inman and City Attorney, David Smith were given permission to seek bids for the 1207 Edgewood Road demolition.

By motion of Mayor Smith, City Attorney Smith was excused from the meeting at 7:10PM.

### **Special Presentations**

Gaston County Health Department- Gaston County Health Department Public Health Division Director, Steve Eaton presented City Council with the “2017 Gaston County Public Heroes” award and recognized them for their commitment and assistance with the Tobacco Free Gaston initiatives.

Special Recognition-Centennial Park Revitalization Project- Mayor Smith and Council recognized Andy Lutz Construction for his stellar work with the Centennial Park Revitalization.

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. Judy Moore, Principal of Bessemer City High School, and Mayor Smith, presented a certificate to 9<sup>th</sup> grade Student of the Month Emma Smith.

Mrs. Fran Decanal, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Middle School representatives: Markeitha Curry and Aniah Grossly.

Mrs. Kristi Gornito, Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Central & Primary School representatives: Carter Willis and Graydon Gardner.

### **Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

### **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 March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Work Session Meeting Minutes March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017, and Special Session Meeting Minutes of April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- b. Street Closure-West Pennsylvania Avenue – City administration is requesting that the 100 block of West Pennsylvania Avenue be closed for the 29th Annual Down Home Festival.
- c. Disposal of Surplus Property- City administration is requesting that a 35 foot flag pole be considered surplus property to be sold.
- d. Resolution for Surplus Disposal- City administration is requesting that City Council approve a resolution that allows for small items such as phones be disposed at the discretion of the City Manager.

### **Resolution – Approving BB & T Financing Terms**

City Manager, James Inman informed Council that this resolution was a debt package to approve the purchase of vehicles and software needed in the 2017-2018 budget year. By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote the resolution was approved.

### **Public Hearing- Osage Mill Redevelopment Project Incentive**

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote the Public Hearing regarding the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project Incentive was opened at 7:28PM. Mayor Smith asked if there was

anyone present to speak in favor of the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project Incentive. The following individuals came forth:

Joshua Ross of 330 Costner Drive, also Bessemer City Economic Development Officer, spoke in favor of the Project Incentive. Mr. Ross explained that the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project team is requesting use of the City and County's Local Investment Grant Program. Industrial and large-scale commercial projects qualify for this grant; however, the development team is requesting use of the grant for one time only because of the secondary economic impact associated with the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project. Mr. Ross further explained that the Gaston County Commissioners held a public hearing on Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 6:00PM and adopted a resolution approving the use of the grant for one time only.

Bob Hovis of 1102 Crowders Mountain Road spoke in favor of the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project. Mr. Hovis expressed that if approved the Osage Mill Redevelopment would place Bessemer City on the leading edge. Hovis further mentioned that the project gained the support of the Gaston County Commissioners and would serve as a way to preserve the rich history of Bessemer City.

City Manager, James Inman expressed his gratitude to Commissioner Hovis for coming to share his comments regarding the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone present to speak in opposition of the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project Incentive. There was none.

By motion of Howard Jones and unanimous vote, the public hearing was closed at 7:31PM

#### **Resolution- Osage Mill Redevelopment Project Incentive**

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote the resolution regarding the Osage Mill Redevelopment Project was approved. A copy of this ordinance is available at City Hall.

#### **Public Hearing-Ordinance Prohibiting Animals in Festivals, Parades, and Fairs**

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote the public hearing regarding the prohibition of animals in festivals, parades, and fairs opened at 7:32PM.

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

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

By motion of Dan Boling the public hearing regarding the prohibition of animals in festivals, parades, and fairs closed at 7:34 PM.

#### **Ordinance Prohibiting Animals in Festivals, Parades, and Fairs**

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote the resolution regarding the prohibition of animals in festivals, parades, and fairs was approved. A copy of this ordinance is available at City Hall.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council with the following updates:

#### **Downtown Dairy Treats & Ice-cream**

City Manager, James Inman stated that the Downtown Dairy Treats & Ice-cream shop will have their grand opening on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### **USDA Special Meeting**

City Manager Inman informed Council that the City has received a grant for \$470,000.00 towards the Public Works Building. He stated that with Council consensus a special meeting will be held Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM in Council Chambers about the Public Works Building plan of action.

### **City Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member Dan Boling commended City Manager, James Inman on his great work with helping the City receive grant funds. Council member Joe Will commended the Parks & Recreation Department for a job well done on their 2017 Easter Egg Hunt. Council member Howard Jones inquired about the Bessemer City appointed boards application process and terms. City Manager, James Inman informed him that the board terms expire in June, so the City will began soliciting applications for those wishing to serve. Council member Alfred Carpenter asked about the status of the Recycling containers in City facilities. Mr. Inman informed him that recycling receptacles had been ordered and will be dispersed to all City facilities once they are received. Council member Donnie Griffin announced to the audience that the first Sounds of Summer Concert & Cruise-In would be Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. At 6:00PM. Mayor Smith concluded the discussion by inviting the audience to attend the Cross Walk Processional on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 12:00PM.

### **Adjourn**

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

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Hydeia Hayes, Deputy City Clerk

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor