

REGULAR MEETING

August 14th, 2017

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, August 14th, 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. City Manager, James Inman was also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. Mark Tolan, Associate Pastor for First Wesleyan Church led in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the August Agenda

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the August agenda was approved with no revisions.

Consent Agenda

The following items for the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Kay McCathen:

- a. Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10th, 2017, Work Session Meeting Minutes July 25th, 2017.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Toni Hamby of 605 N. 14th Street expressed her gratitude to Council and the Police Department as a local business owner. Ms. Hamby stated that BCPD handled a recent operation with efficiency and her patrons and employees feel a lot safer as a result. Hamby further stated that she was proud to be a part of the town, and patrons often discuss how great the town looks.

Building Rehabilitation Incentive Grant (BRIG)-113 East Virginia Avenue

Economic Development Officer, Josh Ross addressed Council about two new businesses opening downtown who are planning to apply for BRIG funds. Mr. Ross reminded Council that the BRIG program was created in 2013 to assist local downtown business owners with interior projects and improvements. The BRIG grant states a local downtown business owner may apply for a grant match up to 50% after they've invested their funds. Mr. Ross further informed Council that the new businesses opening downtown are a movie store and dance studio. General discussion was held amongst Council and Mr. Ross. By motion of Howard Jones and unanimous vote, the two new businesses were allowed to apply for the BRIG grant.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the request for additional grant funding was tabled for discussion at the next work session.

City Manager's Report

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

Resolution: North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program- City Manager, James Inman requested that Council pass a resolution supporting the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. Said resolution requires Council to provide a \$18,000 grant match to receive \$108,000 for an officer's salary and equipment for traffic enforcement.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding the Governor's Highway Safety Program was approved.

Resolution: Awarding DWSRF Water Line Replacement Project Bid- City Manager, James Inman informed Council that a number of bids had been received regarding the DWSRF Water Line Replacement Project. Mr. Inman stated the he and the engineering firm recommended that the bid be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, R. H Price, Inc. of Charlotte, NC.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the resolution awarding R. H Price, Inc. of Charlotte, NC was approved.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Councilmember, Donnie Griffin thanked the Public Works staff for keeping City grass manicured and trees trimmed. Councilmember, Alfred Carpenter commended City Manager, Inman for a job well done. Mr. Carpenter stated that many citizens have commented on how great the City looks and the wonderful events the Recreation Department host. Councilmember Kay McCathen thanked Public Works Director, Jamie Ramsey for handling a water leak issue regarding St. James Church. Councilmember, Howard Jones inquired about the City right of way at the corner of Whiskey Mill. City Manager, Inman informed Mr. Jones that he would have Code Enforcement check on the issue. Councilmember, Dan Boling inquired about the trash pickup service. Mr. Boling stated that someone moved out and left a large amount of debris alongside Maine Avenue. Mr. Inman stated that he would handle the issue, and that immediate code enforcement issues can be reported to the City through an application called Mobile 311.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 7:44 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Joshua M. Ross, City Clerk