

REGULAR MEETING

July 10th, 2017

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, July 10th, 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 and City Attorney, David Smith, were also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. First United Methodist Church Pastor Tripp Hord led in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the July Agenda

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

Special Presentations

Honoring of Fred Lankford, Dedicated Firefighter- Mayor Becky S. Smith and Council recognized Mr. Fred Lankford, a dedicated Bessemer City firefighter who has served for 49 years. Mr. Lankford's family and friends were present for the presentation. Mayor Smith invited all present to congratulate Mr. Lankford and thank him for his service.

Bessemer City High School Track Team- Mayor Becky S. Smith and Council recognized the Bessemer City High School Girls Track team for their Second State Championship win. The recipients were Brianne Davis, Summer Meeks, Kiazylia Degree, Ja'Ciya Guthrie-Barber, Assistant Coach Nikki Wallace, and Coach Bryan Nichols.

Best of Gaston Winners- Mayor Smith recognized businesses from Bessemer City that won categories in the Gaston Gazette's Best of Gaston Competition. Mayor Smith presented Certificates of Recognition to 1) Whiskey Mill Bar & Grill for best wings and brewpub and 2) Grandma Hoyt's for best home cooking.

Special Recognition: Tobacco Prevention- Carleen Crawford of Mecklenburg County Office of NC Tobacco Policy and Prevention presented Council with recognition awards for their great strides in tobacco prevention and cessation.

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 June 12th, 2017, Work Session Meeting Minutes June 27th, 2017.

- b. 2017-2018 Main Street Agreement- City Administration is seeking the approval of the 2017-2018 Main Street Agreement. The requested agreement is needed for the Bessemer City Downtown Development Board to meet the requirements of the Main Street Program.

City Manager's Report

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

Resolution: In Support of Amending Hold Harmless Payments- City Manager, James Inman requested that Council pass a resolution supporting the amending of Gaston County Hold Harmless Payments. Said resolution would stabilize hold harmless payments for fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020 to offset sales tax revenue loss in all Gaston County municipalities. By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the resolution regarding Gaston County Hold Harmless Payments was approved.

Waterline Replacement Update- City Manager, James Inman informed Council that the City has begun receiving bids for the (16) sixteen feet waterline replacements. The waterline replacements will be made to old pipelines to ensure utility efficiency in the future. More information will be brought to Council as it becomes available.

First Baptist Church Bus- City Manager, James Inman informed Council that the First Baptist Church Council had approved the donation of a 1996 Ford 24 passenger van in exchange for the Church's use a limited number of times per year. City Manager, James Inman asked for Council approval to move forward by obtaining the title and beginning routine maintenance. By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, City Manager Inman was granted permission to accept the First Baptist Church Bus.

America's Best Inn-Capital Project- City Manager, James Inman addressed Council about the America's Best Inn at 1207 Edgewood Road. Mr. Inman informed Council that the grant source the City planned on applying for was not available. The grant stated that the City had to own the property. Nevertheless, Mr. Inman presented Council with the bids submitted to demolish the building and removal of asbestos. By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the bids were awarded to Cloningers, Inc of Bessemer City in the amount of \$73,000.00 for demolition and Culver Enterprises of Kings Mountain in the amount of \$58, 200.00 for asbestos removal.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Kathy Beck of 517 E. Lee Ave addressed Council with her concerns that her question from the June 12th Regular City Council Meeting had not been answered. Ms. Beck stated that she asked Mayor and Council if the City was being sued. City Attorney David Smith informed Ms. Beck that he was unaware of any pending litigation. Ms. Beck further stated that in her opinion the City was being sued for an incident the City Manager's son had with his City vehicle. City Attorney David Smith assured Ms. Beck that there was no

suit, however, that if she'd like, she could visit the County Courthouse and ask if there was any pending litigation against the City of Bessemer City. Mr. Smith further informed Ms. Beck that matters such as litigation against a municipality is public record.

- Ken Bain of 207 E. Maryland Ave expressed his gratitude to the Bessemer City Fire Department, Police Department, and Council. Mr. Bain stated that all City departments were handling City business in an excellent manner.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion by reminding Council of Mrs. Irene Harmon's 100th Birthday Party Sunday, July 30th at First Baptist Church. Mayor Smith inquired about the donation bins at the Silver Express and Ingles. City Manager, Inman addressed her concern and ensured her that the bins would be removed as they are out of City code. Council member Kay McCathen thanked the Police Department for addressing her concerns. Council member Alfred Carpenter stated citizens of Cherryville commended Bessemer City Council & Mayor on how great the community looks. Council member Donnie Griffin thanked the Bessemer City Police Department Staff for the hard work they do. Mr. Griffin asked everyone to keep Chief Ellis and his family in their prayers, as he recently lost his father.

Closed Session

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, Council went in Closed Session at 7:30PM pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (3) to discuss a legal matter.

By motion of Kay McCathen and unanimous vote, Council came out of Closed Session at 7:44PM. No action was taken in closed session.

Adjourn

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

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Joshua M. Ross, City Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: July 10th, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes will be officially adopted at the Regular Scheduled Meeting on Monday, August 14th, 2017. This copy is only a draft and has not been approved by City Council.



Joshua M. Ross, City Clerk