

REGULAR MEETING

June 12th, 2017

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, June 12th, 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 Attorney, Marshall Walker, was also present.

Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. First Wesleyan Church Pastor Wes Brown led in prayer. Mayor Smith led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the June Agenda

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the June agenda was approved with the following revisions: Item 8 (Appointments of ABC Board, Bessemer City Downtown Development Board, & Planning Board) was removed.

Special Presentations

Centralina Council of Governments-Improving Quality of Life Award- Mayor Smith informed the audience that the City of Bessemer City's Centennial Park had received its second recognition award. The Centralina Council of Government (CCOG) recognized Bessemer City as the municipality that had made the greatest strides to improving quality of life for its citizens at the 2017 Region of Excellence Awards.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

- Gabby Franklin of 503 Dover Dr addressed Council regarding a Blood Drive she's coordinating in collaboration with Community Blood Center of the Carolina's for a school project Saturday, June 24th from 10:00AM-2:00PM at the Allan Farris Community Center. Ms. Franklin requested that messages about the Blood Drive be advertised on the City's marquis and the community phone message system.
- Kathy Beck of 517 E. Lee Ave addressed Council with her concerns that her public records requests have not been completely fulfilled. Ms. Beck stated that she requested documents that detailed the City's expenses and reimbursements from employees' use of City vehicles for their personal use. Ms. Beck further stated that the records that she received did not meet proper records format in her opinion. Ms. Beck further expressed her concern about how the City was spending too much money, her discontent with City staff, and her concern that the City's taxes were being raised because the County's taxes

were going up. Ms. Beck also stated that she felt like City equipment was being misused by staff and that the City should not have spent money on an “exotic” lawnmower for public works because it has an air conditioner in it. Ms. Beck further expresses City vehicles cannot have citizens in them for liability reasons.

Consent Agenda

The following items for the Consent Agenda were unanimously approved by motion of Alfred Carpenter:

- a. Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of May 8th, 2017, Work Session Meeting Minutes May 30th, 2017, and Special Session Meeting Minutes of May 24th, 2017 and June 6th, 2017.
- b. Amended 2015-2016 Budget Contract- City Administration is seeking the approval of the Amended 2015-2016 Budget Audit Contract. The requested amendment is needed to cover charges for the Single Audit.

Public Hearing for 2017-2018 Proposed Budget

Per NCGS 159-12, the City is required to hold a public hearing prior to adopting the fiscal budget. By motion of Howard Jones and unanimous vote, the public hearing was opened at 7:15PM.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone to speak in favor of the 2017-2018 proposed budget. There was none.

Mayor Smith asked if there was anyone to speak in opposition to the 2017-2018 proposed budget. The following individuals came forth:

- Clifford Paul Ellis of 312 E. Iowa Ave addressed Council with his concerns that the proposed 2017-2018 was not reducing taxes. Mr. Ellis also expressed his concern that the Police Department was an expensive cost to Bessemer City citizens. He stated that the City should be lowering taxes instead of funding a “fancy” police department and firing range. Mr. Ellis further stated that he would be running for Council in the 2017 election for Ward 5. He also stated that he would vote down the budget if he was elected.
- Kathy Beck of 517 E. Lee Ave addressed Council with her concerns that the proposed 2017-2018 budget was raising taxes. Ms. Beck also inquired about a possible law suit that the City is facing. It was explained to Ms. Beck that there is no property tax increase proposals in the 2017-2018 budget.

- Liz Carpenter of 908 Ramseur Rd addressed Council to inquire if a firing range was in the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget. It was explained that there is no funding for a firing range in the 2017-2018 budget.

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the public hearing was closed at 7:20PM

Ordinance 2017-2018 Budget

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance was adopted as follows:

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City of Bessemer City

2017-2018 Budget Ordinance

BE IT ORDAINED, by the City Council of the City of Bessemer City, North Carolina:

Section 1. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the General Fund for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018.

Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,384,040
Prior Year Taxes	15,000
Auto Tag Fees	125,000
Gross Rental Vehicle Tax	500
Penalties & Interest	10,000
Sales Tax	646,262
State Board Assessed	38,000
Cable Franchise Tax	17,000
Solid Waste Disposal Tax	3,200
Beer & Wine Tax	25,000
Franchise Tax	450,000
PD Fees for Services	500
PD - Grants	180,672
Fire Department Grant	22,000
Rent- Land	1,100
Landfill Fees	300,000
Recycling Fees	85,000
Grave Opening/Closing	15,000
Cemetery Lot Sales	5,000
Grant - Kiser Center	3,800
Senior Events	6,000
Investment Earnings	8,000
Down Home Festival	42,000
Parks & Recreation Fees	11,000
Swimming Pool Fees	84,000
Zoning Permits & Fees	3,000
Code Enforcement & Civil Citations	1,000
Insurance Proceeds	1,500
Miscellaneous Revenues	5,000
Fund Balance Apportionation	13,022
Administrative Charges - Enterprise Funds	769,386
Sale of Property	<u>1,500</u>
	\$ 4,272,482

City of Bessemer City 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance

Section 2. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the General Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in accordance with the established chart of accounts.

Governing Body & Legal	\$ 101,721
Administration & Finance	866,282
Police Department	1,143,499
Fire Department	110,054
Garage Operations	98,239
Public Works Department	293,056
Sanitation Department	344,343
Planning & Zoning	88,046
Economic Development	151,096
Debt Service	428,106
Recreation Department	468,070
Parks & Gym	31,000
Pool	112,171
Cemetery	<u>36,800</u>
	\$ 4,272,482

Section 3. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the Water & Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Water Sales	2,229,265
Sewer Sales	1,925,000
Tap Fees	1,000
Reconnect Fees	11,000
Pulled Water Meter Fee	0
Penalties	30,000
Investment Earnings	0
Miscellaneous	15,000
Administrative Fee	18,000
Fund Balance	<u>0</u>
	\$ 4,229,265

Section 4. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Water & Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in accordance with the established chart of accounts.

Debt Service	\$ 268,499
Administration	436,886
Water/Wastewater Treatment	2,252,525
Public Works	1,016,819
New Line Construction	156,000
Capital Project	<u>98,536</u>
	\$ 4,229,265

City of Bessemer City 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance

Section 5. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the Natural Gas Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Sales of Gas	\$	1,245,000
Cut-ons & Reconnects & Extension		1,800
Penalties		31,528
Miscellaneous		1,500
Interest		0
Fund Balance		<u>64,782</u>
	\$	1,344,610

Section 6. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Natural Gas Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in accordance with the established chart of accounts.

Debt Service	\$	48,059
Administration		332,500
Gas Operations		<u>964,051</u>
	\$	1,344,610

Section 7. It is estimated that the following revenues will be available to the StormWater Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

Storm Water Charges	\$	86,000
Appropriated Fund Balance		<u>42,501</u>
	\$	128,501

Section 8. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the StormWater Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in accordance with the established chart of accounts.

Storm Water Operations	\$	128,501
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City of Bessemer City 2017-2018 Budget Ordinance

Section 9. The following revenues are expected to be available to the Cemetery Trust Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Fund Balance Appropriated	\$	<u>0</u>
	\$	0

Section 10. The following amounts are hereby appropriated in the Cemetery Trust Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in accordance with the established chart of accounts.

Transfer to General Fund	\$	<u>0</u>
	\$	0

Section 11. The following revenues are expected to be available in the Powell Bill Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018.

State Powell Bill Allocation	\$	<u>186,000</u>
	\$	186,000

Section 12. The following amount is hereby appropriated in the Powell Bill Fund for the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 in accordance with the established chart of accounts. Street Operations **\$186,000**

Section 13. There is hereby levied a tax rate of forty-five (\$.45) per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation of property taxes as of January 1, 2015 for the purpose of raising the revenue listed 'Ad Valorem Taxes' in the General Fund. This rate is on a total valuation of property for the purposes of taxation of \$313,442,907 and an estimated rate of collection of 97%. The estimated rate of collection is based off of the fiscal 2016-2017 collection rate of 97%. The motor vehicle tag fee per G.S. 20.97 is set at \$10 per vehicle.

Section 14. A fee of \$10.50 per month per roll-out cart (residential, commercial or industrial) within the City when the City provides garbage/trash collection service shall be charged and collected as an addition to the utility bill for the purpose of Landfill and Disposal fees.

Section 15. A fee of \$3.50 per month per roll-out cart within the City when the City provides Recycling Collection service shall be charged and collected as an addition to the utility bill for the purpose of Disposal fees.

Section 16. A fee of \$10.00 per month per residential/apartment unit within the City shall be charged and collected as an additional fee for bulk item, brush, and debris pickup if a solid waste and/or recycling fee is not charged.

Section 17. A fee for Stormwater Management shall be charged and collected as an addition to the utility bill as follows: Residential - \$3.07 / month , Commercial - \$6.00 / month, Industrial - \$12.00 / month.

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Section 18. Water & Sewer Rates shall be charged as follows for meter readings on or after July 1, 2017.

Water: \$9.71 Minimum per month for 2,000 gallons \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons

The rate for customers outside the city limits of Bessemer City are double the above amounts.

Desposits: \$100/150/300	Reconnect: \$35	Broken Lock: \$300	Meter Tampering: \$500
Administrative Fee: \$40	Illegal Turn on: \$150	Meter Reset: \$150	
Cut-off List Admin Fee: \$15	After Hours Reconnect Fee: \$125		

Tap Fees: 3/4" - \$450*; 1" - \$500*; 1-1/2" - \$550*; 2" - \$600* *plus meter cost

Raw Water: \$.90 per 1,000 gallons

Development Fees:	Residential:	\$350.00 per Bedroom (100 Gallons x \$3.50/gal)
	Commercial:	\$350.00
	Industrial:	\$500.00

Sewer: \$13.23 Minimum per month for 2,000 gallons water metered
\$10.13 per 1,000 gallons over 2,000 gallons of water metered up to 1 million gallons
\$5.72 per 1,000 gallons for >= 1 million gallons of water metered
\$13.23 Inside customers connected to sewer but not water
\$22.94 Inside customers not connected to water or sewer
Tap Fees: 4" - \$500; 6" - \$600

The rate for customers outside the city limits of Bessemer City are double the above amounts.

Development Fees:	Residential:	\$450.00 per Bedroom (100 Gallons x \$4.50/gal)
	Commercial:	\$450.00
	Industrial:	\$500.00

The availability charge for customers not connected to water or sewer shall be the minimum charge for that service. Meter Checks: One free per year. Defective meter replaced free of charge. Non-defective meters will result in a charge of \$25 + cost of testing.

Section 19. Natural Gas and Other Fees shall be charged as follows after July 1, 2017.

Gas: Tap Fees:

The home must be plumbed and inspected by County Inspector & City Gas Employees prior to City's installation of riser and City portion of gas line to home.

Gas Deposit: \$150/225/300 Gas Reconnect: \$40 Seasonal Cutoff: \$100
 Cut-off List Admin Fee: \$15 After Hours Reconnect Fee: \$125 Administrative Fee: \$40
 Minimum Availability Fees: Residential: \$8.70
 Small Commercial: \$9.10
 Industrial - Firm: \$200.00
 Industrial - Interruptible: \$400.00

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Planning & Zoning Fees:

Board of Adjustments:

Variance Request	\$	150	Appeal	\$	150
Conditional Use Permit	\$	150	Special Exception	\$	150

Planning & Zoning Board:

Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning)	\$	300	Text Amendment (Rezoning)	\$	300
Zoning Fees: New Single Family	\$	100	New Multi Family	\$150 + \$5/Unit	
Additions	\$20-\$50		Accessory	\$	40
Zoning Verification	\$	25			
Non-Residential: Up to 5,000 sq.ft.	\$	100	5,001-10,000 sq.ft.	\$	200
Non-Residential over 10,000 sq.ft.				\$200 + \$1/1,000 sq.ft.	
Subdivision Plat: Minor	\$	50	Major	\$100 + \$5/lot	
Recombination Plat:	\$	50	Sign Permit:	\$	50
Accessory (no building permit)	\$	25	Accessory (building permit)	\$	50
Other Permits:					
Zoning Certificate of Compliance	\$	50	Home Occupation	\$	50
Temporary Use	\$	25	Demolition Permit	\$	25
Telecommunication Tower: New	\$	300	Co-Location	\$	100

Cemetery Fees: Lots - \$500 Grave Opening: \$260-\$560 as per Cemetery Ordinance*
 Holiday, After 4:00pm, Short Notice & Rock Removal will incur additional charges.
 Grave Marking- \$100

Return Check Fee:	\$40	Administrative Fee for Utility Cut-offs:	\$15.00
Copies of Public Records Per Page:		B&W up to 8-1/2 x 14	\$0.10
		Color up to 8-1/2 x 14 & B&W Ledger	\$0.15
		Color Ledger	\$0.20

Section 20. All other fees for service, surcharges, etc. previously established by Council shall remain the same unless adjusted at some future date. All billing not paid on the due date is subject to a 10% late penalty.

Section 21. The Budget Officer is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund as contained herein as follows:

- a. The Budget Officer may transfer amounts between object of expenditure within a department as defined b Ordinance without limitations.
- b. The Budget Officer may transfer amounts up to \$7,500 between departments as defined by Ordinance of t same fund with report on such transfers at the next regular Council meeting.

Section 22. Copies of the Budget Ordinance shall be furnished to all Department Heads for guidance in the disbursements of funds. A copy shall always be available for public inspection in the Clerk's office.

City Manager's Report

Mayor Smith opened the follow for City Manager Inman's report. He stated that he didn't have any items to discuss at the time.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member Dan Boling thanked City administration: Joshua Ross, Jamie Ramsey, and James Inman for assisting him with the outstanding issues he had. Council member Joe Will inquired about City signage regarding the no smoking or tobacco use policy throughout the City. Mr. Inman informed him that some new signage had been ordered and would be displayed as soon as possible. Council member Donnie Griffin thanked the Bessemer City Public Works and Police Department Staff for the hard work they do. Mr. Griffin stated that he had witnessed City employees remain calm in the face of adversity and demeaning comments from the general public. Mayor Smith thanked James Inman, Diane Jenkins, Jamie Ramsey, and Joshua Ross for a job well done on the 2017-2018 Budget.

Closed Session

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, Council went in Closed Session at 7:26PM pursuit to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11 (3) to discuss a legal matter.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, Council came out of Closed Session at 8:50PM. No action was taken in closed session.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Joshua M. Ross, City Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: June 12th, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes will be officially adopted at the Regular Scheduled Meeting on Monday, July 10th, 2017. This copy is only a draft and has not been approved by City Council.



Joshua M. Ross, City Clerk