

REGULAR MEETING

November 14th, 2017

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, November 14th, 2017 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

Members Present

Mayor Becky S. 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. Libby Toler, Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church led in prayer. Upon request of Mayor Smith, all present Veterans' led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the November Agenda

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

Special Presentations

Bessemer City Optimist Cheer Award - Mayor Smith and Council recognized the Bessemer City Optimist Club Mighty Mite, Junior Varsity, and Varsity cheerleaders. All three teams won "Overall Fanfare Spirit Award" and the "Overall Highest Score Award" on November 5th during the West Lincoln High School competition. Mayor Smith invited all present to congratulate the team on a job well done.

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, recognized the following students of the month: Queen Jones 9th grade representative; Lindsey Swantson 10th grade representative; Makayla Lail 11th grade representative; and Demetrius Martin 12th grade representatives.

Mrs. Fran Decanal, Principal of Bessemer City Middle School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Middle School representatives: Alex Watson 6th grade representative, Chris Hewitt 7th grade representative, and Shalise Blackman 8th grade representative.

Mrs. Deana Ohman, Assistant Principal of Bessemer City Primary School, and Mayor Smith, presented certificates to all Central & Primary School representatives: Naveah Capola Kindergarten representative, Faith Coleman 1st grade representative, and Abby Fowler 5th grade representative.

Consent Agenda

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

- Approval of Minutes- Regular Meeting Minutes of October 9th, 2017, and Work Session Meeting Minutes of October 31st, 2017.

Request to Speak/Opportunity for Public Comment

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

Adoption of Personnel Policy Changes

Economic Development Officer, Joshua Ross addressed Council regarding the proposed Personnel Policy changes. Mr. Ross stated that the proposed changes are text changes needed to comply with federal regulations. During a recent Department of Transportation Pipeline Hazard Material Safety Administration audit it was found that certain revisions needed to be made. Light discussion was held.

By motion of Howard Jones and unanimous vote, the Personnel Policy changes were adopted. A copy of the personnel policy is on file at City Hall.

Ordinance to Vacate & Close Property- 307 E. Maine Avenue

Code Enforcement Officer, Dave Taylor addressed Council regarding the ordinance to vacate and close the property located at 307 E. Maine Avenue. Mr. Taylor stated that the house had severe exterior and interior damage and subsequently does not meet the minimum housing code. Mr. Taylor further stated that the resident's whereabouts are unknown.

City Attorney David Smith and Code Enforcement Officer Taylor informed Council that if passed, the vacate and close property order would require the resident to make the necessary repairs to bring the house up to code. The resident would have a year to conduct repairs or the house may be subject to demolition. During this year the house would be declared unfit for habitation. Anyone found residing on the property could be criminally charged.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the ordinance to vacate and close property at 307 E. Maine Avenue was passed. A copy of this ordinance is on file at City Hall.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding the following items:

Appoint Zoning Administrator- City Manager, James Inman requested that Council approve the following zoning appointments:

- Dr. Robin Byers, Zoning Administrator
- James Inman, Assistant Zoning Administrator

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, said appointments were approved.

Approve Bids- City Manager, James Inman requested Council approval of the following bids. Mr. Inman recommended the lowest and most responsible bidder for each:

- E. Louisiana Avenue Culvert Replacement – Hickory Sand Company Inc. in the amount of \$94, 485.00 with a contingency amount of \$5,000.00
- Skyland & Lithium Pump Station Improvements – Turner Murphy Company Inc. in the amount of \$171,442.55 with a contingency amount of \$10,000.00
- W. Washington Avenue Sewer Extension – Hickory Sand Company Inc. in the amount of \$213,425.00 with a contingency amount of \$10,000.00
- Old Rock Gym Sewer Extension – Hickory Sand Company Inc. in the amount of \$47,475.00 with a contingency amount of \$2,500.00

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, all proposed bids were approved.

Approve Budget Amendments- City Manager, James Inman addressed Council regarding several budget amendments. Mr. Inman stated that the following amendments were needed to fund the bids previously approved. If approved, said budget amendments would move monies from the waste water, storm water, and fund balance.

By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote, the budget amendments were approved. A copy of these amendments are on file at City Hall.

Establish Public Hearing- Project Wonder Woman- City Manager, James Inman requested that Council establish a public hearing regarding economic development project “Wonder Woman” for the next Council meeting.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the Project Wonder Woman public hearing was set for Monday, December 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM. The public hearing will be advertised as required North Carolina General Statute.

City Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Mayor Smith led the discussion with an invitation to all present to attend the Community Thanksgiving meal Saturday, November 18th at 11:00AM at First Baptist Church. Furthermore, Mayor Smith extended an invitation for all Council members to attend the National Blue Ribbon Ceremony at Highland Technical. Council member, Dan Boling inquired about what services the Chamber provides for the City. City Manager Inman, informed Mr. Boling the City provides a number of in kind services as well as a membership fee. It was also mentioned that the Chamber strives to work as an active voice for the business community, but have limited resources due to size and staffing. Furthermore, Mr. Boling thanked Chief Ellis and the Police Department for their hard work. Council member, Alfred Carpenter thanked the audience for participating in the 2017 Election. Council member, Howard Jones thanked Council and the audience for recognizing his 90th birthday. Council member, Donnie Griffin inquired about the infill development grant, and foreclosures in Code Enforcement. City Manager Inman and Code Enforcer Taylor addressed his concerns.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, Deputy City Clerk

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