

## **REGULAR MEETING**

### **September 12th, 2016**

The Bessemer City Council met in regular session on Monday, September 12th, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber of City Hall.

#### **Members Present**

Mayor Becky Smith, Council Members: Dan Boling, Joe Will, Howard Jones, Alfred Carpenter, and Donnie Griffin. Attorney, Marshall Walker and Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey, were also present. Council Member Kay McCathen was absent.

#### **Call to Order, Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Smith called the meeting to order. First Presbyterian Church Pastor Kitty Rankin led in prayer. Mayor Smith followed by leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Approval of the September Agenda**

By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote, the September agenda was approved.

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

Mayor Smith opened the floor for public comment.

Judy Moore of Bessemer City High School led the discussion with a presentation of the school's special students. There was a representative for each grade level.

#### **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 August 8th, 2016 Work Session Meeting Minutes of August 30th, 2016.
- b. Request for Overnight Travel: Human Capital Officer, Joshua Ross, is requesting overnight travel to attend the Introduction to Public Employment Law Course through the UNC School of Government in Chapel Hill, NC September 26-30
- c. Request to Close Street: The Bessemer City Area Chamber of Commerce is requesting to close the 100 Block of West Pennsylvania Avenue on Saturday, October 1st, 2016 from 6AM-10AM for their Run Around Downtown 5K Run.

### **Bessemer City Community Health Assessment**

The Gaston County Health department presented their findings on the health of Gaston County for the 2015-2016 year. Brittian Kenney, MPH, of Gaston County offered to come back and present findings on the City of Bessemer City at a later date.

### **Proclamation Dyslexia Awareness**

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote October 2016 was proclaimed Dyslexia month in Bessemer City. A copy of the proclamation is available in City Hall for public review.

**Resolution for Grant Application** Assistant City Manager explained the need and purpose for the Resolution. By motion of Howard Jones and unanimous vote the Resolution was approved. A copy is available at City Hall.

**Ordinance City of Bessemer City Ethics Policy** Assistant City Manager explained that the City has separate Ethics policy for City Council and City Employees. This policy would serve as a consolidation of the two. By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote the Ethics policy was adopted.

**Public Hearing-Text Change:** By motion of Alfred Carpenter the public hearing regarding the UDO Text change opened at 7:37 PM. City Planner, Jeffrey Kirchner, proceeded to explain the need for the Text Change and answered all questions posed by City Council and citizenry. By motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote the hearing was closed at 7:45 PM.

**Ordinance Text Change:** By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote the Text Change to the UDO was approved. A copy of the Text Change is available at City Hall for public inspection.

**Osage Mill Public Hearing-Rezoning Request:** By motion of Dan Boling and unanimous vote the public hearing regarding the Rezoning Request was opened at 7:48 PM. City Planner, Jeffrey Kirchner, and Hawthorne Production Company proceeded to explain the need for the Rezoning Request and answered all questions posed by City Council. Immediately following, the floor was opened to the public for comment.

- David Lutz of 408 N. 12 Street spoke in favor of the rezoning request. He stated that the change would allow for the Osage Mill to be repurposed and spur growth in the Bessemer City area.

- Lisa Carpenter of 918 Ramseur Road spoke in favor of the rezoning request. She had questions about the Water infrastructure and school system. Her questions were addressed by Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey.

- Kitty Rankin of First Presbyterian Church of Bessemer City, NC spoke in favor of the rezoning request. She asked City Council to be mindful of the residents that reside in close proximity to

the Osage Mill, specifically she asked them to mind the residents behind City Hall. She encouraged that there be a 5 business limit in the Osage Mill. She also provided positive remarks for the newly renovated City Downtown Centennial Park.

-Miranda Lackey of 316 E. Louisiana Avenue spoke in favor of the rezoning request. She asked questions regarding the storm water drains around the Osage Mill, and if there would be problems posed to new and existing residents. Her questions were answered by City Planner, Jeffrey Kirchner and Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey.

-Bob Hovis of 1102 Crowders Road spoke in favor of the rezoning request. He provided an account of being a worker in the original mill and expressed his feelings on how the new project would impact the City of Bessemer City for the greater good. He provided positive remarks for the City Council in their attempts to preserve the old Osage Mill.

-Howard Jones of the Bessemer City Council spoke in favor of the rezoning request. He provided an account that the project would spur growth in Bessemer City.

-Jerry Kellar of 1615 W. Garrison Blvd. Gastonia, NC and owner of the Osage Mill spoke in favor of the rezoning request. Jerry Keller expressed that he was in full support of the project. He provided his service and assistance needed to complete the project.

By motion of Howard Jones and unanimous vote the hearing was closed at 8:11 PM.

**Ordinance Rezoning Request:** By motion of Joe Will and unanimous vote the rezoning request was approved. A copy of the Ordinance is available at City Hall for public review.

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

Assistant City Manager, Jamie Ramsey reported that he had nothing further to discuss.

#### **City Council General Discussion**

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Council member Dan Boling state that the street paving recently completed looking nice. Council members Joe Will and Alfred Carpenter expressed pleasure in the recent 9/11 service hosted by the Bessemer City Ministerial Alliance. Council member Donnie Griffin concluded the conversation by thanking the business owners Sum-Kel for attending the meeting.

#### **Adjourn**

Being no further business to come before the board, by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

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Hydeia Hayes, Deputy Clerk

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Becky S. Smith, Mayor