

WORK SESSION MEETING

March 28, 2017

The Bessemer City Council met for a work session on Tuesday, March 28th, 2017 at 1:00PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Proper notice was given.

Call to Order

Mayor Becky S. Smith called the meeting to order. Mayor Smith and City Manager, James Inman, explained that the meeting would include a presentation from department heads and Denny Martin, of Martin-McGill Associates, for the 2017-2018 budget and long range capital projects.

Members Present

Mayor Becky Smith, Council Members: Dan Boling, Joe Will, Donnie Griffin, Alfred Carpenter, Kay McCathen, and Howard Jones were all present. Kay McCathen joined the meeting at 2:35PM. Howard Jones left the meeting at 1:46 PM. Also present were City Manager, James Inman, and department heads.

Department Head Reports- 2017-2018 Budget Reports

Each department head presented items and information to City Council. Items being requested included an IT server, financial software, salt spreader, public safety building, water pump, and general improvements to City Hall.

Light discussion was held during each presentation.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Discussions and Presentations

Denny Martin of Martin-McGill Associates presented a financial plan based on items City Council listed as priorities from the 2017 Planning Retreat. Items presented included a Millwood Park Renovation study, departmental vehicles, swimming pool renovation, funding for sidewalk projects, future funding for economic development projects, and City Hall renovations.

Light discussion was held during each presentation.

By motion of Dan Boling and a 4-0 vote, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the General Fund was approved.

By motion of Alfred Carpenter and a 4-0 vote, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Water & Wastewater Fund was approved.

By motion of Donnie Griffin and unanimous vote, the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the Natural Gas Fund was approved.

Utility Cut-Off Advisory Phone Calls

City Manager, James Inman presented Council with the utility courtesy call situation. Due to a recent software malfunction, many citizens did not receive a courtesy call that their account was past due. As the advisory phone calls are a mere courtesy, many citizens have made complaints

that without the call they forget to pay their bill. Public works Director, Jamie Ramsey, reported that the advisory calls have proven to decrease reconnects for his department. Light discussion was held. By consensus City Council decided to keep the advisory phone calls.

City Manager's Report

City Manager, James Inman informed Council that the Gaston County Boys and Girls Club officials will join the May 2017 Work Session to discuss how to strengthen their partnership with the City. Mr. Inman also presented Council with two Waste Pro contract options, as the current contract is nearing its completion. By City Council consensus, the most efficient contract option of seven years was selected. City Manager concluded his report with informing Council of all downtown business developments.

Council General Discussion

Mayor Smith opened the floor for Council general discussion. Councilman Alfred Carpenter expressed that he would like to see the City recycling. Mr. Carpenter would like for the City to lead by example and have recycling receptacles placed wherever refreshments are served. Mayor Smith announced that there will be a special meeting on Thursday, April 6th, 2017 for a North Park presentation by McGill Associates.

Adjourn

Being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15PM by motion of Alfred Carpenter and unanimous vote.

Becky S. Smith, Mayor

Hydeia Y. Hayes, Deputy City Clerk