

The Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama met in regular session in the Council's Chamber at the City Hall in said City on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. The meeting was called to order by Council President Cleophus King who was Chairman of the meeting. Upon roll call, the following Council members were found to be present: Councilors Cynthia Donald, Ron Marshall, Chester Porter, Donna Thigpen, Jesse Matthews and Cleophus King. Absent: Councilor David Vance. City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business.

Councilor Donna Thigpen opened the meeting with prayer and everyone recited the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Gulley stated that he thanks everyone who came out last night to the state of the city address.

Councilor Porter asked everyone to keep Ms. Barbara Spencer in your prayers.

Councilor Porter stated that Ms. Spencer lost her mother on Monday, January 29, 2018.

Councilor Porter stated that he thanks his colleagues for partnering with Bob Sykes for their upcoming blues festival.

Councilor Porter made a motion to place agenda item numbers 5, 8, 10 and 12 on the consent agenda. Councilor Donald seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Donald, Marshall, Porter, Thigpen, Matthews and King. Nays: None: The motion carried.

The council consented to approve the minutes for December 19, 2017 and January 2, 2018.

Abatement of Properties

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| 1. 300 Dartmouth Avenue | 38-4-10-1 | Hall Lorenzo |
| 2. 3020 Dartmouth Avenue | 38-3-9-12 | Sparks Evelyn |

3. 1509 Fairfax Aly

38-10-3-22-6

Hubbard, Clarence E & Addie C

4. 803 Hall Avenue

38-16-1-19-7

Blount Annette M

RESOLUTION NO. 006-18

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF
FRANK HOUSE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE DEPOSIT TO
LAVELLE MCELROY/VARNELL HORTON**

WHEREAS, Lavelle McElroy and Varnell Horton paid a deposit in the amount of One Hundred Ninety and No/100 (\$190.00) Dollars towards the rental of the Frank House Municipal Golf Course for a birthday party to be held on January 20, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Lavelle McElroy and Varnell Horton requested a refund of the deposit due to event being cancelled; and

WHEREAS, Ed Davis, Golf Pro at the Bessemer Municipal Golf Course, has reviewed the request for refund and recommends that the a refund of One Hundred Ninety and No/100 (\$190.00) Dollars be refunded; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, having considered the request for a refund and the recommendation of Ed Davis hereby determines that the refund of said deposit is in the public interest.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, at a regularly scheduled meeting duly assembled with a quorum being present, hereby authorizes a refund of One Hundred Ninety and No/100 (\$190.00) Dollars to Lavelle McElroy/Varnell Horton.

This Resolution shall become effective upon its due Adoption.

ADOPTED this the 30th day of January, 2018.

RESOLUTION NO.: 007-18

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT
OF INVOICE FROM JACKSON HARRIS, P.C.,
FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2017**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama retained the services of Gregory L. Harris of Jackson, Harris, P.C., as attorney for the City Council at a rate stated in accordance with Resolution No. 040-15 adopted on January 20, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Attorney Gregory L. Harris has submitted an invoice for services rendered for the month of November, 2017 in the amount of Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Three and 75/100 (\$6,253.75) Dollars.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA, at a regular meeting duly assembled, a quorum being present, that the City Council of the City of Bessemer hereby approves and authorized the payment of the sum of Six Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Three and 75/100 (\$6,253.75) Dollars to Jackson Harris, P.C., in accordance with the attached invoice.

ADOPTED this the 30th day of January, 2018.

Councilor Porter made a motion to consent to delete Items #9 and #11. Councilor

Matthews seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes:

Councilors Donald, Marshall, Porter, Thigpen, Matthews and King. Nays: None: The motion carried.

Item #9. Ordinance authorizing the lease of unneeded municipal real estate to ITAFILM, LLC.

Item #11. Resolution declaring 1800-1810 3rd Avenue North Bessemer (excluding Bessemer Auditorium) surplus property.

Councilor Marshall stated that he commends Mayor Gullely for a fine state of the city address. Councilor Marshall stated that he is thankful to God that they have been able to work together for the citizens of Bessemer. Councilor Marshall stated that whenever he hears someone saying that nothing is happening in the city of Bessemer; he asked them, do you want to take a ride around the city so that you can see what is being done. Councilor Marshall stated that its God blessing the city for all the attractions coming to the city, like filming companies wanting to make movies in the city. Councilor Marshall stated that people want to come to the city and help it to expand. Councilor Marshall stated that businesses who are looking to move into communities, looks at the government and their stability. Councilor Marshall stated that they do not always agree but they do have the kind of relationship where they can bond and combine together to move the city forward.

Councilor Donald stated that she ditto what Councilor Marshall stated that it was a great state of the city speech and the city is moving forward. Councilor Donald stated that there is a warming center in Bessemer located at Triumph Baptist Church 1431 13th Avenue North. Councilor Donald stated that the warming center is not just for the homeless but for those who have inadequate heating in their home.

Councilor Matthews stated that he concurs with his colleagues about the state of the city being great. Councilor Matthews stated that he remembers in the past when they weren't able to pay their creditors and he would like to say to this governing body to lets continue the good work on moving the city forward.

Councilor Porter stated that Mayor Gulley did an outstanding job last night at the state of the city address.

Councilor Porter stated that on Friday, February 23rd, 2018 Miles Gospel Choir will be at New Zion Baptist Church at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Thigpen stated that she agrees with everything the council said about the Mayor's speech, but also wants to give Toraine Norris his credit for the wonderful pictures that were put up. Councilor Thigpen stated that the pictures were an awesome selling point.

Councilor King stated that he wants to thank the employees of the city of Bessemer for all their hard work.

Councilor Jesse Matthews presented a check to Ms. Eleanor Jones of Bessemer City High School.

To: Bessemer City School
Empowerment Committee

The following donation from the City of Bessemer is presented to the BCHS to be used for the Boys and Girls Empowerment Program. Funds may be used for the entire school for food and refreshments, entertainment (speakers), T-shirts and any other materials needed for the Empowerment Programs.

As a result of last year's donations and the E21 Programs, several programs have been birthed. These programs have proven to be extremely effective and beneficial to students. Students now participate in a weekly mentoring program, Saturday ACT tutoring, Fafsa assistance, and training in resume writhing. Additionally, two deserving seniors received laptops for college and several seniors were provided suits for interviewing.

These funds are being provided because it is my desire that programs of this magnitude continue to exit at the high school.

Investing in the High School is an investment in the community.

Ms. Eleanor Jones stated that on behalf of principal Albert Soles and Ms. Yolanda Gray they thank the city for supporting E21. Ms. Jones stated that E21 has motivated the students to be inspiring. Ms. Jones stated that several students have inquired about the program and wondering when it will start up again. Ms. Jones stated that again she thanks Mayor Gulley and the council for supporting Bessemer City High School.

Councilor King announced citizen's participation and the following citizens appeared before the council:

Ms. Nancy Wright 2826 Berkley Avenue stated that the train that runs through the Brickyard Hills community and goes down Carolina Avenue right before the viaduct; there has been two accidents involving the train in two weeks. Ms. Wright stated that she is concerned for the students that attend Hard Elementary School and someone needs to contact the train company. Ms. Wright stated that on the same track the trail was stalled for several hours and the traffic had to be rerouted to get through.

State Representative Louise Alexander 2508 11th Avenue stated that they will be meeting with the train representatives to find a solution to the problem. Ms. Alexander stated that as soon a meeting is set she will notify the mayor and council.

Ms. Alexander stated that her daughter and she came before the council to inquire about the Arlington House. Ms. Alexander stated that they meet with Mr. Ward and gave him a check for \$5,000.00 and did not get a receipt. Ms. Alexander stated that as of today they haven't heard anything from the city.

Ms. Alexander stated that funds will be available in May, 2018 from the state discretionary fund. Ms. Alexander stated that the funds could go towards the walking trail or whatever the needs are here in the city of Bessemer. Ms. Alexander stated that there is money available to help the city of Bessemer for widening or whatever needs to be done in the Pipershop community.

Ms. Sharon Gray 517 18th Street South stated that she is concerned about properties located at 1801 Dartmouth Avenue, 1631 Dartmouth Avenue and 1730 Dartmouth Avenue. Ms. Gray stated that she has invested in the city of Bessemer and she gives the city her very best. Ms. Gray stated that where she lives and invest she wants the very best. Ms. Gray stated that if you pass Dartmouth it looks like a hog pen and a junk yard. Ms. Gray stated that a citizen have goats, sheep, ducks, roosters, pit bulls and a car dealership. Ms. Gray stated that it is a disgrace when you drive down Dartmouth.

Ms. Rosie Kelley 1618 Clarendon Avenue stated that trash is being dumped in the alley behind her house. Ms. Kelley stated that the street pavement company dumped pavement from the street into the alley. Ms. Kelley stated that the dumping is bringing rodents to the

area. Ms. Kelley stated that she is concerned about the whole area but most of all she's concerned about Clarendon Avenue. Ms. Kelley stated that it can be better.

Ms. Kelley stated she was wondering where you can get lighting for the city. Ms. Kelley stated that the city is too dark and Bessemer is a beautiful place and it needs to be lit up.

Mr. Sammie West 1502 Avenue I stated that he took over a bill that belong to his girlfriend. Mr. West stated that the bill was \$7,000.00 and now it has grown to \$11,000.00. Mr. West stated that he is having problems paying the bill and wants to know if the city could help him with it.

Mayor Gulley stated that he has worked and made arrangements and took off late fees for Mr. West. Mayor Gulley stated that the city is accountable to TVA and when they are audited TVA want to know why certain bills are not paid. Mayor Gulley stated that sometimes arrangements are made that TVA doesn't agree with. Mayor Gulley stated that he is at a lost as to how he can assist you any more than he already has.

State Representative Louise Alexander 2508 11th Avenue stated that this past year she gave \$30,000.00 to the School System. Ms. Alexander stated that if the council would let her know what their district needs she will earmark the money for them. Ms. Alexander stated that the funds from the state are forth coming and may be increased to \$40,000.00.

Councilor Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Matthews seconded the motion and it carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Wanda D. Taylor
City Clerk
City of Bessemer

Presiding Officer

