

Bessemer, Alabama

December 18, 2018

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, December 4, 2018 at 10:03 a.m. Central Time. The meeting was called to order by Council President Jesse Matthews who was Chairman of the meeting. Upon roll call, the following Council members were found to be present: Councilors Kimberly Alexander, Jarvis Collier, Latricia Crusoe, Ron Marshall, Donna Thigpen, Cynthia Donald and Jesse Matthews Absent: None. City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business.

Councilor Jesse Matthews opened the meeting with prayer and everyone recited the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Gulley stated that City Services will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in observance of the holidays.

Mayor Gulley stated that today is Mr. William Herron (Director of Fleet Maintenance) last council meeting. Mayor Gulley stated that Mr. Herron last day of work will be December 31, 2018. Mayor Gulley thanks Mr. Herron for his services to the city of Bessemer.

Mayor Gulley stated that the Bessemer Tigers Youth Football team had the opportunity to travel to Fort Lauderdale, Florida to play in the National Championship. Mayor Gulley stated that their boys came up a little short but that's okay because they are still winners. Mayor Gulley stated that it is a blessing to get the opportunity to go to Fort Lauderdale to compete and he commends the young people for their hard work. Mayor Gulley stated that Councilor Collier went along with the boys to Fort Lauderdale for support. Mayor Gulley stated having a structure program allows the youths to participate on a national level and he wants to commend the Recreational Center staff and all the parents who play a part to make sure our young kids get the opportunity to go out and compete. Mayor Gulley stated that he also wants to thank NFL quarterback Jameis Winston for paying for the food while the youths were in Fort Lauderdale.

Councilor Matthews asked the Non-Profit, Camp Bessemer and the Insurance committees are they planning on meeting after the New Year.

Councilor Donald stated that Camp Bessemer Committee will meet after the New Year.

Councilor Marshall stated that the Insurance Committee will meet after the New Year. Councilor Marshall stated that he was appointed for Non-Profit and he thinks the Non-Profit Committee needs to finish their work.

Councilor Donald made a motion to place agenda item numbers 5, 9, 10, 12, and 12A, on the consent agenda. Councilor Thigpen seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Alexander, Collier, Crusoe, Marshall, Thigpen, Donald and Matthews. Nays: None: The motion carried.

The council approved the minutes from December 4, 2018.

Abatement of Properties

Address	Parcel ID	Owner
1. 207 Black Avenue	38-16-3-48-2.001	Smoot, Alfonso F
2. 209 Black Avenue	38-16-3-48-2	Smoot, Alfonso F
3. 503 Fairfax Avenue	38-16-4-1-13	Watson, Victor
4. 501 Fairfax Avenue	38-16-4-1-15	B & A Properties LLC
5. 919 10 th Avenue North	38-9-3-25-4	Higginbotham, George M & Jane C

RESOLUTION NO. 1510-18

RESOLUTION TO RESCHEDULE CITY OF BESSEMER'S REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 1, 2019, SO THAT AS RESCHEDULED, SAID MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JANUARY 8, 2019

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bessemer has determined that it is in the public interest to reschedule the City's regularly scheduled City Council meeting of Tuesday, January 1, 2019, so that as rescheduled, said meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. or immediately following the pre-council meeting at 6:00 p.m.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Bessemer City Council at a regular meeting, duly assembled with a quorum being present, that the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama does hereby reschedule the January 1, 2019 City Council meeting so that as rescheduled, said meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. or immediately following the pre-council meeting at 6:00 a.m.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall provide reasonable notice to the public and local press of this change in scheduling.

That this Resolution shall become effective upon its due adoption by the City Council for the City of Bessemer, Alabama.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of December, 2018.

RESOLUTION NO.: 1511-18

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT 3 NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH ORGANIZATION USE OF THE BALLROOM OF THE BESSEMER CIVIC CENTER TO CONDUCT AND HOLD ITS "LIVING LEGENDS CIVIC CELEBRATION" AND DECLARING A PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, the Council District 3 Neighborhood Watch Organization, a community-based organization in the City of Bessemer is requesting use of the Ballroom of the City of Bessemer Civic Center, at no charge, to host and conduct its Living Legends Civic Celebration on January 18, 2019, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., to honor, celebrate and commemorate the civic contributions of senior citizens to the Bessemer community; and to promote and encourage civic contribution among all residents of the City of Bessemer;

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Bessemer desires to authorize the Council District 3 Neighborhood Watch Organization use of the Bessemer Civic Center, as requested, to host its Living Legends Civic Celebration on January 18, 2019 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Bessemer, Alabama finds and determines that permitting the Council District 3 Neighborhood Watch Organization use of municipal property for the purpose of hosting and promoting community activities and civic participation and development has as its objective the promotion of the public health, safety, morals, security, prosperity, contentment and the general welfare of the community and, as such, serves a public purpose.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA, as follows:

- 1. That the hereinabove findings and determinations are adopted hereto by reference thereto as though fully set out herein.**
- 2. That the Council District 3 Neighborhood Watch is hereby authorized use of the Ballroom of the Bessemer Civic Center, without charge, to host and conduct its Living Legends Civic Celebration on January 18, 2019 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**
- 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption as required by law.**

ADOPTED this the 18th day of December, 2018.

RESOLUTION NO.: 1512-18

A RESOLUTION DECLARING DECEMBER 30th, 2018 AS PASTOR WILLIAM H. WALKER, SR., DAY IN THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA

WHEREAS, Pastor William H. Walker, Sr., pastor of New Bethlehem Baptist Church in the City of Bessemer, Alabama since June of 1978, was born March 6, 1936, in Bessemer to Reverend Frank and Mrs. Rose Walker;

WHEREAS, Pastor Walker has been married to First Lady Edna Hill Walker for 56 plus years with whom they have four children, Debra, Rosalind, Lisa and William, Jr.;

WHEREAS, Pastor Walker has received numerous awards some of which include, Pastor of the Year-1979 from the American Legion 344; Pastor of the Year 1987 from the Lambda Zeta Chapter; Community Service Award- 1989 from Muscoda Improvements Association; February of 2008 and Humanitarian Award from AL Chris Productions C/O Hopewell Baptist Church, Hillman Station;

WHEREAS, Pastor Walker has also been noted for his outstanding service as a community leader for the Greater Bessemer Community and especially for his work with the less fortunate and the homeless, as well as his service as Police Chaplain for the Bessemer Police Department and his *volunteerism in Jefferson County*; and

WHEREAS, the governing body of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, now desires to honor Pastor William H. Walker, Sr., for his untiring work and service to the Bessemer Community by declaring December 30th, 2018 as **Pastor William H. Walker, Sr., Day in the City of Bessemer, Alabama.**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama hereby declares that **December 30th, 2018 is hereby declared to be Pastor William H. Walker, Sr., Day in the City of Bessemer, Alabama** and encourages everyone to reach out to Pastor William H. Walker, Sr., as a leader with personal expressions of positive affirmation and appreciation.
2. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 18th, day of December, 2018.

Granted Extension		
Address	Parcel ID	Owner
1. 7048 Green Road	38-22-3-2-5	Self Nursing Home Inc.
2. 408 7 th Ave. North	38-16-1-32-6	Alexander, Louise U & King George C

Councilor Thigpen made a motion for item 1 cut by owner to be abated and item 2 to be given a two week extension. Councilors Marshall and Crusoe seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Collier, Crusoe, Marshall, Thigpen, Donald and Matthews. Nays: Abstention: Councilor Alexander. None: The motion carried.

The following ordinance was presented to the council.

ORDINANCE NO. 3584

**ORDINANCE TO REPEAL AND REPLACE ORDINANCE NO. 3530
“AN ORDINANCE RENAMING HARD PARK IN THE CITY OF
BESSEMER, ALABAMA”**

WHEREAS, on the 31st day of March, 2015, the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, adopted Ordinance No. 3530 “An Ordinance Renaming Hard Park in the City of Bessemer, Alabama” and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to repeal and replace Ordinance No. 3530.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA, AT A REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED WITH A QUORUM BEING PRESENT TO-WIT:

1. That Hard Park be renamed *Southside Community Park*; and
2. That the walking track located in said park be named *The Sarah W. Belcher Walking Track*; and
3. That this ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and adoption by the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama and by signature of the Mayor.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of December, 2018.

Councilor Thigpen made a motion to consider the ordinance. Councilor Marshall seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Alexander, Collier, Crusoe, Marshall, Thigpen, Donald and Matthews. Nays: Councilor. None: The motion carried.

Councilor Thigpen made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilors Alexander and Marshall seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Alexander, Collier, Crusoe, Marshall, Thigpen, Donald and Matthews. Nays: Councilor. None: The motion carried.

Councilor Collier thanks Alton Woodard (Recreational Center Director) and his staff for a great job with the Bessemer Tigers Youth Football Team. Councilor Collier also thanks Coach Carlos and Coach Taurus Pyles. Councilor Collier stated that he gives special thanks to Coach Taurus Pyles for going above and beyond the call of duty. Councilor Collier stated that Coach Pyles is very special person she takes time out with the boys and goes that extra mile.

Councilor Collier stated that our boys played against some of the team members from the television show called Friday Night Tykes. Councilor Collier stated that the boys had a great time and he wants to thank Mayor Gulley for providing resources which gave the boys an opportunity to go to Fort Lauderdale to participate. Councilor Collier stated

that he admonishing everyone to get involved with our kids because they deserve the honor to participate on this level.

Councilor Thigpen wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilor Donald stated that she commends Ms. Candace Gamble. Councilor Donald stated that Ms. Gamble is at the top of her freshman class at Hueytown High School. Councilor Donald stated that Ms. Gamble is her granddaughter and she decided to shadow her grandmother to learn about government in the city of Bessemer.

Councilor Matthews wishes everyone a safe Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Councilor Marshall stated that it is a good idea to expose our young people as much as possible. Councilor Marshall stated that the young people need to see leaders operating in honesty, integrity and what's good for the city. Councilor Marshall stated that the young people need to see us operating outside our districts as well and allow them to see the best. Councilor Marshall stated that we have an obligation to show them the best on how government is run.

Councilor Crusoe wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Councilor Crusoe thanks all the organizations that hosted festive activities throughout the community. Councilor Crusoe stated that it has been very heartfelt and welcoming and she feels proud to be part of the council body.

Councilor Crusoe stated that she extends her sincere condolences to Councilor Marshall. Councilor Crusoe stated that Councilor Marshall's sister-in-law passed away and this council body would like to wrap their arms around him and his family to let them know that they are in our prayers.

Councilor Matthews announced citizen's participation and the following citizens appeared before the council.

Chester Porter 2401 12th Avenue north thanks everyone for coming out to the Bon-Fire on Saturday, December 15, 2018. Mr. Porter thanks the streets and sanitation department for responding to emails that he sent for citizens of District 2. Councilor

Porter thanks the mayor's office for responding to those emails because the citizens are still calling him with issues in District 2.

Councilor Porter stated to Sarah Belcher (former city of Bessemer Councilor) that Southside Community Park may not be named after you and that does not discount you in any way. Councilor Porter stated that Ms. Belcher life and legacy still speaks volumes for the things that she has done here in the Marvel City of Bessemer. Councilor Porter stated that we all want to take this time to thank you. Councilor Porter thanks Ms. Belcher for her excellent leadership on the Southside of Bessemer.

Angela Wilson 2206 Tree Crossing Parkway Hoover stated that she lives at this address but her home is in Bessemer. Ms. Wilson stated that she will be remised if she sat there and didn't say anything so she has to say what is on her heart because that is the way she was raised. Ms. Wilson stated that her family is here this morning to support their mother Retired Councilor Sarah Wallace Belcher to hear the discussion about the naming of the park that is located in the Brickyard community adjacent to C. F. Hard Elementary School. Ms. Wilson stated that they were told that the resolution stated that the park would be named Southside Community Park and the walking trail would be named Sarah B. Wallace walking track. Mr. Wilson stated that 57% of this council was seated when the vote was taking and the original resolution was passed. Ms. Wilson stated that the council person for District 3 has been a representative for 1 full term and has begun a 2nd term. Ms. Wilson stated that if the sign did not match the verbiage of the legal document – why it took 4 years to bring the issue up. Ms. Wilson stated that she is confident that there are more pressing issues in District 3 than the needless energy and funds that has been directed towards a name on a sign. Ms. Wilson stated that it is clear to them that this is a personal political ploy. Ms. Wilson stated that Councilor Belcher 20 plus years and her legacy can never be erased because it is etched into the history of the city of Bessemer.

Ms. Nancy Wright 2826 Berkley Avenue stated that on Sunday afternoon a group of women can to park and caused a disturbance. Ms. Wright stated that she encourages Councilor Donald to get involved with things of this nature that goes on at the Southside Park instead of a park sign.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

**Wanda D. Taylor
City Clerk**