

Bessemer, Alabama

June 2, 2020

The Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama met in regular session via teleconference at the City Hall in said City on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Central Time. The meeting was called to order by Council President Cynthia Donald who was Chairman of the meeting. Upon roll call, the following Council members were found to be present: Councilors Kimberly Alexander, Jarvis Collier, Ron Marshall, Jesse Matthews, Donna Thigpen and Cynthia Donald. Absent: Councilor Latricia Crusoe. City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business.

The meeting was opened with a silent prayer.

The minutes from March 16, 2020 and Emergency Meeting May 19, 2020 was presented to the council.

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

A discussion was held on non-profit organizations. Councilor Donald stated that she has spoken with the mayor about item number 7 (Nonprofits) and 8 (Camp Bessemer) and both of them came to the conclusion to relax Nonprofits and Camp Bessemer due to COVID-19. Councilor Donald stated that in order to be good stewards of the city's finances and the safety of the city, they came to the conclusion that it'll be best if they cancel both of them this year.

Councilor Marshall made a motion to not fund Nonprofits this fiscal year. Councilor Collier seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Alexander, Collier, Marshall, Matthews, Thigpen and Donald. Nays: None: The motion carried.

Councilor Mathews made a motion to not fund Camp Bessemer this fiscal year. Councilor Alexander seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were

recorded: Ayes: Councilors Alexander, Collier, Marshall, Matthews, Thigpen and Donald.

Nays: None: The motion carried.

A discussion was held on Orr's Bill/Small Cell Ordinance. Councilor Donald stated that this is a bill that is about to be introduced. Councilor Donald stated that all cities at this point in time are getting ordinances. Councilor Donald stated that this is related to AT&T, Bell South and all others that will be digging and using our poles, however the city will have to maintain the pole and the property. Councilor Donald stated that she sent the council a copy of the Orr's Bill and they will discuss it at the next planning session.

A discussion was held on city ordinances. Councilor Donald stated that the council needs to go back and visit. Councilor Donald stated that one of the ordinances she read from the year 1977 is of a permanent nature but they can go back and visit it to see whether or not it is something they want to keep or change. Councilor Donald stated that the ordinances were the dog lease and the signs. Councilor Donald stated that it's a total of four ordinances that needs to be revisited. Councilor Donald stated that these ordinances will be discussed in planning session on next week.

Councilor Thigpen stated that the litter ordinance needs to be revisited as well. Councilor Thigpen stated that we need something with some teeth in it to keep the citizens from throwing their trash into the streets.

City Clerk Wanda Taylor stated that councilor Crusoe arrived at the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Councilor Matthews stated that he is all for ordinances, but the enforcement of the ordinance is the problem.

Councilor Alexander stated that a landlord ordinance needs to be adopted. Councilor Alexander stated that a lot of properties in Bessemer are not being well kept and if we had a landlord ordinance we can fine or place a lien on the property. Councilor Alexander stated that some of these unkempt properties attract criminal activity.

Councilor Marshall stated that there is not a law stating that a house can't be empty. Councilor Marshall stated that home owners need to be contacted if they are not keeping their property clean.

Councilor Donald stated that they will pull the ordinance that is in place and they will discuss what measures to take during planning session.

Councilor Crusoe stated that as it relates to the property, I know for certain here in District 7 and numerous other districts: District 3, District 2, District 1 all of our districts. Councilor Crusoe stated that there are homes which are beyond tearing down, weeds it's the least of my concern. Councilor Crusoe stated that as to it being empty, I have an empty house on the corner from my property. Councilor Crusoe stated that it's still well maintain it been nearly a year from the husband and wife deceased. Councilor Crusoe stated that it's still well maintained and down 21st street we have houses where the porches has collapsed and all those that's about to fall in on the neighbor's house; those are the types of structures that we need to visit and call some type of relief for the home owners or even the Minters. Councilor Crusoe stated our citizen deserves to live in a better setting then what is being imposed upon them, for a lack of better words.

Councilor Marshall stated that this is why we have a Building and Inspection Department. Councilor Marshall stated that the Building and Inspection Department take notes of those instances when a property is in a dilapidated condition, and they are to report back to the council, so that the council can take the necessary actions.

Councilor Crusoe stated at what point has Building and Inspection been doing their job. Councilor Crusoe stated that if the Building Inspection had being doing their job, then we would not be having this discussion Councilor Marshall.

Mayor Gulley stated that he takes issues with that statement. Mayor Gulley stated that as many of you know it is a process that has to be followed. Mayor Gulley stated that when we do tear down dilapidated houses, we put \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 each year in the budget to tear them down. Mayor Gulley stated that the process sometimes don't allow you to use all that money. Mayor Gulley stated that maybe the state code should be viewed or maybe talks with your representative or senators when it comes to the way the process is done. Mayor Gulley stated that the city tears down dilapidated houses as expeditiously as they can.

A status discussion was held on city cell phones.

Mayor Gulley stated that he placed this item on the agenda to discuss updating the cell phone; however he is going to turn the matter over to IT Director Rick Singleton.

Mayor Gulley stated that they received a deal that will save the city \$18,000.00 to \$20,000.00 a year.

Mr. Singleton stated that they adopt and purchase from the State of Alabama P303 contract which covers all cell phones purchase from the state. Mr. Singleton stated that the last adopted contract was the P302 and this is why we haven't moved further. Mr. Singleton stated that with this new contract we yield \$8,000.00 a month savings from our current monthly cost. Mr. Singleton stated that we're saving about \$97,000.00 a year moving from the contract. Mr. Singleton stated that AT&T has agreed to provide us with a retention credit for every line that we keep on the system. Mr. Singleton stated that they will give a \$100.00 for every line that we keep and that will give us a onetime saving of \$16,300.00 and another \$15,000.00 for our daily lines (public safety and police vehicles). Mr. Singleton stated every line will be upgraded for free (0.01) plus two free iPhone 10XR.

The council approved Kings Crab Seafood LLC, Trade Name "the Seafood King" Restaurant Retail Liquor Type 020.

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

The following resolution was presented to the council:

RESOLUTION NO. 160-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO

EEFS COMPANY, P.C. CIVIL AND STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS

WHEREAS, the City of Bessemer retained the engineering services of EEFS Company, P.C., Civil and Structural Engineers, including the services of Ron Gilbert as City Engineer; and

WHEREAS, EEFS Company, P.C., has submitted invoices for services rendered in the month of March 2020 totaling the sum of Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Two and 01/100 Dollars (\$40,882.01) herein attached as Exhibit "A", and the City Council of Bessemer, Alabama having reviewed the invoices have determined that payment is in the public interest; and

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 that the City Council hereby authorizes payment and appropriates the sum of Forty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-Two and 01/100 Dollars (\$40,882.01) to EEFS Company, P.C., Civil and Structural Engineers.

This resolution shall become effective upon its due adoption as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of June 2020.

Councilor Donald stated that EEFS billed the city for \$40,000.00 and the city was closed for over a month. Councilor Donald asked Mr. Ron Gilbert (EEFS Engineering) to explain item number 1, 2 and 3.

Mr. Ron Gilbert stated that's a re-inspection at Concord Landfill and Raymond Muscoda Landfilled that's required by ADEM for inspection to occur after every rainfall event of $\frac{3}{4}$ quarters and inch or more. Mr. Gilbert stated that those are done and then he submits them to the mayor's office for his review and Street and Sanitation Director Mr. Lawrence Hatter for any correction that need to be made.

Councilor Donald asked about item number 10 and item number 31 on EEFS billing invoice – what is the Blue Bird project. Mr. Gilbert stated that it is Amazon and item number 31 is TAP (Transportation Alternative Project) application to make a request to the State of Alabama for TAP Funds.

Councilor Crusoe stated that “she can't recall and I mean I know being around the table at that time that was being explained to you, and if you don't mind Mr. Gilbert can you explain doing a pandemic as far as explain Dollar General a little more in depth for me”.

Mr. Gilbert stated that some of the things that they did for Dollar General was repair project updates for the mayor. Mr. Gilbert stated that they have weekly meeting with the Public Works Department to discuss issues and ongoing projects. Mr. Gilbert stated that they handle citizen's complaints, drainage issues and taking care of other issues. Mr. Gilbert stated that they had pre-council, council, planning and zoning, planning session meetings that did occur like what we are doing today. Mr. Gilbert stated that some of the meetings they hosted and activities that would go on in the city. Mr. Gilbert stated

other administration duties like getting resolutions and ordinances and submitting those documents to be filed for payments.

Councilor Crusoe stated that in laments terms that we are paying you to come and report back to us, is that basically what you just said.

Mr. Gilbert stated yes the status of projects that needs to be reported back to the mayor and department heads that we are working on. Mr. Gilbert stated that if there's a citizen's complaint, then that's something we have to look at and we report back to the department heads about what action they need to take. Mr. Gilbert stated that their office never shut down during this time period; however they did have some employees working from home and they had about 4 or 5 people working in the office.

Councilor Donald stated that if you are working from home and out on these different sites, I'm trying to see how you are able to do the both simultaneously.

Mr. Gilbert stated that some were working from home and Daniel was at the office every day and our field inspectors were out in the field every day.

Councilor Marshall made a motion to move the resolution. Councilor Collier seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Collier, Marshall, Matthews and Thigpen. Nays: Councilors Alexander, Crusoe and Donald. The motion carried.

The following resolution was presented to the council.

RESOLUTION NO. 161-20

A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A FIVE YEAR

CDBG CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT

OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT AS PART OF A REQUEST

FOR A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, Part 570 of Title 1 of Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-383) as amended provides for the making of grants by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to eligible units of local government to assist them in Community Development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bessemer (herein referred to as "Applicant") is eligible for an entitlement grant during Federal Fiscal Year 2020 in the amount of \$590,538.00; and

WHEREAS, in addition thereto, the City of Bessemer is required to adopt a CDBG Consolidated Action Plan for fiscal years 2020-2024; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the contract for this federal grant will impose certain obligations and responsibilities upon the Applicant and will require, among other things, 1) equal opportunity; 2) citizen involvement; 3) housing assistance; 4) relocation and anti-displacement; 5) assessment; and 6) drug free work place.

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 that the City Council hereby adopts Exhibit "A" as the CDBG Consolidated Action Plan for fiscal years 2020-2024 and as the 2020 City of Bessemer Department of Economic and Community Development Budget and authorizes the submission of said CDBG Consolidated Action Plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for the implementation of the Community Development Programs and Housing Assistance Plans

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bessemer that the Mayor of the City of Bessemer be, and hereby is, authorized to submit such plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to provide necessary certifications and additional information, to execute the grant agreement, and to furnish such documents as may be required by said Department, and to act as the authorized correspondent to the City of Bessemer, Alabama.

That this resolution shall become effective upon its due adoption as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of June 2020.

Councilor Crusoe stated that she submitted a request to the mayor's office specifically to Toraine Norris requesting a more precise breakdown given that this is my first time you know having an action plan presented to me for the CDBG funding and the breakdown is just as vague as the original information that was provided to me. Councilor Crusoe stated that I resubmitted another request asking for a further breakdown as to when you say administration who are the administrators of this grant money I mean will they be people who are already on payroll here in the city of Bessemer. Councilor Crusoe stated that as far as the delivery costs what type delivery cost. I mean what are we delivering, I'm not clear on what you are saying concerning that. I mean, to look at it to go from almost \$600,000.00 to nearly \$41,000.00 with the population of nearly over 27,000.00 constituents with home repairs. You know I can imagine how long the list is before we turn around and scratch our heads and have to deal with being stopped at the grocery stores. They wanted to know they applied for a grant 10 year ago 5 years ago and still when will their names make it to the top of the list. You ever heard of the same people getting grant money. Councilor Crusoe stated that we haven't been privy to any of this information since I been sitting around the table asking who the recipients are, what's the status on the

grant and I don't feel comfortable continuing to implement action plans or agree to accept federal funds that we are being held accountable for and not know where it's going.

Councilor Crusoe stated that so again I ask I mean I place it on the table again can we get a further breakdown more in-depth explanation as to what the CDBG grant money will be utilized for.

Mr. Toraine Norris (Mayor Gulley's Assistant) stated that he will address two things; yes Councilor Crusoe you did send a request in and you were called last week or the week prior, actually I reached out to all the council members and offered you all an opportunity to call and to come in and speak with the staff regarding any questions about any item in this action plan. Mr. Norris stated that in addition the items that are in this action plan were in the action plan last year as well and you did vote on the action plan. Mr. Norris stated that they have a June 15, deadline to submit this 5 year action plan to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Mr. Norris stated that they have been working on this plan since February and they've had public meetings. Mr. Norris stated that this was the first time having an online survey and they received very good responses from the public about community needs, as to where this money can be used.

Mr. Abraham Ward (Principal Rehab Specialist) stated that he hoped that everyone had an opportunity to look over their package and go to the breakdown of the 5 year plan. Mr. Ward stated that these items have been mandated by the Federal Government Commission that took place back in 1994. Mr. Ward stated these are Federal Guidelines that are implemented at the city of Bessemer.

Mr. Ward stated that the first item is administrative is based off implementing the program to make sure the program is carry out by federal guidelines. Mr. Ward stated that this is 20% of the grant amount.

Councilor Crusoe stated that first and foremost I would not have asked that question had I already known, I don't have to ask a question just for the sake of just asking them. Councilor Crusoe stated that I didn't know what his position was. Councilor Crusoe stated that this was the reason that I asked Mr. Norris prior to this meeting to provide me with the information so we wouldn't have this type of issues right here in council meeting. Councilor Crusoe stated that wait a minute I am talking and it was stated

to ask the questions and allow you to answer. Councilor Crusoe stated that you ask Mr. Norris, was that question already asked to be provided, ask Mr. Norris, ask Mr. Norris.

Mr. Norris stated that yes you did ask that question and I do have it in by email that you asked specifically about delivery cost. Mr. Norris stated that it was explained in an email response to you what delivery cost stood for.

Mr. Norris stated that he is not going to answer questions and be berated on a phone call.

Councilor Crusoe stated that he needs to answer the question that I asked we are not here to go round and round, I asked him a question I did not just ask him about delivery cost. Councilor Crusoe stated that go back to the email, I asked him who were the administrators of the grant – did I not ask that Mr. Norris.

Mr. Norris stated that here is your email Councilor Crusoe, this is from May 29, 2020 at 3:13 p.m. and you said “Mr. Norris I made a request for breakdown of the sub-titles of the CDBG that has yet to be provided. Mr. Norris stated that prior to that we sent an email to all of the councilors and we invited each councilor to call or come in and set down with us and we would go through the program line by line and give a breakdown on everything, and you declined to do so. Mr. Norris stated that you sent an email in that email you asked specifically about delivery cost. Mr. Norris stated that he did respond to that email with a breakdown generally of this delivery cost and asked you in that email if you were still open, as late as yesterday to come in and have a conversation with us and that was declined.

Councilor Crusoe stated to read the email.

Mr. Norris read the following emails.

From: Latricia Crusoe
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 3:20 PM
To: Toraine Norris
Subject: Re: City Council Feedback and Questions/2020-24 CDBG Consolidated Plan and 2020 Action Plan

Hello Mr. Norris. I did receive your breakdown of the Action Plan. I don't see much of a difference from the original. If you will be generous enough to breakdown each portion of this plan. Ex. Delivery Costs means the delivery of what? Housing, what type housing plans does the City have in place? Etc.

Mr. Norris stated that his response was very long.

Councilor,

I was hoping you would take a moment to speak with us in person or by phone. We really wanted to answer the questions and get feedback from you on some areas of concern and how CDBG could help address those concerns.

The Action Plan is very simple. Each year the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocates funding to what is called an entitlement city (such as Bessemer) to help, for lack of a better term, develop the community and improve its economic conditions.

Bessemer has been an entitlement city since the early 1990s. HUD, based on their own calculations, provides funding each year to communities that qualify for funding to help with three particular areas, called National Objectives:

- Benefits for low and moderate income residents**
- Slum and blight removal**
- Urgent need**

Below is a link to some reading on the subject:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/89/community-development-block-grant-program-cdbg-guide-to-national-objectives-and-eligible-activities-for-entitlement-communities/>

Those are the three areas HUD and Congress (who provides funding annually to HUD) deem as important. However, there are many different ways to address these areas using CDBG funds. There are many different and creative ways to use this money to benefit the low-to-moderate income community, but they must fit into a categories HUD has authorized.

This is a very involved conversation, which is best held outside of the Council meeting due to time constraints. You won't fully understand it in 15 minutes, which is why we had asked to do so at a Planning Session, but there has been no Planning Session the last two months.

But the discussion will help you understand the program better and how it can benefit the community when it is used creatively. For instance, some communities have used CDBG funds for utility assistance or rental assistance. Others have used it for food services. Some have used funds to upgrade parks.

It is just a matter of how you use it and what the community has determined are the needs. Bessemer's needs were answered by the Community Survey we launched this year. We received very good feedback from the greater Bessemer community on areas of need that would be eligible under the CDBG program for funding.

What we are presenting is simply a spending outline for this upcoming year that we will submit to HUD. We can't fund future years because we don't have funding yet for those years. That is why it looks the same across the board.

For example, we use money for housing rehabilitation grants for senior citizens in Bessemer and the disabled. This is generally about a \$5,000 grant. We set aside \$100,000 this upcoming year for that program.

HUD allows up to 20 percent of your grant for administrative cost (salaries for employees) which is represented on line one. Delivery costs are just that - the cost it will take you to

deliver the actual services. For example, if we do a housing grant, the house has to be tested for lead. Delivery costs would cover that cost.

Mr. Norris stated that also I sent a link on with some addition information on some of the eligible activities.

Councilor Crusoe stated yes and when I did speak with you did I not ask you to provide me this in writing and rather not sitting there and talking did I not ask you that.

Mr. Norris stated that the administrative cost was answered in the email on May 28.

Councilor Crusoe stated that she is not talking about administrative cost as far as the breakdown. Can you give me that in writing instead of coming and sitting and talking that's not helping me. I want something tangible, something in my hand that can help guide me.

Mr. Norris asks councilor do you have the form that goes over 2024 CDBG Consolidated Action Plan Budget. Mr. Norris stated that it was included in your council package, it's online and it's been on the city's website since April 27th.

Councilor Crusoe stated that she wants a breakdown of each itemized area as to what they meant is what I asked.

Councilor Donald stated that if we had received what we requested by resolution on the CDBG; that we receive a quarterly update on CDBG - we will not be having this discussion now.

Mayor Gulley stated that back in November we presented you with that and you know we have been in the midst of COVID-19 and we have not had an opportunity to come together about anything that was not COVID related.

Councilor Donald stated that she went back and pulled everything from the time they did the resolution and in December, if you will notice before COVID-19 even came into existence, I had asked for status on this matter. Councilor Donald stated that she was told that we will be given a status and we have received only one update on CDBG.

Councilor Donald stated that even if we vote the resolution in we can go back and revisit the resolution and include some type of wording that will state before any project is done - the council has to approve it.

Councilor Marshall made a motion to move the resolution. Councilor Collier seconded the motion and upon roll call the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Collier, Marshall, Matthews and Thigpen. Nays: Councilors Alexander, Crusoe and Donald. The motion carried.

Councilor Collier stated that we are not being good stewards by voting no. Councilor Collier stated that this is not taking up for the citizens in Bessemer.

Councilor Matthews stated that he thinks that revisiting the resolution needs to be done.

Councilor Matthews stated that concerning the bus shelters, what are we going to do to the bus shelters, and will it be in conjunction with Jefferson County as well.

Mr. Norris stated that when we did the community needs survey we received a very good turn out, and we had a better turnout through the online survey than we've had with public meetings. Mr. Norris thanks council members for sharing the survey via their social media pages. Mr. Norris stated that one of the areas that rated very high (94%) was transportation (bus service and shelter). Mr. Norris stated that we have maybe 4 or 5 bus shelters at our bus stops and that does not include the one at Walmart. Mr. Norris stated that there is 1 at the hospital, 2 (down town) and 1 at Dartmouth and Carolina. Mr. Norris stated that however if you look at it Bessemer has some of the highest ridership in the entire transit system. Mr. Norris stated that many of our stops do not have a shelter. Mr. Norris stated that he rode out one afternoon and he noticed several people standing in the rain – waiting on buses. Mr. Norris stated that they did speak to the transit authority about what it will cost to put some shelters at these locations and they did send us the cost as well as information to work with us to identity some spots. Mr. Norris stated that we may need to put some additional shelters in place and community development money will pay for that. Mr. Norris stated that we're not going to be able to put them all over the city because we only have \$50,000.00 to work with, so we are looking at some spots.

Councilor Matthews stated that we have one on Powder Plant and the oldest one is in Pipe Shop on 18th Avenue. Councilor Matthews stated that there is a mentally challenged person who does not allow anyone to sit on the bench. Councilor Matthews

stated that there needs to be some type of police enforcement because there have been numerous complaints about this person.

Councilor Donald stated that she hopes the city considers placing trash cans at these bus shelters.

The following resolution was presented to the council.

RESOLUTION NO. 162-20

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT

**AN APPLICATION FOR THE ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FISCAL YEAR 2021
TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES SET-ASIDE PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Transportation (“ALDOT”) is seeking applications for funding under the Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (the “Program”); and

WHEREAS, the ALDOT will award Program funds to eligible units of local government under this FY 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program (the “Grant”); and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Bessemer to submit a Grant application to ALDOT for a streetscape project along 19th Street North from 4th Avenue to 1st Avenue (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the City hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor to file an application for the Grant in an amount up to Eight Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$800,000.00); and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City finds and determines that authorizing and directing the Mayor to submit an application for the Grant 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; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama at a regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council duly assembled with a quorum being present as follows:

1. The City Council of the City hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor to submit an application for grant assistance under the Alabama Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program.
2. That the City Council finds and determines that the aforementioned application for grant assistance with the Alabama Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2021 Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside Program 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.
3. That if the Grant is awarded to the City, the Mayor shall be and hereby is authorized to accept the Grant and execute such documents or to take such additional actions as are necessary and appropriate to the accomplishment of the purposes of the administration of the Grant and this resolution.
4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 2nd day of June 2020.

Mayor Gulley stated that this is a 80/20 Grant that the city applied for; we have done work on 18th Street between 3rd Avenue and we are reapplying to continue to concrete down with decorative lighting and things of that nature. Mayor Gulley stated that he will allow Mr. Ron Gilbert (EEFS/City Engineer) to inform you all of what this project consists of.

Mr. Gilbert stated that he going to turn this over to Daniel to explain where the project will start and end.

Mr. Daniel Mayfield (EEFS/City Engineer) stated that this is a regular grant application and it's going to piggy back off the 3rd Avenue Streetscape application that we did for 3rd Avenue 18th and 19th Street. Mr. Mayfield stated that this will be on 19th Street and 4th Avenue to 1st Avenue and it will exclude the southern part area of 19th Street (the area that was done in front of Bright Star Restaurant). Mr. Mayfield stated that the 3rd Avenue Streetscape will also exclude the area on the south side of street on 2nd Avenue at the Jefferson County Justice Center (the sidewalk is in good shape so there isn't a need). Mr. Mayfield stated that this application will include from 4th Avenue to 1st Avenue.

Councilor Alexander asked is this the only location that was looked at for Federal Funding for sidewalks because she was reading project eligibility as to where the funds can be applied. Councilor Alexander asked were any other districts considered.

Mr. Mayfield stated that yes this is the only one that we gather information on and received an estimate.

Councilor Alexander stated that in District 2 she has several sidewalks that are not leveled, and she has received many complaints. Councilor Alexander stated that District 2 can use some of the grant funds as well.

Mayor Gulley stated that that particular grant can only be utilized for a store front. Mayor Gulley stated that is why they qualified for those funds. Mayor Gulley stated that other grants can be look at, (safe routes to school and other things of that nature) but this particular grant has to be down town or a retail front.

Councilor Alexander stated that she would love to look at grants that will fund sidewalks in District 2.

Mr. Gilbert stated that to get the funds for the sidewalk in District 2 will have to be through the NPO which is a sidewalk project much like the one that's going on right now. Mr. Gilbert stated that those funds will qualify through NPO.

Councilor Alexander stated that District 2 has sidewalks and store fronts and the mayor did say we can look at more grants funding sidewalks and I am open to that.

Mr. Mayfield stated that when we say store fronts what we mean is the actually front of the store or building on the exact right of way line in an down town area. Mr. Mayfield stated that for an example in front of the Western Star, and Russell Accounting Agency, that portion is ineligible for a sidewalk because it has an existing sidewalk there and it's not considered a store front. Mr. Mayfield stated that it's the sidewalks that are against building like the down town area.

Councilor Crusoe stated Mr. Gilbert if you don't mind can you tell us while we are speaking in terms of sidewalks and safe walks to school projects and NPO's can I get a status update as to where we are with Owen Avenue and some of the sidewalk projects. Councilor Crusoe stated that I know the pandemic has set us behind some but where are we with completing those projects.

Mr. Mayfield stated that we have 3 sites: 1st site is 24th Street between 12th Avenue and 18th Avenue around Abrams School, site 2 is Berkley Avenue around Hard School and 29th Street and the 3rd site is Owen Avenue. Mr. Mayfield stated that all these sidewalks are completed in sites 1 and 2, 24th street and Berkley Avenue. Mr. Mayfield stated that they are in the process of getting these sites cleaned up. Mr. Mayfield stated that once they have these sites cleaned up then they will move to Owen Avenue and my estimation it should be in a couple of weeks.

Councilor Crusoe stated can you give me as far as Owen Avenue; is that from 9th Street down to Jonesboro school I mean how far are we.

Mr. Mayfield stated that is correct.

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

Councilor Donald stated that the city of Bessemer curve is not curving the way we want it to be. Councilor Donald stated that US Pipe had to close down due to COVID-19. Councilor Donald stated that all of the office staff tested positive so they closed down due to COVID-19. Councilor Donald stated that other businesses in the city of Bessemer have employees that have tested positive. Councilor Donald asked everyone to stay safe and wash your hands.

Councilor Marshall stated that the city is under a curfew and he commends the mayor, police department and first responders for getting on top of social media post regarding the city of Bessemer. Councilor Marshall stated that it's quite disturbing that we will have council members who always talks about their constituents or looking out for constituents and sit here and almost give back \$500,000.00 to the Federal Government that can be of a benefit and not understanding that we can always go back and make a substantial amendment to the plan. Councilor Marshall stated that the information has been out there and you can read it. Councilor Marshall stated that the opportunity is there for you to be informed, and whether you choose to be informed or you choose to understand or you do not understand, then that's a real issue that you have to deal with. Councilor Marshall stated that it is beyond him to think that potentially give back \$500,000.00 over pettiness and you still have an opportunity to get understanding and you have been given opportunities to get understanding.

Councilor Crusoe stated that she wouldn't care if it was \$10,000,000.00 if it's not a breakdown into the community to help the people and it should, we'll just use Camp Bessemer as an example. Councilor Crusoe stated that we proposed an update on the spending of how the money will be allocated with Camp Bessemer. Councilor Crusoe stated that we have yet received that information. Councilor Crusoe stated that so you can go – do not sit around and act like I'm anti improvement for the city of Bessemer. Councilor Crusoe stated that the different information that we requested in the past and it

has fallen on deaf ears and before we mess around and let public blow the horn we better start putting our foot down – our feet down - and handle things in the manner that it should. Councilor Crusoe stated that one thing about it, it's not just your name it's our name and anything that Latricia Crusoe name has to go on I'm gonna be clear and very clear on getting an understanding as to my satisfaction; not for you for me.

Councilor Marshall stated that we might not have enough time to wait for you to get an understanding. Councilor Marshall stated that you keep saying that you are new – how long are you going to be new. Councilor Marshall stated that you may never get an understanding.

Councilor Crusoe stated that you haven't heard me say anything about me being new today. Councilor Crusoe stated that she doesn't care if it takes her whole time to say that's she's new she's going to chime on it until she gets an understanding.

Councilor Matthews asked if the mayor wanted to follow-up on some of the statements that were just made.

Mayor Gulley stated that he doesn't have a problem with any discussion that anyone has as long as it's accurate. Mayor Gulley stated that when Camp Bessemer a responsibility of his is mentioned, once again I disagree with that. Mayor Gulley stated that we had Dr. George to come and give us an update and a whole breakdown on Camp Bessemer every single year. Mayor Gulley stated that he respectfully asks to use another example other than Camp Bessemer because that was not an accurate statement.

Councilor Crusoe stated that as for the request that we were making but first of all the guideline that he presented, the mayor when he entered into contract with Camp Bessemer we ask that he adhere to. Councilor Crusoe stated that can you or anyone else on the council attest to the fact that those guidelines were adhere to per our request.

Councilor Donald stated that the time line was not as the resolution stated. Councilor Donald stated that it was stated in the resolution that any spending to be done or the receipt or whatever (Councilor Donald stated that she is paraphrasing) that the council will get it within ten days. Council Donald stated that if that is something we want to discuss we can put it on the planning session.

Councilor Matthews stated that he wants to discuss grass cutting in Carriage Hills on right a ways. Councilor Matthews stated that he sent in a memo on May 20th, 2019. Councilor Matthews stated that prior to May 20th he saw the grass growing out of hand and he was hoping it got cut before Memorial Day and it did not. Councilor Matthews stated that coming off Academy Drive to Hickory Road the grass is knee high. Councilor Matthews stated that this area needs some attention.

Councilor Thigpen made a motion to adjourn.

**Wanda Taylor
City Clerk
City of Bessemer**

Presiding Officer