

Bessemer, Alabama

March 16, 2020

The Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama met in regular session via teleconference at the City Hall in said City on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 4:00 p.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 Jarvis Collier, Ron Marshall, Jesse Matthews, Donna Thigpen, Latricia Crusoe and Cynthia Donald. Absent: Councilor Kimberly Alexander. City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business.

Memorandum

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY MEETING

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA

The City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, hereby gives notice that it will hold an Emergency Meeting of the Council, as follows:

TIME: 4:00 p.m.

DATE: Monday, March 16, 2020

PLACE: Bessemer City Hall
First Floor
Multi-Purpose Room
1700 Third Avenue North
Bessemer, Alabama 35020

AGENDA: The City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, will meet in Emergency Session to consider the declaration of emergency conditions in the City of Bessemer, Alabama related to the Coronavirus outbreak and such related matters

as may come before the City Council. If a more formal agenda for this meeting has not been prepared as of the posting of this notice, if and when such an agenda is prepared, it will be posted next adjacent to this notice.

Councilor Latricia Crusoe opened the meeting with prayer and everyone recited the pledge of allegiance.

Councilor Donald stated that the President of the United and the Governor of the State of Alabama and Jefferson County Commission has declared an emergency due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic. Councilor Donald stated that we the city council and mayor of the city of Bessemer have come together for a special meeting to develop a plan of action for the city.

Mayor Gulley read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 041-20

WHEREAS, the President of the United States, The Governor of the State of Alabama and the Jefferson County Commission have declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, public health agencies have recommended the practice of social distancing and self-isolation to slow the spread of the pandemic to assist healthcare providers in keeping the number of those experiencing severe symptoms at a manageable level; and

WHEREAS, operations of local schools have been suspended until April 6, 2020, creating childcare issues for many employees; and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that additional orders and recommendations from the State and Federal level will make it increasingly difficult to maintain routine operations;

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

1. A State of Emergency exists in the City of Bessemer due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency conditions affecting public health and safety exist throughout the City of Bessemer warranting the exercise of emergency powers as provided by law.
2. That all City of Bessemer facilities shall be closed to the public through April 6, 2020 with the following exceptions:
 - a. Members of the public needing to make payments of their utility bills can make payments at Bessemer Utilities drive-through window located at 1600 1st Avenue N., Bessemer, Alabama.
 - b. Payments required through Municipal Court may be made at the payment window located at 23 15th Street N., Bessemer, Alabama.
 - c. Persons having been diagnosed with COVID-19, who are showing symptoms of COVID-19, or who have family members who have been so diagnosed are prohibited

from using the drive-through window at Bessemer Utilities or the payment window at Municipal Court.

3. The Mayor will determine the employees necessary to carry on the essential functions of government and the times and manner of their work operations.
4. The City will provide a **special paid leave of absence to employees** for up to ten (10) days for self-quarantine, treatment and recovery for positive diagnosis to the coronavirus. This approved time will not be counted against the employee's annual paid time-off allocations. Approved time off in this circumstance should be coded in timekeeping as "Other Absence."
5. That the Mayor is authorized to expend up to the sum of \$50,000 on equipment, goods and services deemed necessary by the Mayor to deal with this emergency and he shall report any such purchases to the Council within ten (10) days or at the next City Council meeting, whichever is less.
6. That the Planning Session and City Council meetings set for Tuesday, March 17, 2020 are hereby cancelled until re-scheduled by the City Council.
7. That the status of continued suspension of routine operations will be re-evaluated on or before April 6th and communicated to employees and the public.
8. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 16th day of March 2020.

Councilor Marshall stated that Bessemer Utilities will be only taking payments via the drive through; however what will we do if a person needs to obtain a building permit.

Mayor Gulley stated that city services will still be available; however we will not be open to the public. Mayor Gulley stated that each department head is sending him a schedule of employees rotating shifts. Mayor Gulley stated that there will be 2 people in each department. Mayor Gulley stated that all employees will be on call, and they are required to supply a number where they can be reached if need be, because they are still at work. Mayor Gulley stated that this is something that is new to all of us and we are feeling our way.

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

Councilor Matthews made a motion to adjourn.

**Wanda Taylor
City Clerk
City of Bessemer**

Presiding Officer

