

**CITY COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA  
SPECIAL CALL MEETING**

**February 12, 2026**

**The Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama met for a special call meeting at the City Hall in said City on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 10:15 a.m. Central Time. The meeting was called to order by Council President Jarvis Collier.**

**The invocation was given by Council President Pro – Tem Chester W. Porter and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Teco Stephens.**

**Upon roll call, the following Council members were found to be present; Councilors Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. Absent: Councilors Carla F. Jackson, Cleophus King, and Sarah B. Person. City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor stated that a quorum was present and the meeting was opened for the transaction of business.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#4: Discussion on Marvel City Southern Soul Festival 2026 Performers.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 024-26**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER  
APPROVING SPONSORSHIP OF THE SOUTHERN SOUL FESTIVAL,  
ESTABLISHING A BUDGET, AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF  
PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTION CONTRACTS**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Bessemer desires to promote community engagement, tourism, economic development, and cultural enrichment through public events;  
and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that sponsorship of the **Southern Soul Festival**, to be held on **July 3, 2026**, at the Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center, will benefit the citizens of Bessemer and the surrounding community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds it necessary to establish a budget and authorize the execution of contracts for entertainment and production services related to said event;

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

**SECTION 1. APPROVAL OF EVENT SPONSORSHIP**

The City Council hereby approves the City of Bessemer's sponsorship of the **Southern Soul Festival** to be held on **July 3, 2026**, at the Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center in Bessemer, Alabama.

**SECTION 2. EVENT BUDGET**

The total event budget for the Southern Soul Festival is hereby established in an amount **not to exceed Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$45,000.00)**.

Funds shall be expended in accordance with applicable municipal purchasing policies and budgetary procedures. The City Council hereby approves the execution of performance contracts with the following artists:

- Mick Clark Jr.
- Nephew Jones
- Young Guy
- M. Cally
- Claude M. Donerlson Jr., Chief Executive Officer of Rob “D” Sound Man & Lighting, for stage production, sound, and lighting effects.

All approved contracts shall be attached hereto and incorporated herein as **Exhibit “A.”**

### **SECTION 3. AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE**

The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all contracts and related documents necessary to carry out the intent of this Resolution, subject to review and approval as to form by the City Attorney. All expenditures and contractual agreements shall comply with applicable state law, municipal ordinances, and purchasing regulations.

### **SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

**ADOPTED AND APPROVED** on this 12th day of February 2026.

**Attorney Killings stated that he and Council President Jarvis Collier have been reviewing contracts for performers for the Southern Soul Festival to determine which artists best fit within the budget. He explained that sound technician Claude Donerlson Jr. has submitted a proposal of \$12,500, with a \$3,000 deposit for his services. He noted that the services would include stage production, lighting effects, and sound equipment for the artists.**

**Councilor Porter stated that, in the event of inclement weather, a secondary location should be secured.**

**Councilor Collier stated that he spoke with the Bessemer Civic Center Director Terry Dawson, and there is availability to move the event indoors.**

**Bessemer Civic Center Director Terry Dawson stated that there are currently events scheduled at the civic center on the requested day of July 3, 2026.**

**Mayor Gulley asked whether there would be reimbursements for the stage if the event had to be moved to a different location due to inclement weather.**

**Attorney Killings explained that, based on the sound technician contract, the city has seven days before the event to cancel the use of the stage.**

**Councilor Porter stated that the councilmembers should consider having a rain-or-shine event to eliminate the need to move the festival.**

**Mr. Dawson stated that if the event is moved to the Bessemer Civic Center, the sound technician would need to provide and use their own equipment.**

**Councilor Porter asked Mr. Dawson what was seating capacity of the grand ballroom.**

**Mr. Dawson stated that the grand ballroom has a seating capacity of 1,000 if the seats are arranged theater style.**

**Councilor Porter stated that he believes the event should remain at the Kenneth E. Gulley Recreation Center to maintain a centralized location.**

**Councilor Stephens asked whether the other performers are as popular as the headliner, Mike Clark Jr., noting that some artists requested high payment amounts.**

**Councilor Collier stated that the other artists are just as popular as the headliner.**

**Attorney Killings explained that he and Councilor Collier began reviewing six artists and began budgeting the overall cost of the event.**

**Councilor Stephens asked whether the amount for the sound technician was negotiated.**

**Councilor Collier stated that he is open to considering other reasonably priced sound technicians.**

**Councilor Thigpen noted that there was a price discrepancy in the contract for one of the artists that needed to be corrected.**

**Attorney Killings stated that the total cost for the performing artists and the DJ will be \$40,550. He explained that the council would need to vote to pay a deposit of \$16,050 to secure the contracts and event date.**

**Mayor Gulley stated that, in order for the performers to receive their payments, a W-9 form must be completed before checks are issued.**

**Attorney Killings asked the council to consider options to ensure the safety of all attendees.**

**Bessemer Police Chief Gary Carmichael stated that the department has had discussions with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department regarding the possibility of having some of their officers assist with the event. He expressed concern about how the perimeter of the venue would be secured if there is no gate to ensure that all attendees enter from a single point.**

**Mayor Gulley asked how long the festival is expected to last.**

**Councilor Collier stated that he organized the festival to last four hours.**

**Councilor Porter made a motion to approve paying the deposit for the Marvel City Southern Soul Festival and not exceeding the \$45,000 budget. Councilors Stephens seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Javis Collier. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#5: Motion to Adjourn.**

**Councilor Porter made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Collier adjourned the meeting.**

**Wanda D. Taylor**

**City Clerk**

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**Presiding Officer**