

**CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**The Council of the city of Bessemer, Alabama met in regular session at the City Hall in said City on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Central Standard Time. The meeting was called to order by Council President Jarvis Collier.**

**The invocation was given by Reverend W.L. Fairbanks, Sr. and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Sarah B. Person.**

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

**Councilor Collier recognized the Bessemer Silver Boomers in attendance at the City Council meeting.**

**Bessemer Silver Boomers President, Ms. Amanda Maize, expressed gratitude to the mayor, council members, and city engineers for their continued support of the organization. Ms. Maize stated that members of the Silver Boomers had the opportunity to participate in the Master Games of Alabama, where she placed second in the state in bingo. She also announced that the Senior Easter Egg Hunt will be held on March 29, 2026, at Caver Park and will be sponsored by Council President Jarvis Collier.**

**City of Bessemer Mayor Kenneth E. Gulley greeted the council and all attendees present at the meeting. Mayor Gulley thanked the Bessemer Silver Boomers for their contributions to the city. He also stated that he had the opportunity to attend the Bessemer Silver Boomers' 1st Annual Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball, which he described as an amazing event.**

**Councilor Jackson congratulated the Bessemer Silver Boomers on gracefully executing their 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball.**

**Councilor Stephens stated that he is committed and willing to build a working relationship with the Bessemer Silver Boomers in the near future.**

**The minutes from the February 12, 17 & March 3, 2026, meeting were presented to the Council by City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor.**

**Councilor Porter made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Jackson seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Carla F. Jackson, Sarah B. Person, Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Presentation, Awards, Announcements, and Recognition:**

**City of Bessemer Mayor Kenneth E. Gulley greeted the Council and all those in attendance. The mayor stated that he did not have any announcements at this time.**

**Councilor Porter stated that he had the opportunity to give the greeting at the Boy Scouts' annual breakfast that morning and congratulated Mayor Gulley for being the honoree at the event.**

**Councilor Porter thanked the city and Councilor Jackson for assisting with the Valley Creek cleanup on Saturday, March 7, 2026.**

**Councilor Jackson thanked everyone who participated in the Valley Creek cleanup on Saturday. She stated that approximately 150 volunteers were present, making it one of the largest cleanups to date.**

**Councilor Collier announced that District 1 will be hosting its annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 29, 2026, at Carver Park at 2:00 p.m. for children between the ages of 3 and 14, followed by a Senior Easter Egg Hunt from 3:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.**

**Councilor Stephens stated that he will be hosting a community meeting on March 31, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Bessemer Civic Center.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#7: Resolution Awarding McCalla Road Construction Contract with Attachment.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 031-26**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR WATER FACILITY RELOCATION RELATED TO ALDOT PROJECT NO. STPBH-3713(252), AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the **Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT), East Central Region**, by correspondence dated **February 27, 2026**, authorized the City of Bessemer to award a construction contract for the relocation of water facilities that conflict with the construction of **Project No. STPBH-3713(252)**, which consists of widening, resurfacing, and drainage improvements on **CR-337 (McCalla Road) from CR-18 (Eastern Valley Road) to CR-20 (Old Tuscaloosa Highway)** in Jefferson County, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, bids were received and evaluated by Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC (GMC) for the relocation of the water facilities associated with the above-referenced project in accordance with the bid specifications; and

**WHEREAS**, GMC reviewed all bid proposals and determined that **Willoughby Contracting Co., Inc.** submitted the lowest responsive bid in the amount of **Five Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Four Dollars (\$533,164.00)** for the performance of said work; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Bessemer finds that the bid submitted by **Willoughby Contracting Co., Inc.** is the lowest responsible bid and that it is in the best interest of the City to award the contract accordingly.

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

**Section 1. Award of Contract.**

The City Council hereby awards the construction contract for the relocation of water facilities associated with **ALDOT Project No. STPBH-3713(252)** to **Willoughby Contracting Co., Inc.** in the amount of **\$533,164.00**, subject to all terms and conditions contained in the bid documents, agreements, and applicable requirements of the Alabama Department of Transportation.

**Section 2. Authorization of Mayor.**

The Mayor of the City of Bessemer, **Kenneth E. Gulley**, is hereby authorized and directed to execute the construction contract with **Willoughby Contracting Co., Inc.**, and any and all other documents, agreements, certifications, and instruments necessary or desirable to effectuate the intent of this Resolution and to comply with the requirements of the Alabama Department of Transportation in connection with **Project No. STPBH-3713(252)**.

**Section 3. Compliance with ALDOT Requirements.**

The City of Bessemer shall maintain all records, documentation, and invoices in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Alabama Department of Transportation and the applicable City Agreement and/or Contract for reimbursement related to the relocation of water facilities for this project.

**Section 4. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

**Attorney Killings stated that Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC initiated the bidding process for the relocation of water lines for the street widening project on McCalla Road from Eastern Valley Road to Old Tuscaloosa Highway. He stated that after reviewing the**

bids, GMC recommended that the contract be awarded to Willoughby Contracting Co., Inc., as they submitted the lowest responsive bid.

Councilor Thigpen asked how long the project would take to be completed.

City Engineer Daniel Mayfield stated that the relocation of the water lines should take approximately four to five months to complete.

Councilor Porter made a motion to approve the item. Councilor Stephens seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Carla F. Jackson, Sarah B. Person, Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. Nays: None. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#7: Ordinance Amending Section 10-A Shut-off Policy in Exhibit A.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 3694**

#### **AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 10-A POLICY FOR NON-PAY SHUT-OFFS SET FORTH IN EXHIBIT A TO SECTION 110-49 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER**

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**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the City Council of the City of Bessemer in the State of Alabama, while in regular session duly assembled with a quorum being present, as follows:

**Section 1.** Section 10-A Policy for Non-Pay Shut-Offs set forth in Exhibit A to Section 110-49, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bessemer, Alabama is hereby repealed and restated as follows:

#### **10-A. Policy for Non-Pay Shut-Off's**

The policy is to ensure that utility services are disconnected only after a clear and consistent process has been followed, with a focus on preventing erroneous shutoffs. The key principle is that customers with a significant and prolonged past-due balance (two months or more) are subject to disconnection, but with a built-in review process to protect those who have made arrangements or have special circumstances hereinafter set forth.

#### **Procedure**

The procedure for disconnections and reconnections is a process initiated by the customer's delinquent account status and culminating in Revenue Protection Personnel (RPP) action.

#### **Procedure for Disconnection**

1. **Trigger Condition:** An account is flagged for potential disconnection when it is **over 31 days past due**.
2. **Dunning Process Initiation:** Once the trigger condition is met, the account is assigned a **disconnect status (C)**, which means it is "Pending Disconnection."
3. **Mandatory Office Review:** Before a final disconnect order is dispatched to a Field Technician, the Business Office Supervisor or Senior Utility Representative must perform a mandatory review of the account. The purpose of this step is to function as a safeguard against incorrect disconnection.

4. **Review Checklist:** RPP must specifically check for the following on the customer's account:
  1. **Installment plans:** A customer who has paid one-half (1/2) of the outstanding balance due and made a formal payment arrangement to pay the remaining outstanding balance not to exceed four equal payments over a period of four months and is making payments consistent with the formal arrangement should not have their service disconnected.
  2. **Notes:** Any special notes added by customer service representatives that may contain crucial information preventing a shut-off (i.e., a medical alert, or an open dispute under investigation).
5. **Disconnection Cancellation:** If the RPP finds an installment plan which is being paid in accordance with the installment plan as described hereinabove, or a relevant note, they must immediately **remove the disconnect status** from the account and send the account to the Business Office Supervisor or Senior Utility Representative for review prior to the account being placed back on disconnect status. This action prevents the service from being shut off without a review of the account by a Supervisor.

### **Procedure for Reconnection**

1. **Reconnection Trigger:** A reconnection is triggered when a customer with a disconnected service takes the following two actions:
  - Makes a **payment** of at least one-half of their outstanding balance; and
  - **Sets up a payment arrangement** with the utility to re-pay the remaining outstanding balance in equal payments over a period not to exceed four (4) months.
2. **Service Order Creation:** Once a payment and payment arrangement as set forth above is confirmed, a **re-connect service order** is created.
3. **Technician Dispatch:** The service order is then sent to RPP, instructing them to **restore the customer's service**. The technician's action will complete the reconnection process.

**Section 2.** Repealer. All ordinances or parts of ordinances heretofore adopted by the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby expressly repealed.

**Section 3.** Severability. If any part, section or subdivision of this ordinance shall be held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such holding shall not be construed to invalidate or impair the remainder of this ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect notwithstanding such holding.

**Section 4.** Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective upon its due adoption as provided by law.

**ADOPTED** this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

**Attorney Killings stated that the City's current Sections 10-A and 110-49 policies are outdated. He explained that the proposed policy is intended to ensure utility services are disconnected only after a clear and consistent process has been followed. He further noted that customers whose accounts are two months past due are subject to disconnection; however, the policy provides protections for individuals who have made payment arrangements to settle their balances.**

**Councilor Person inquired about the timeline after a customer reaches the mandatory office review process.**

**Attorney Killings stated that once a customer's utility bill is more than thirty days past due, the account will be flagged for possible disconnection. He further explained that after sixty days past due, the customer will be contacted by revenue protection personnel to assist in resolving the matter.**

**Councilor Porter made a motion to approve the item. Councilor Person seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Carla F. Jackson, Sarah B. Person, Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Bessemer City Attorney Aaron Killings conducted the first reading of agenda items 8 through 12 regarding property rezonings and to set a public hearing date for April 21, 2026.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#8: Mendez Chavez Ordinance.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#9: Longleaf Engineering Zoning Ordinance.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#10: Eduardo Nill Zoning Ordinance.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#11: Ordinance Maxus Construction David Knight.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#12: AL Bessemer Land, LLC Zoning Ordinance.**

**Councilor Thigpen made a motion to set the public hearing date for all property rezonings for April 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Councilor Stephens seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Carla F. Jackson, Sarah B. Person, Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#13: Resolution Appropriating Funds from District 1 Donated Funds for Easter Egg Hunt.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 032-26**

**A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING FUNDS FROM THE DONATED FUNDS ACCOUNT OF DISTRICT 1 COUNCILMAN JARVIS COLLIER FOR THE SPONSORSHIP OF AN EASTER EGG HUNT EVENT IN THE CITY OF BESSEMER**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of the City of Bessemer desires to support community events that promote family engagement, recreation, and positive activities for the citizens of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, District 1 Councilman **Jarvis Collier** maintains a donated funds account for community purposes and activities that benefit the residents of the City of Bessemer; and

**WHEREAS**, an **Easter Egg Hunt** event is planned within the City of Bessemer to provide a family-friendly community activity for children and residents of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilman Jarvis Collier has requested that funds from his **District 1 Donated Funds Account** be appropriated to assist with the sponsorship of this event.

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

**Section 1. Appropriation of Funds.**

The City Council hereby approves the appropriation of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00)** from the **District 1 Donated Funds Account of Councilman Jarvis Collier** for the purpose of sponsoring and supporting an **Easter Egg Hunt** event to be held within the City of Bessemer.

**Section 2. Use of Funds.**

The funds appropriated herein may be used for expenses associated with the Easter Egg Hunt event, including but not limited to event supplies, materials, prizes, decorations, and other reasonable costs related to the sponsorship of the event.

**Section 3. Authorization.**

The appropriate City officials are hereby authorized and directed to process payment to counselor Collier who will provide documentation of expenditures following the event

**Section 4. Effective Date.**

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

**ADOPTED** this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

**Attorney Killings** stated that **Councilor Collier** requested that **\$2,500** be allocated from his donated funds account to assist with his annual Easter Egg Hunt on **March 29, 2026**.

**Councilor Person** made a motion to approve the item. **Councilor Jackson** seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: **Ayes: Councilors Carla F. Jackson, Sarah B. Person, Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor** presented **Item#14: Resolution Approving Participation in the Bearing Advisor Prevent and Protect Program.**

**Attorney Killings stated that the voluntary healthcare program is designed to promote and encourage preventive health services for employees while also generating cost savings.**

**Councilor Thigpen made a motion to approve the item. Councilor Stephens seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilor Donna Thigpen. Nays: Councilor Carla F. Jackson. Abstention: Councilors Sarah B. Person, Teco Stephens, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. The motion did not carry.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#15: District 5 is requesting use of the Bessemer Civic Center for a Community meeting on March 31, 2026.**

**RESOLUTION NO. 033-26**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE EAST MEETING ROOM A BESSEMER CIVIC CENTER FOR A COMMUNITY EVENT**

**WHREAS**, Councilor Teco Stephens requests the use of the East Meeting Room at Bessemer Civic Center to host a community meeting on March 31, 2026, and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of Bessemer, Alabama having considered the request finds the use of the facility for the stated purpose has for its objective the promotion of public health, safety, morals, security, prosperity, contentment and the general welfare of the community and, as such, serves a valid and sufficient public purpose.

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

1. That the City Council hereby determines that a community meeting hosted by a council person has for its objective the promotion of public health, safety, morals, security, prosperity, contentment and the general welfare of the community and, as such, serves a valid and sufficient public purpose and therefore approves the use of the East Meeting Room at Bessemer Civic Center on March 31, 2026.
2. This resolution shall become effective upon its due adoption.

**ADOPTED** this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2026.

**Attorney Killings stated that Councilor Stephens is requesting the use of a room at the Bessemer Civic Center to host a community meeting on March 31, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.**

**Councilor Person made a motion to approve the item. Councilor Porter seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Councilors Carla F. Jackson, Sarah B. Person, Teco Stephens, Donna Thigpen, Chester W. Porter, and Jarvis Collier. Nays: None. The motion carried.**

**Councilor Person left the City Council meeting at 11:00 A.M.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#16: Council member's comments, statements, or motions:**

**None.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#17: Citizens Participation:**

**Clementine Richardson, of 2725 10th Avenue, stated that she is considering building a residence on her property in Bessemer. She explained that an adjacent parcel of land is currently owned by the city and that she is interested in purchasing it to expand her property.**

**Attorney Killings stated that he recently met with Ms. Richardson and her daughter at his office. He noted that Ms. Richardson currently owns multiple parcels on 10th Avenue and is interested in acquiring the adjacent city-owned property. He further stated that he will obtain the assessed value of the property and report back to the Council with that information.**

**City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presents item#18: Motion to Adjourn.**

**All councilor members made the motion to adjourn. Councilor Collier adjourned the meeting.**

**Wanda D. Taylor  
City Clerk**

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**Presiding Officer**