

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, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. The meeting was called to order by City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor.

The invocation was given by Reverend James Eades and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor.

Upon roll call, the following council members were found to be present; Councilors Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Chester W. Porter, Donna Thigpen, and Valerie Williams. Absent: None. 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#3A: Election of Officers: 1. Election of Council President and 2. Election of Council President – Pro Tem.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor opened the floor for nominations for Council President.

Councilor Jarvis Collier nominated Councilor Chester W. Porter for City Council President.

Councilor Cynthia S. Donald nominated Councilor Cleo King for City Council President.

Councilor Cleo King made the motion to close the nominations. Councilor Cynthia S. Donald seconded the motion.

The council voted on the nomination for Councilor Chester W. Porter as Council President. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Kelvin

Eades, Chester W. Porter, and Donna Thigpen. Nays: Councilors Cynthia S. Donald, Cleo King, and Valerie Williams. The motion carried.

Councilor Chester W. Porter expressed his gratitude to his colleagues for their trust in electing him as the new City Council President. He also acknowledged former City Council President Jarvis Collier for his outstanding service and leadership during his tenure.

Council President Chester W. Porter opened the floor for nominations for Council President – Pro Tem.

Councilor Cleo King nominated Councilor Cynthia S. Donald for City Council President – Pro Tem.

Councilor Jarvis Collier nominated Councilor Donna Thigpen for City Council President – Pro Tem.

Councilor Cleo King made the motion to close the nominations.

The council voted on the nomination for Councilor Cynthia S. Donald as Council President – Pro Tem. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Cynthia S. Donald, Cleo King, and Valerie Williams. Nays: Councilors Jarvis Collier, Kelvin Eades, Chester W. Porter, and Donna Thigpen. The motion did not carry.

The council voted on the nomination for Councilor Donna Thigpen as Council President – Pro Tem. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Kelvin Eades, Chester W. Porter, and Donna Thigpen. Nays: Councilors Cynthia S. Donald, Cleo King, and Valerie Williams. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#3B: Ordinance to establish rules of procedure for the Mayor-Council form of government for the City of Bessemer, Alabama.

ORDINANCE NO. 3703

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA AND REPEALING ALL PRIOR PROCEDURE ORDINANCES

WHEREAS, on October 6, 2026, the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama adopted Ordinance No.3703, An Ordinance Establishing Rules of Procedure for the Mayor-Council Form of Government of the City of Bessemer, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to repeal all prior Ordinances which relate to Rules of Procedure of the Bessemer City Council and adopt the following Rules of Procedure for the Mayor-Council form of government.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA, that all instances for meetings of the Council shall be as follows:

SECTION ONE: That the rules or order of procedure herein shall govern deliberations and meetings of the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama.

SECTION TWO: Meetings to be Open. All meetings of the Council and all meetings of a quorum of a committee or subcommittee of the Council shall be open to the public and news media, except on those occasions when the Council, a committee or a subcommittee thereof may choose to go into executive session for the purposes authorized by and in accordance with *The Alabama Open Meetings Act*, Act No. 2005-40, *Acts of Alabama*.

SECTION THREE: Regular Meetings. The Council shall hold regular public meetings in the Council Chamber at City Hall as follows:

- (a) *Regular Scheduled Meetings.* The Council shall hold regular public meetings in the Council Chamber at City Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.; and the third Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Each council meeting will be preceded by a Pre-Council Conference one (1) hour before the regularly scheduled meeting in the Council Conference Room.
- (b) *Planning Sessions.* The Council shall hold a Planning Session, open to the public, in the Multi-Purpose Room at City Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m.
- (c) All meetings of the Council shall be held in such Council Chamber except the Planning Meeting or as otherwise ordered or adjourned; provided, however, that nothing in this Section shall preclude conferences and meetings of the Council outside the Council Chamber so long as they are scheduled and noticed in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.
- (d) The mayor shall be given notice of all council meetings and shall have the privilege of attending the meetings of the council and of taking part in the deliberations thereof. The mayor shall not have the right to vote on any matter that is presented to the council.
- (d) **Posting of Notice.** Notice of all regular meetings shall be posted within the time provided by the Alabama Open Meetings Act on the bulletin board located near the front entrance of City Hall along 3rd Avenue North in the City of Bessemer and on the bulletin board located in the lobby of City Hall. The notice required by this section shall include the following:
 - i. The time of the meeting;
 - ii. The date of the meeting;
 - iii. The Place of the meeting; and

- iv. If a preliminary agenda is not available, a general description of the nature and purpose of the meeting; or
- v. If a preliminary agenda is created, it shall be posted, as soon as practicable, next to the notice required by this subsection.

SECTION FOUR: Special or Called Meetings.

- (a) The Council may hold such special or other meetings as the business of the City may require as provided by Section 11-43-50, *Code of Alabama* 1975. Special or other meetings of the Council shall be called as follows:
 - (i) by the President of the Council, by written notice, whenever, in his or her opinion, the public business may require it; or
 - (ii) on the written request of the mayor; or
 - (iii) on the written request of any two (2) Council Members.
- (b) **Written Notice.** The written notice shall be filed with the City Clerk and shall specify the time, place and purpose of the meeting. Notice of the call of such special meetings shall be given in writing by the City Clerk to the Mayor, the Mayor's assistant(s), the City Attorney, the City Council assistant(s), the Council Attorney, and to each Council Member, not less than 24 hours before such special meeting shall commence, or not less than 48 hours if the notice has been properly addressed and placed in the United States mail with correct postage thereon, before such meeting shall commence. Such notice shall be spread upon the minutes of the meeting.
- (c) **Posting of Notice.** The City Clerk of the City of Bessemer shall post a notice of the Special or Called Meeting described in this Section **as soon as practicable after the meeting is called, but in no event less than 24 hours before the meeting is scheduled to begin,** on the bulletin board located near the front entrance of City Hall along 3rd Avenue North in the City of Bessemer and on the bulletin board located in the lobby of City Hall. The notice shall include the following:
 - i. The time of the meeting;
 - ii. The date of the meeting;
 - iii. The Place of the meeting; and
 - iv. If a preliminary agenda is not available, a general description of the nature and purpose of the meeting; or
 - v. If a preliminary agenda is created, it shall be posted, as soon as practicable, next to the notice required by this subsection.
- (d) **Emergency Meeting; Posting of Notice.** In the event a Special or Called Meeting is called under emergency circumstances requiring immediate action to avoid physical injury to persons or damage to property or to accept the resignation of a public official or employee, in such situations notice shall be posted on said bulletin board **as soon as practicable, but in no case less than one (1) hour before the meeting is to begin.** The notice shall include the following:
 - i. The time of the meeting;
 - ii. The date of the meeting;

- iii. The Place of the meeting; and
- iv. If a preliminary agenda is not available, a general description of the nature and purpose of the meeting; or
- v. If a preliminary agenda is created, it shall be posted, as soon as practicable, next to the notice required by this subsection.

SECTION FIVE: Recessed and Reconvened Meetings. The City Council of the City Bessemer, Alabama may recess a duly convened meeting and reconvene said meeting on a subsequent date provided that prior to recessing, the Council shall specify:

- (a) the date that the meeting will be reconvened;
- (b) the time that the meeting will be reconvened;
- (c) the place where the meeting will be reconvened; and
- (d) proper notice of the reconvened meeting is given in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Only matters appearing on or otherwise added to the agenda of the original meeting shall be discussed at the reconvened meeting.

SECTION SIX: Preparation and Distribution of Agendas.

- (a) The mayor and any two member of the Council shall have the authority to place items on the agenda provided that each such person shall provide a cover page with the submission providing the name of the person submitting the item, the date of the submission, a short description of the item and what action on the item the proponent proposes the council to take.
- (b) All reports, communications, ordinances, resolutions, contract documents or other matters to be submitted to the Council shall be delivered to the Council Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on the Thursday prior to the next regular meeting or planning session of the Council.
- (c) The Council Secretary shall immediately prepare a list of such matters according to the order of business and furnish each Member of the Council, the Council assistant(s), the Mayor, the Mayor's assistant(s), and the City Attorney with a copy of such lists, together with copies of matters to be presented to the extent that such copies are available, prior to the regular, special or called Council meeting and as far in advance of the meeting as time for preparation will permit.
- (d) The city clerk shall assure that scheduled public hearings have been duly advertised,
- (e) The Council Secretary shall post a copy of the agenda next to the notice of meeting on the bulletin boards designated for such purpose.

SECTION SEVEN: Quorum. The quorum for the transaction of any business by the Council shall be determined as provided by Section 11-43-48 *Code of Alabama* 1975.

SECTION EIGHT: Presiding Officer.

- (a) The President of the Council or, in his absence, the President Pro Tempore, shall preside over regular, special and called meetings of the Council. In the absence of the President and the President Pro Tempore at the hour appointed for any meeting,

the City Clerk or his assistant shall call the Council to order, whereupon a temporary chairman shall be elected by the Members of the Council present. Upon the arrival of the President or the President Pro Tempore, the temporary chairman shall relinquish the chair upon the conclusion of the business immediately before the Council.

- (b) The president and President Pro Tempore of the council shall be elected by the members of the council and shall serve one-year terms and may be re-elected for another one-year term.
- (c) The Presiding Officer shall possess the powers and perform the following duties:
 - (i) Preserve strict order and decorum at all meetings of the Council.
 - (ii) Announce the business before the body in the order in which it is to be acted upon.
 - (iii) Recognize the speakers entitled to the floor and guide and direct the proceedings of the body.
 - (iv) State every question given before the council.
 - (v) Direct the Clerk to call the roll.
 - (vi) Put to vote all questions which are regularly moved or otherwise arise in the course of the proceedings.
 - (vii) Record the vote on all matters in which the recording of yeas and nays is required by law, or with respect to which any council member requests such recording;
 - (viii) Announce the decision of the council on all subjects.
 - (ix) Decide all points of order, subject to appeal, unless the presiding officer submits the question to the decision to the council.
 - (x) Use the Roberts Rules of Order, unless point of order is specified herein, as a guide for the conduct of all meetings of the Council.

SECTION NINE: Roll Call. Before proceeding with the business of the Council, the City Clerk or his assistant shall call the roll of the Members, and the names of those present and absent shall be entered in the minutes.

SECTION TEN: Order of Business. (a) All meetings of the Council shall be open to the public. Promptly at the hour set by law on the day of each regular meeting, all Council Members shall take their regular stations in the Council Chambers. The Mayor, the City Clerk, City Attorney, Council Attorney, Public Works Director, Finance Director, Public Safety Director, and such other Department Heads or employees of the City of Bessemer, when requested, shall attend all meetings of the Council, and remain available for such length of time as the Council is in session, or they are excused by the Council.

- (b) The business of the Council shall be taken up for consideration and disposition in the following order, unless the order is suspended by unanimous consent:
- (1) Call to Order.
 - (2) Invocation.
 - (3) Roll Call - City Clerk.
 - (4) Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting.
 - (5) Presentations, Awards, Announcements and Recognitions.
 - (6) Reports of Standing Committees, and new Committee assignments.
 - (7) Reports of Special Committees.
 - (8) Reports from Members, Mayor or Department Directors.
 - (9) Reading of communications, petitions, applications, complaints, appeals, etc.
 - (10) Public Hearings.
 - (11) Consent Agenda.
 - (12) Consideration of Ordinances for final passage (laid over from previous meeting).
 - (13) Consideration of Resolutions for final passage (laid over from previous meeting).
 - (14) Ordinances being first introduced.
 - (15) Resolutions being first introduced.
 - (16) Old Business.
 - (17) New Business.
 - (18) Presentations of petitions and other communications to the Council.
 - (19) Announcements.
 - (20) Public comments.
 - (21) Adjournment.

SECTION ELEVEN: Reading of Minutes. Unless a reading of the minutes of a City Council meeting is requested by a member, such minutes may be approved without reading. The Clerk shall furnish each Council Member with a written copy of the minutes of each meeting.

SECTION TWELVE: Motions. Motions shall be reduced to writing when required by the presiding officer of the council or any member of the council.

- (a) A main motion presents an ordinance, resolution, or other proposition for the passage, adoption, or rejection. The question is usually stated in the positive form, as follows: motion to adopt; motion to approve; motion to pass; motion to concur.
- (b) No motion made at any Council Meeting shall be debated or put to a vote unless seconded. When seconded, the proposer shall have the floor and the matter subject to debate. In the absence of a second, the motion fails. Main motions are debatable, amendable, and can be reconsidered after adoption.
- (c) Each resolution or ordinance introduced at a Council Meeting shall be in writing and read by the Clerk at the time it is introduced. Motions shall be reduced to writing when required by the Presiding Officer of the Council or any Member of the Council.
- (d) Motion for Reconsideration. A motion for reconsideration is permissible to reconsider previous action of the Council, whether a negative vote on a matter or a favorable vote on a matter, at the same meeting or a subsequent meeting, under the following procedure:
 - (i) The motion must be made by a member who voted on the prevailing side.
 - (ii) The motion is inappropriate after the action taken has gone into effect or after it is too late, for any reason, to reverse the action taken.

- (iii) Before any action can be reconsidered, there must first be a *motion for reconsideration*, a second and the affirmative vote of at least four (4) members of the Council.
- (iv) Should the motion for reconsideration pass, the item to be reconsidered is then immediately before the Council to be acted upon or scheduled for hearing at a subsequent meeting.
- (v) Should the motion for reconsideration fail the item to be reconsidered remains as adopted.
- (vi) A motion to reconsider must be made not later than the next regular meeting following the action taken.
- (vii) When the matter the subject of reconsideration requires notice before it can be acted upon, a vote to reconsider the matter must be scheduled on a date and time in compliance with all rules requiring public notice.
- (viii) Debate on the motion to reconsider shall be limited to the merits of whether the reconsideration and not the merits of the question to be reconsidered.

SECTION THIRTEEN: Rules of Debate and Points of Order.

- (a) The Presiding Officer of the Council may move, second and debate from the Chair, subject only to such limitations of debate as are by this article imposed on all Council Members, and shall not be deprived of any of the rights and privileges of a Council Member by reason of his acting as the Presiding Officer.
- (b) Every Council Member or official desiring to speak shall address the Chair, and upon recognition by the Presiding Officer, shall address himself to the question under debate, avoiding all personalities and indecorous language.
- (c) A Council Member or official, once recognized, shall not be interrupted when speaking, unless it be to call him to order or as herein otherwise provided. If a Member, while speaking, is called to order, he shall cease speaking until the question of order is determined, and if in order, he shall be permitted to proceed.
- (d) No persons shall speak more than twice on any matter before the Council, except by unanimous consent, and then not until every Council Member desiring to speak has had an opportunity to do so. No person shall speak for more than three (3) minutes on any subject, except by permission granted by majority vote. However, the Council Member moving the adoption shall have the privilege of closing debate and shall not be limited on the answering of questions pertinent to the matter proposed.
- (e) When a question is under debate, the following motions shall be in order and shall have precedence over each other in the order stated:
 - (1) To adjourn to a day certain.
 - (2) To adjourn.
 - (3) To take a recess.
 - (4) To lay on the table.
 - (5) To previous quest on.
 - (6) To refer to a committee.
 - (7) To amend.
 - (8) To postpone to a time certain.
 - (9) To postpone indefinitely.

Motions 1 through 5 shall be decided without debate.

(f) Debate may be closed immediately by a “Call for the Question”. When a call for the question is made, the Presiding Officer shall ask if there is any objection. If there is no objection, the Presiding Officer shall immediately call the question. If there is an objection, the Presiding Officer shall call for a second and, if made, shall immediately take a vote on whether to order the call for the question. If the call for the question passes by at least four (4) affirmative votes, the debate ends and a vote on the matter under consideration shall proceed. The call for the question is neither amendable nor debatable and can be reconsidered.

(g) The minutes of the City Council are recorded in summary form not verbatim. If Council Members desire that their comments on a particular subject be recorded in their entirety, the City Clerk should be informed at the time the comments are made.

SECTION FOURTEEN: Communication with Council.

(a) Public Hearings. Where required by law, or by unanimous consent of the Council, public hearings on matters before the Council shall be held by the Council at which taxpayers or residents of the City or their authorized legal representatives shall be permitted to present oral statements for or against the matter made a subject of the hearing.

(1) Requests to appear at such a public hearing may be filed in writing with the City Clerk, who shall refer the same to the President of the Council prior to the hearing. Persons making these requests in writing shall, together with witnesses requested to appear by the Council, be heard prior to other persons who appear at the hearing.

(2) Each person addressing any public hearing shall, when called, step up in front of the rail, give his name and address in an audible tone of voice for the records. No person shall speak more than twice on any matter before the Council, except by unanimous consent, and then not until every Council Member desiring to speak has had an opportunity to do so.

(3) No person shall speak for more than three (3) minutes on any subject, and rebuttal speakers shall be limited to two (2) minutes, after an issue has been discussed by both sides, except by permission granted by majority vote. Those speaking on any subject will be limited to two (2) spokespersons on each issue, unless permission is granted by unanimous consent of the Council Members present to allow others to speak.

(4) The President must notify each speaker, before he/she has begun to speak, that said speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes on any subject, and additionally must also notify rebuttal speakers, before said speaker has begun to speak, that he/she will be limited to two (2) minutes on any subject.

(b) Other than Public Hearings; Citizens Comments. Except for public hearings or unless waived by the unanimous consent of the Council, a person not a member of the council may be allowed to address the council while it is in session.

(1) Time Limit. A person permitted to address the council by the presiding officer shall be limited to three (3) minutes, which period shall include the person’s comments, questions from members of the council and any response thereto

(2) Disruptions, Good Name and Character. No person permitted to address the council shall be disruptive by either speaking on matters not before the council or by loud talk or disruptive actions. Further, no person addressing the council shall be permitted to discuss the good name and character of an individual.

(3) Removal From the Meeting. The presiding officer shall have the right to have a disruptive person removed from the room in which the council meeting is conducted.

SECTION FIFTEEN: Decorum.

(a) While a Council is in session, the Members shall preserve order and decorum; and a Member shall neither, by conversation or otherwise, delay or interrupt the proceedings or the peace of the Council nor disturb any Member while speaking or refuse to obey the orders of the Council or its Presiding Officer, except as otherwise herein provided.

(b) Any person not a member of the Council, making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks or who shall become boisterous while the Council is in session, shall be forthwith, by the Presiding Officer, barred from further audience before the Council, unless permission to continue is granted by a majority vote of the Council.

(c) The Chief of Police or those members of the Police Department as he may designate shall be Sergeant—at—arms of the Council Meetings. He or they shall carry out all orders and instructions given by the Presiding Officer for the purpose of maintaining order and decorum at the Council Meeting. Upon instructions of the Presiding Officer, it shall be the duty of the Sergeant—at—arms or any of them present to place any person who violates the order and decorum of the meeting under arrest and cause him to be prosecuted upon complaint to be signed by the Presiding Officer.

SECTION SIXTEEN: Committees.

(a) Special Committees. A special committee is an ad hoc committee appointed to work on a single subject matter. The fact that such subject would ordinarily be within the jurisdiction of a standing committee does not prohibit its referral to a special committee in the manner prescribed by ordinance. Special committees shall consist of a chairperson and two (2) committee members; such committees shall be created and its members appointed by the Council President as needed.

(b) Standing Committees. The Council shall maintain three (3) Standing Committees which shall make recommendations to the Council as appropriate. The three (3) Standing Committees shall be: (1) Finance Committee; (2) Public Safety Committee; and (3) Public Works Committee. All Standing Committees shall consist of a chairperson and two (2) additional committee members, all appointed by the Council President.

SECTION SEVENTEEN: Recording Meetings. A meeting of the Council, except while in executive session, may be openly recorded in accordance with the terms and conditions of Ordinance of the City of Bessemer No. 3558 adopted February 21, 2017.

SECTION EIGHTEEN: Executive Sessions; Procedure. Executive sessions are not required but may be held by the governing body only as authorized by Alabama Open Meetings Act.

SECTION NINETEEN: No person, not a member of the Council shall be allowed to address the same while in session without permission of the presiding officer.

SECTION TWENTY: Whenever it shall be required by one or more members, the “yeas” and “nays” shall be recorded any member may call for a division on any question.

SECTION TWENTY-ONE: The rules of the council may be amended in the same manner as any other ordinance of general and permanent operation.

SECTION TWENTY-TWO: The chairman of each respective committee, or the council member acting for him or her, shall submit or make all reports to the council when so requested by the presiding officer or any member of the council.

SECTION TWENTY-THREE: Robert's Rules of Order is hereby adopted as the rules of procedure for this council and those situations which cannot be resolved by the rules set out in this ordinance.

SECTION TWENTY-FOUR: Appointment to Boards; Procedure. Whenever a vacancy occurs on a board or commission appointed by the governing body of the City of Bessemer due to resignation, relocation or death of a member, the following policy shall be adhered to:

(a) Notification of City Clerk. Any member of a board desiring to resign or relocate shall tender a written notice of resignation to the City Clerk of the City of Bessemer, Alabama. Notice of a member notwithstanding, any person having knowledge of the resignation, relocation or death of a member of any board of the City of Bessemer should give prompt written notice of the same to the City Clerk. Upon receipt of notification of the resignation, relocation or death of a board member, the City Clerk shall provide a copy of the notice to the Council Secretary.

(b) Notification of the City Council. Upon receipt of notification of the resignation or death of a member of a board appointed by the Council, the Council Secretary shall give prompt notice of same to each member of the council by placing a copy of the notice in the next general correspondence (the "Council Packet") to be delivered to the members of the council.

(c) Advertisement of Vacancy: Resumes. At the next regular meeting following receipt of a notice of resignation or death of a board member, the City Council shall consider authorizing a Notice of Vacancy and inviting interested persons to submit resumes to fill the vacancy.

(1) The Notice of Vacancy shall be published in a newspaper authorized by the City Council and, where possible, posted on the official website of the City of Bessemer for a period of two (2) weeks.

(2) The resume shall identify the person submitting it and provide the educational, civic and work background of the respondent for at least the last five (5) years.

(3) The resumes shall be submitted to the Council Secretary and received not later than the close of business on the day specified by the Council (to be established as near as possible on a day two (2) weeks after the last day the notice is published in the designated newspaper).

(4) The Council Secretary shall provide each member of the City Council with a copy of the resumes in the next general correspondence (the "Council Packet") to be delivered to the members of the council.

(d) Filling of Vacancy: Agenda. The filling of the vacancy shall be placed on the next Council Agenda, or as soon thereafter as is possible, following the receipt of resumes.

SECTION TWENTY-FIVE: Re-appointment to Boards; Procedure. Whenever a board member's term shall expire on a board or commission appointed by the governing body of the City of Bessemer, the following policy shall be adhered to:

(a) Notification of City Clerk. Any member of a board desiring to be re-appointed due to the expiration of the term of office shall tender a written notice of the desire to be re-appointed to the City Clerk of the City of Bessemer, Alabama. Upon receipt of notification

of the desire to be re-appointed, the City Clerk shall provide a copy of the notice to the Council Secretary.

(b) Notification of the City Council. Upon receipt of notification of the desire to be re-appointed from the board member, the Council Secretary shall give prompt notice of same to each member of the council by placing a copy of the notice in the next general correspondence (the “Council Packet”) to be delivered to the members of the council.

(c) Consideration by the City Council. At the next regular meeting following receipt of notification of the desire to be re-appointed from the board member, the City Council shall either re-appoint the board member for an additional term or authorize a Notice of Vacancy and invite interested persons to submit resumes to fill the position as hereinafter set forth in Section 24 of this ordinance.

SECTION TWENTY-SIX: Repealer. All ordinance, resolutions and parts of ordinance and resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION TWENTY-SEVEN: Severability. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this ordinance hereby adopted are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this ordinance hereby adopted shall be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this ordinance hereby adopted, since the same would have been enacted by the City Council without the incorporation of any such invalid or unconstitutional phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section.

SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT: This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of October 2026.

Attorney Mark Parnell stated that the first order of business had been completed with the election of the Council President and Council President – Pro Tem. He explained that the next order of business was the adoption of the rules and procedures governing the Mayor and City Council members.

Councilor Cleo King made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Councilor Cynthia S. Donald seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: None. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#3C: A resolution designating the persons who shall be authorized as signatories on all accounts of the City of Bessemer, Alabama and repealing all prior authority.

RESOLUTION NO. 1514-26

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE PERSONS WHO SHALL BE AUTHORIZED AS
SIGNATORIES ON ALL ACCOUNTS OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA**

WHEREAS, the authority to designate the signatories on the various accounts of the City of Bessemer, Alabama is vested in the municipal governing body; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bessemer has determined that two (2) signatures shall be required on all checks drawn on the City of Bessemer, Alabama, and that two signers shall be one of the designated City Council members; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is in the best interest of the City of Bessemer that the Director of Finance shall be authorized to sign any wire transfer of funds from the accounts of the City for the payment of any existing bonded indebtedness of the City requiring the transfer of funds by wire transfer without the necessity of any other signatory on the accounts of the City.

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

SECTION 1. That from and after the adoption of this Resolution, the following persons are hereby designated as the persons authorized to sign on all accounts of the City of Bessemer, Alabama:

Council Member: Chester Porter
Council Member: Donna Thigpen

SECTION 2. That two (2) signatures shall be required on all accounts and all checks drawn on the accounts of the City of Bessemer, Alabama, and that both signers shall be the designated City Council members identified in Section 1.

SECTION 3. That the Finance Director shall be authorized to sign any wire transfer of funds from the accounts of the City of Bessemer for the payment of any existing bonded indebtedness of the City requiring the transfer of funds by wire transfer without the necessity of any other signatory on the accounts of the City.

SECTION 4. That for each new account opened on behalf of, or in the name of, the City of Bessemer, unless otherwise authorized by resolution of the City Council, the signatory authority on each such new account shall be in accordance with this Resolution.

SECTION 5.

That the signature cards, banking resolutions, and any other documents reflecting signatory authority on all accounts of the City of Bessemer shall be amended forthwith to conform to this Resolution.

SECTION 6.

That any prior resolution or portion thereof in conflict with this

Resolution is hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of October 2026.

Councilor Cleo King nominated Councilor Valerie Williams as a signatory on all accounts of the City of Bessemer.

Councilor Jarvis Collier nominated Councilor Donna Thigpen as a signatory on all accounts of the City of Bessemer.

Council President Chester W. Porter made the motion to close the nominations.

The council voted on the nomination for Councilor Valerie Williams as a signatory on all accounts of the City of Bessemer. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded:

Ayes: Cynthia S. Donald, Cleo King, and Valerie Williams. Nays: Councilors Jarvis Collier, Kelvin Eades, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. The motion did not carry.

Councilor Donna Thigpen was selected as a signatory on all accounts of the City of Bessemer.

Councilor Cleo King made a motion to reopen the nomination for a signatory on all accounts of the City of Bessemer. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Donna Thigpen nominated Councilor Chester W. Porter as a signatory on all accounts of the City of Bessemer.

Nominations were presumed closed.

The council voted on the nomination for Councilor Chester W. Porter as a signatory on all accounts of the City of Bessemer. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded:

Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Kelvin Eades, Donna Thigpen and Chester W. Porter. Nays: Councilors Cynthia S. Donald, Cleo King, and Valerie Williams. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#4: Approval of minutes from September 01, 2026, Special Call Meeting on September 15, 2026, and September 29, 2026.

Councilor Collier made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Thigpen seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Abstention: Kelvin Eades. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Presentation, Awards, Announcements, and Recognition:

Mayor Louise Alexander greeted the city council and all attendees present at the meeting. She thanked everyone for attending and encouraged continued participation in future council meetings. Mayor Alexander then introduced the City of Bessemer's new city attorneys: Attorney U. W. Clemon, Attorney Mark Pernell, and Attorney Hope Marshall.

Attorney Mark Pernell stated, on behalf of Mayor Alexander, that the amended court order entered by Judge David Hobdy the previous day should be reflected in the council meeting minutes. He explained that the order establishes, pursuant to state statute, that the newly elected mayor and city council members take office on the first Monday in October.

ELECTRONICALLY FLED
10/6/2026 1:25 PM
68-CV-2026-000094.00
CIRCUIT COURT OF
JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA
KAREN DUNN BURKS, CLERK

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF JEFFERSON COUNTY,
ALABAMA BESSEMER DIVISION**

STATE OF ALABAMA LOUISE
ALEXANDER,
Plaintiff,

Defendant.) Case No.: cv-2026-000094.00

Amended Permanent Injunction

This matter is before the Court on the Emergency Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction and Permanent Injunction filed by Relator and Plaintiff Louise Alexander. Having considered the Verified Complaint and its exhibits, the motion, and the written certification of counsel under Ala. R.

Civ. P. 65(b), and having heard counsel for the parties, the Court **FINDS** as follows:

1 . Security for the costs of this quo warranto action has been given and approved by the Clerk as required by Ala. Code S 6-6-591 (b) (1975). In addition, the Court directs that this action be commenced under S 6-6-591 (b).

2. Ala. Code S 11-43D-2(3)a (1975) provides: "On the first Monday in October, after the election of the mayor and council, the newly elected mayor and council members shall assume office and the terms, powers, duties, responsibilities, and emoluments of office of the present mayor and governing body shall end." (Emphasis added). The first Monday in October 2026 was October 5, 2026.

3. The Verified Complaint shows that Louise Alexander was elected Mayor of the City of Bessemer at the runoff election of September 22, 2026, and took the oath of office on October 5, 2026, and that Defendant Kenneth E. Gulley has refused to vacate that office and continues to exercise its powers.

4. Relator has shown success on the merits of her claim that Defendants' terms ended by operation of law on October 5, 2026, and that Ordinance No. 3424 cannot extend them.

5. The Court finds and declares that the Defendant assumed the office of Mayor of Bessemer the first Monday of October 2010 (October 4, 2010).

6. It clearly appears from the specific facts in the Verified Complaint that irreparable injury will result in that the powers of the office of the Mayor of the City of Bessemer are being exercised by one whose authority has ended, creating uncertainty as to the validity of official acts, conflicting direction of City employees, and risk to public funds and records. This injury is irreparable because it cannot be measured or compensated in money damages.

7. The hardship imposed on Defendant by this Order does not unreasonably outweigh its benefit.

It is therefore **ORDERED, ADJUDGED, DECREED and DECLARED:**

A. Defendants Kenneth E. Gulley, and his agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with them who receive actual notice of this Order by personal service or otherwise, are **ENJOINED** from:

- (1) holding themselves out as, or exercising or attempting to exercise any power, duty, or function of, the Mayor of the City of Bessemer, Alabama;
- (2) executing any contract, check, warrant, appointment, or other instrument on behalf of the City of Bessemer;
- (3) expending, obligating, transferring, or encumbering any funds or property of the City of Bessemer;
- (4) hiring, terminating, disciplining, reassigning, or giving direction to any officer or employee of the City of Bessemer;
- (5) voting or participating as a member of the Bessemer City Council;
- (6) occupying the offices assigned to the Mayor and to Council Members at Bessemer City Hall, except to remove personal belongings by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2026;
- (7) interfering with Louise Alexander's access to Bessemer City Hall or with her exercise of the office of Mayor;
- (8) removing, concealing, altering, or destroying any book, paper, record, electronic data, or property of the City of Bessemer; and
- (9) accepting any salary **or other emolument of office accruing after October 5, 2026.**

B. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECLARED

that the Defendant assumed the office of Mayor of the City of Bessemer on Monday, October 4, 2010, and that, for purposes of **Act No. 499, 1973 Regular Session of the Alabama Legislature**, the Defendant has served continuously as Mayor for a period of **sixteen (16) years and one (1) day.**

C. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECLARED that all members of the Bessemer City Council

elected in the municipal election conducted in October 2010

OR THEREAFTER shall, for all purposes

related to the commencement and duration of their respective terms of office, be deemed to have been elected and to have assumed office effective **October 4, 2010.**

- D. Defendants shall, within **twelve hours** of service of this Order, deliver to Louise Alexander or her designee all keys, access cards, passwords and credentials, vehicles, equipment, books, papers, and records of the City of Bessemer in their possession, custody, or control.
- E. The cost of this action are hereby taxed as paid.
- F. The security for cost of this action shall be disbursed to the Plaintiff.

DONE this 6th day of October, 2026.

/s/ DAVID J HOBDY

CIRCUIT JUDGE

Councilor King thanked the citizens of the City of Bessemer and the residents of District Seven for their continued trust and support in reelecting him to represent them for another term. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve alongside Mayor Louise Alexander, the City of Bessemer's first African American Female Mayor.

Councilor Donald stated that she was beginning her third term as the representative for district three. She explained that even when she was not serving on the City Council, she remained committed to serving her community. She thanked the citizens of district three for their support during the municipal election and noted that she also currently assists residents with voter registration through mobile outreach efforts. Councilor Donald congratulated Mayor Louise Alexander as she begins her tenure as the new Mayor of the City of Bessemer.

Councilor Porter commended former Mayor Kenneth E. Gulley for his leadership and dedicated service to the City of Bessemer. He also congratulated Mayor Louise

Alexander on her new role and expressed his commitment to working toward the continued progress and development of the Marvel City.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#6: Set Hearing Date for Weed Nuisance Report 10/6/26.

WEED NUISANCE REPORT
10/6/2026

HEARING DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2026

PROPERTY LOCATION	PARCEL NUMBER	OWNER(S)
1. 1509 5 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 1 037 006.000	JDH 35020 LLC
2. 1504 5 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 1 036 012.000	JACKSON ADRE & ROBBIN
3. 1526 5 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 1 036 017.000	SOUTHER PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT LLC
4. 514 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 09 1 036 018.000	PEREZ PABLO SANCHEZ & RENEE V CHICAS HERNANDEZ
5. 506 17 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 09 1 030 015.000	ARC WOMEN II OF BESSEMER INC
6. 512 17 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 09 1 030 016.000	MCINTOSH JAMILLA R/S
7. 431 17 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 09 1 022 006.000	WILLIAMS ANTHONY
8. 617 17 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 09 1 020 012.000	CARPER CLAYTON E JR
9. 717 17 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 09 1 019 009.000	BAKER JOHN EDWARD
10. 725 17 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 09 1 019 007.000	POE F J PROPERTIES LLC
11. 1627 8 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 1 032 004.000	BAKER JOHN
12. 1621 8 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 1 032 005.000	MCCALL VANESSA B
13. 1617 8 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 1 032 006.000	BUN THANH THUY THI & PHUC HOANG NGUYEN
14. 1609 8 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 2 011 001.000	BUN THANH THUY THI
15. 1711 8 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 1 019 006.000	BAKER JOHN EDWARD
16. 241 KYSER AVENUE	38 00 16 4 024 003.000	COASTAL MOUNTAIN AL LLC
17. 229 KYSER AVENUE	38 00 16 4 024 006.000	LINK CAPITAL GROUP LLC (R/S)
18. 7 MAIN STREET	38 00 16 3 042 019.000	HARRISS OPELIA DAVIS
19. 5 MAIN STREET	38 00 16 3 042 018.000	CSC CUSTODIAN FOR STRATEGIC
20. 3 MAIN STREET	38 00 16 3 042 017.000	DANIELS OLLIE
21. 305 3 RD AVENUE NORTH	38 00 16 2 037 005.000	CALVARY FREEWILL BAPTIST CHURCH
22. 940 8 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 3 024 013.000	HOLMES DAMION
23. 1001 8 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 3 015 002.001	SAID SAREMI PROPERTIES LLC
24. 532 WOODHILL COVE DRIVE	38 00 20 1 004 013.010	CRUMPTON CONSTRUCTION CO INC
25. 536 WOODHILL COVE DRIVE	38 00 20 1 004 013.009	PROPST FULTONDALE LLC
26. 531 WOODHILL COVE DRIVE	38 00 20 1 004 013.007	CRUMPTON CONSTRUCTION CO INC
27. 527 WOODHILL COVE DRIVE	38 00 20 1 004 013.006	JJ LEWIS INVESTMENTS LLC (R/S W DEED)
28. 547 WOODHILL COVE DRIVE	38 00 20 2 009 045.000	WACHAVIA CUST/SASS MUNI V DTR
29. 1218 10 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 2 037 007.000	CHITBIRD INVESTMENTS LLC
30. 1220 10 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 09 2 037 001.000	CHITBIRD INVESTMENTS LLC
31. 1003 14 TH AVENUE NORTH	38 00 08 1 031 008.000	CHEAP LANDS INC (BEST PRICE W DEED)
32. 3216 AVENUE C	38 00 02 3 013 012.000	HUMPHREY ZECHARIAH
33. 3201 AVENUE C	38 00 02 3 014 006.000	BAEZ OSCAR
34. 3200 AVENUE C	38 00 02 3 013 008.000	DOZIER ROSA LEE HEIRS OF
35. 3201 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 013 007.000	CADDELL JOHN W & ANNIE
36. 3205 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 013 006.000	MCCALL GEORGE & PHYLLIS
37. 3200 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 012 009.000	WRIGHT MARCEL V ESTATE OF
38. 3204 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 012 010.000	HARKINS AZZILENE SCOTT ESTATE
39. 3105 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 018 004.000	WARE TIARA MONIQUE
40. 3117 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 018 003.000	HINES MAERENE
41. 3108 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 019 003.000	LANNA INVESTMENT LLC

42. 3120 AVENUE B	38 00 02 3 019 004.000	ACOFF HOWARD
43. 1801 11 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 08 1 036 009.000	KEEF RALPH EDWIN
44. 1808 LONG 12 TH STREET NO.	38 00 08 1 022 003.000	CARTER STACY
45. 1618 13 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 08 1 019 003.000	MOORE ELLA
46. 1628 13 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 08 1 019 004.000	BLAIR LINDA (A)
47. 1710 SHORT 14 TH STREET NO.	38 00 05 4 047 002.000	JD RENTALS LLC
48. 1712 SHORT 14 TH STREET NO.	38 00 05 4 047 003.000	HERRING DAVID & DIANE
49. 1800 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 4 032 001.000	ACOFF E'DEIDRA D
50. 1802 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 4 032 003.001	SIMPSON NAYLAN (I/S)
51. 1808 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 4 032 003.000	SIMPSON NAYLAN (I/S)
52. 1801 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 4 027 015.000	PENNY FRANK M
53. 1805 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 4 027 014.000	BLAIR ROBERT & LINDA
54. 1809 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 4 027 013.000	CLAYTON & BRICE INVESTMENTS GROUP LLC
55. 1819 16 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 4 027 012.000	PENNY FRANK M
56. 1631 DARTMOUTH AVENUE	38 00 10 3 018 001.000	HUDSON MARY E & STASSONIA LEON HUDSON
57. 1518 BERKLEY AVENUE	38 00 10 3 027 011.000	JOHNSON MARGARET A
58. 1522 BERKLEY AVENUE	38 00 10 3 027 012.000	ODELL NATIONWIDE LLC
59. 2021 18 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 1 008 005.000	BANKS DORIS & ELOISE HARRIS & JANICE ROYAL & RICKY BANKS & HEIRS OF CALVIN BANKS
60. 2015 18 TH STREET NORTH	38 00 05 1 008 008.000	WATSON WILMA

Sanitation and Ordinance Inspector Aleria Harper stated that there were 60 properties that were out of code and requested that the hearing date be set for November 17, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Councilor Thigpen made a motion to approve the hearing date. Councilor Donald seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: None. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#7: A resolution authorizing the use of Bessemer Civic Center by D.A. Lynneice Washington for Law Enforcement Ai training.

RESOLUTION NO. 1515-26

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE BESSEMER CIVIC CENTER BY THE BESSEMER CUT-OFF DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR A LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING PROGRAM ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES AND FINDING A PUBLIC PURPOSE THEREFOR

WHEREAS, the City of Bessemer owns and operates the Bessemer Civic Center for the benefit of the citizens of the City and surrounding community; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the District Attorney for the Bessemer Division of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, under the leadership of District Attorney Lynniece O. Washington, has requested the use of the Bessemer Civic Center on November 16, 2026, for a law enforcement training program concerning Artificial Intelligence ("AI"), emerging technologies, digital investigations, evidence collection, public safety applications, and related law enforcement matters; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that continuing education and professional training of law enforcement officers promotes public safety, enhances crime prevention and investigation capabilities, improves governmental efficiency, supports responsible use of emerging technologies, and advances the health, safety, welfare, and security of the citizens of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council further finds that providing a municipal facility for governmental training activities that directly benefit local law enforcement agencies and the public constitutes a valid municipal and public purpose; and

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

1. The City Council hereby approves the use of the Bessemer Civic Center by the Office of District Attorney Lynniece O. Washington for a law enforcement training program concerning Artificial Intelligence and related public safety technologies to be conducted on November 16, 2026.
2. The City Council authorizes the use of the Bessemer Civic Center for the above-described event without the assessment of a rental fee, subject to compliance with all applicable Civic Center rules, policies, and operational requirements.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of October 2026.

Councilor King informed the council that District Attorney Lynneice Washington was unable to attend the meeting due to a scheduling conflict with another meeting.

Councilor King made a motion to approve the item. Councilor Donald seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: None. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#8: A resolution authorizing payment of Killings & Poe, LLC for services on David Havron v. City of Bessemer (Data Center Case).

RESOLUTION NO. 1516-26

A RESOLUTION RATIFYING AND APPROVING THE EMPLOYMENT OF KILLINGS & POE, LLC FOR REPRESENTATION OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER IN CIVIL LITIGATION, CONFIRMING PRIOR COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION, AND APPROVING PAYMENT FOR LEGAL SERVICES RENDERED.

WHEREAS, litigation was filed against the City of Bessemer seeking emergency injunctive relief concerning a matter pending before the City Council; and

WHEREAS, on April 15, 2025, the City Council convened, entered executive session to discuss pending litigation with its attorney as authorized by law, and upon returning to open session authorized the City Attorney to represent the City in such litigation at compensation outside of his regular monthly retainer pursuant to Section 2.118 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bessemer and to associate additional counsel as necessary for the protection of the City's interests; and

WHEREAS, legal services were thereafter rendered on behalf of the City of Bessemer in Case No. CC-2025-00025, David Havron, et al. v. City of Bessemer, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that such services were necessary, were performed for a valid municipal purpose, and were undertaken pursuant to authority previously granted by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to memorialize and ratify its prior authorization and approve payment for the legal services rendered.

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

1. The City Council hereby ratifies, confirms, and approves its prior action authorizing the employment of Killings & Poe, LLC, through City Attorney Aaron Killings, to represent the City of Bessemer in Case No. CC-2025-00025, David Havron, et al. v. City of Bessemer, Alabama, at compensation outside the regular monthly retainer as authorized by Section 2.118 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Bessemer.
2. The invoice submitted by Killings & Poe, LLC, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference, is hereby approved for payment.
3. The Mayor or Finance Director, and all other appropriate City officials are authorized and directed to process and pay the approved invoice.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of October 2026.

Attorney Mark Pernell stated that Killings & Poe, LLC provided legal representation to the City of Bessemer in a case involving the data center, which was outside of the firm's contractual duties.

Attorney Aaron Killings explained that the invoice presented was for legal services rendered in connection with David Havron v. City of Bessemer. He stated that the lawsuit was filed in February, one day before the city council was scheduled to vote on the rezoning of property for the proposed data center. Attorney Killings further explained that, on the day of the council meeting, he brought the matter before the council and entered into executive session to request authorization to represent the city in the case outside the firm's duties. After the executive session, the council reconvened and voted to authorize Killings & Poe, LLC to represent the city on the matter.

Attorney Pernell requested that the invoice for the legal services provided by Killings & Poe, LLC be reflected in the city council meeting minutes.

Killings & Poe, LLC 1817 Third Avenue North
Bessemer, AL 35020 United States
205-424-8703



THE CITY OF BESSEMER
1700 3rd Avenue North
Bessemer, AL 35020
United States

Balance \$22,700.00
Invoice # 00664
Invoice Date July 28, 2026
Payment Terms Net 30
Due Date August27, 2026

David Havron, et al. v. City of Bessemer - DATA Center Litigation (41101.008)
For services rendered between

01/06/2026	AK	Communication	Communication: Discussed with Porter & Porter on the preparation of (Answer to Amended Complaint).	\$250.00	1.8	\$450.00
01 /06/2026	AK	Communication	Received Phone Call: From James Porter, regarding " Answer to Amended Complaint	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
01/06/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Minutes from November 18, 2025 from Bessemer Council Meeting.	\$250.00	1.0	\$250.00
01/06/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: of notice from AlaCourt With filed Answer.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
01/09/2026	AK	Document review	Reviewed: Email from Attorney Yates with attachments regarding Interrogatories and Request for Production.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
01/10/2026	AK	Communication	Communication with Dept. Heads, gathered all documents from planning & zoning meeting, building inspectors & city clerks. Forward to Porter & Porter.	\$250.00	2.2	\$550.00
01 /13/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: interrogatories attached to email from Attorney Yates.	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00
01/13/2026	AK	Reviewed	Review of Request for Production attached to email from Attorney Yates.	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
01/13/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed email from Don Harrison to Attorney Evans regarding courtesy copy of Plaintiffs subpoena filed.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75,00
01/13/2026	AK	Reviewed	Receipt and review subpoena filed for Logistics Land Investments, LLC	\$250.00	0.4	\$100.00
01/13/2026	AK	Communication	Emailed: replied to Attorney Evans email regarding courtesy copy of Plaintiff's subpoena filed.	\$250.00	02	\$50.00
01/13/2026	AK	Responded	Responded: Email from Attorney Paden and James Porter fifying objections to subpoena.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
01/13/2026	AK	Communication	Phone Conference: with Shan Paden and Martin Evans.	\$250.00	0.6	\$150.00
01 /13/2026	AK	Communication	Communication: With all defense attorneys. Schedule a conference call,	\$250.00	1 .5	\$375.00
01/14/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Joint Defense, Common Interest, Conflict, and Confidentially agreement.	\$250.00	1 .2	\$300.00
01 /14/2026	AK	Communication	Phone calls and emails with defense attorneys regarding joint defense.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
01/15/2026	AK	Reviewed	Receipt and review of emails from Jim Porter and Martin Evans regarding Joint Defense Agreement.	\$250.00	0.4	\$100.00
01/15/2026	AK	Reviewed	Review, Edit, and Finalized Joint Defense, Common Interest Conflict, and Confidentially Agreement.	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00

01/15/2026	AK	Reviewed	Receipt and Review of Interrogatories to the City of Bessemer.	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
01/15/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Request for Production to the City of Bessemer.	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
01/15/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Joint Defense, Common Interest, Conflict and Confidentially Agreement.	\$250.00	0.7	575.00
01/20/2026	AK	Communication	Emailed: James Porter on Objection to subpoena and overall responses.	\$250.00	0.4	\$100.00
01/22/2026	AK	Communication	Received: phone call from Porter & Porter to discuss discovery and subpoena, and presentation of Objections.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00

04/14/2025	AK	Opened Client Matter	Reviewed: Compliant, Motion tor TRO and Preliminary injunction. Reviewed Birmingham Judge Court Order Granting the same.	\$250.00	1.2	\$300.00
04/16/2025	AK	Legal Research	Researched and Drafted; Response to compliant and motions.	\$250.00	4.0	\$1,000.00
04/21/2025	AK	Filed	Final Reviews: Filed motion to resolve the TRO and response to Plaintiff's motion for preliminary injunction.	\$250.00	2.5	\$625.00
04/22/2025	AK	Appeared in Court	Hearing on Motions.	\$250.00	1.5	\$375.00
08/04/2025	AK	Drafted	Drafted: unopposed motion to continue. Communication with opposing counsel.	\$250.00	2.0	\$500.00
08/22/2025	AK	Drafted	Drafted and Filed: Motion to continue.	\$250.00	1.2	\$300.00
08/25/2025	AK	Communication	Communication: with additional attorneys for defendant.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
01/02/2026	AK	Research	Prepared: Motion to Dismiss	\$250.00	2.3	\$575.00
01/03/2026	AK	Reviewed	Prepared: Motion to Dismiss Amended Complaint	\$250.00	4.0	\$1,000.00
01/05/2026	AK	Communication	Communication with all defense attorney's schedule a conference call	\$250.00	1.5	\$375.00
01/05/2026	AK	Revised	Reviewed and Revised: Motion to Dismiss	\$250.00	2.5	\$625.00
01/06/2026	AK	Communication	Participate in conference call regarding Zoning with James Porter and Adam Rashid.	\$250.00	1.0	\$250.00
01/06/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed and Revised: Motion to Dismiss	\$250.00	1.0	\$250.00

01/23/2026	AK	Communication	Video conference: Call with James Porter, Martin Evans, Jordan LaPorta with Maynard Nexsen, and Jack Bethay with Maynard Nexsen	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
01/23/2026	AK	Reviewed	Revised: Objection to Subpoena to Logistics Land Investments, LLC.	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00
01/23/2026	AK	Reviewed	Replied to an email from Attorney LaPorta regarding revised Objection to Subpoena - made edits/ Edits revised Objection to Subpoena by Attorney LaPorta	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
01/23/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice and efilng regarding Defendant’s Objection to Subpoena to Logistics Land Investment, LLC., and defendant objections	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00
01/23/2026	AK	Communication	Sent email regarding phone conference to discuss subpoena response and overall discovery strategy	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
01/24/2026	AK	Research	Researched: Regarding moving of the location for the site of the data center after preliminary plan.	\$250.00	1.5	\$375.00

01/26/2026	AK	Communication	Telephone conference with Shan Paden, Martin Evans, James Porter, and Maynard attorney.	\$250.00	1.0	\$250.00
01/26/2026	AK	Reviewed	Proof and edit Answer with Affirmative Defenses.	\$250.00	1.0	\$250.00
01/26/2026	AK	Communication	Communication with the City Clerk and Building Inspector on Production of minutes from Council & Zoning Board minutes.	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
01/30/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice and efilng regarding Order on Objection to Subpoena set for Hearing.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
01/30/2026	AK	Reviewed	Order from Judge Hobdy scheduling Hearing on the Objection to Subpoena.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
01/30/2026	AK	Communication	Emailed alt defense attorneys on Hearings, Subpoena and Objections.	\$250.00	0.6	\$150.00
01/30/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Minutes from Council & Zoning Board meeting, and forward to Porter & Porter.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
02/03/2026	AK	Researched	Researched: Objections and Responses to the Requests for Production.	\$250.00	2.0	\$500.00
02/03/2026	AK	Communication	Phone call to James Porter to discuss discovery request.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
02/03/2026	AK	Prepared	Prepared and sent email to James Porter with attachments regarding City Council Meeting Minutes.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
02/04/2026	AK	Communication	Various emails and phone calls with Porter & Porter in reference to meeting with minutes, public records request, public comments at meeting.	\$250.00	1.2	\$300.00
02/05/2026	AK	Conference calls	Conference call regarding Project Marvel Subpoena Objection Hearing preparation	\$250.00	1.6	\$400.00
02/05/2026	AK	Communication	Communication: City Clerk and additional public records requests on D. Havron case.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
02/10/2026	AK	Researched	Researched: Received and reviewed draft responses to request to production.	\$250.00	1.4	\$350.00
02/10/2026	AK	Communication	Phone call conference with Porter & Porter on response to production.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
02/10/2026	AK	Communication	Reviewed: Plaintiffs Motion to Continuance. Discussed with Porter & Porter	\$250.00	0.6	\$150.00
02110/2026	AK	Communication	Reviewed: Plaintiffs Motion to Continuance. Discussed with Martin Evans and client.	\$250.00	0.6	50.00
02/10/2026	AK	Communication	Contacted: Adam Rashid regarding Motion to Continuance, discussed and review of case status.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
02/10/2026	AK	Communication	Communication: Co-defense council, case discussion.	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
02/10/2026	AK	Communication	Discussions with Martin Evan & Adam Rashid on the Motion to Continuance.	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
02/12/2026	AK	Meeting	Meeting with Building Inspector and Engineers to review all documents submitted to planning & zoning, Review of zoning code.	\$250.00	1.3	\$325.00
02/21/2026	AK	Drafted	Drafted: Opposition to Motion to Continuance	\$250.00	0.8	\$200.00
02/21/2026	AK	Communication	Discussion: James Porter on Motion to Continue.	\$250.00	0.4	\$100.00
02/21/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Court Order on MTC	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
02/23/2026	AK	Communication	Communicated: Co-council on the Plaintiff's reply on Objection to Subpoena.	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00

02/23/2026	AK	Drafted	Drafted Response: Support to Objection to subpoena.	\$250.00	1.1	\$275.00
02/23/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed & Prepared: Court for hearing.	\$250.00	1.0	\$250.00
03/06/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice an efiling regarding Order Subpoena	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
03/06/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Order Quashing Subpoena	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
03/16/2026	AK	Meeting	Meeting with attorney's & possible witness in prep for Hearing.	\$250.00	2.3	\$575.00
03/17/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed & Approved: Motion in Limine. Phone conference with attorneys.	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
08/17/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice an efiling regarding Bessemer*s Notice regarding Plaintiff's Mandamus Petition and Opposition to Continuance.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
03/17/2026	AK	Researched	Researched: Mandamus Petition, discussed with co council.	\$250.00	1.3	\$325.00
03/17/2026	AK	Trial preparation	Prepared for trial	\$250.00	1.4	\$350.00
03/17/2026	AK	Communication	Independent calls to each defense council.	\$250.00	1.4	\$350.00
03/17/2026	AK	Researched	Researched & Response: (Motion to Stay), contacted Co-Council.	\$250.00	1.5	\$375.00
03/17/2026	AK	Communication	Discussed: Motion to Stay with Porter & Porter	\$250.00	0.7	\$175.00
03/19/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Bessemer's Withdrawal of Objection to Plaintiffs subpoena to Logistics Land Development LLC.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
03/19/2026	AK	Communication	Phone Conference: Discussed withdrawal Objection to Plaintiff's Subpoena to Logistics Land LLC.	\$250.00	0.6	\$150.00
03/19/2026	AK	Communication	Phone conference with Adam Rashid	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00
08/19/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Final draft of Motion to withdrawal, subpoena, appeal,	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00
03/24/2026	AK	Communication	Phone conference: Agreed to handle Hearing	\$250.00	0.4	\$100.00
03/25/2026	AK	Communication	Discussion with defense counsel regarding mediation	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00
03/25/2026	AK	Communication	Emailed Co-Council to update following Hearing.	\$250.00	0.4	\$100.00
03/27/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Draft Joint Notice, and Exhibit A to Joint Notice of Mandamus Dismissal.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
03/27/2026	AK	Attended	Attended Mediation	\$250.00	3.7	\$925.00
03/27/2026	AK	Communication	Emailed Porter & Porter regarding dismissal by Supreme Court.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
08/30/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Order Granting Withdrawal of Objections to Subpoena	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
04/03/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed; Notice of efiling regarding Joint Motion to Lift Stay and Notice of Dismissal of Mandamus Petition	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
04/06/2026	AK	Communication	Replied to all regarding draft of Motion to Reschedule Final Hearing.	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
04/06/2026	AK	Communication	Replied to email from Shan Paden regarding draft of Motion to Reschedule Hearing.	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
04/06/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice an efiling regarding Bessemer's Motion to Reschedule Hearing	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/07/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice and efiling regarding Response to Defendants Motion to Reschedule Final Hearing.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50,00
04/07/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice and efiling regarding Order on Motion to Lift Stay.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/07/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Order Granting Motion to Lift Stay (Doc i 40)	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00

04/07/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed; Plaintiff's Response to our Motion to Schedule for Trial.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/07/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Order Lifting Stay	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
04/10/2026	AK	Emailed	Emailed: Approval of protective order	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/13/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Email from Don Harrison With attachments regarding Protective Order.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
04/13/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Email from Jim Porter affirming Joint Motion and Proposed Protective Order.	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
04/14/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Notice and efilng regarding Order on Motion for Protective Order.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/14/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Order Granting Joint Motion for Protective Order.	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
04/14/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Order Granting Joint Motion for Protective Order.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/15/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Developer's Response and Objections to Plaintiffs Subpoena for Production of Documents.	\$250.00	0.4	\$100.00
04/21/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Protective Order entered by Judge Hobdy.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/27/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed: Email from Shan Paden regarding Stipulation of Dismissal by Attorney Evans.	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
04/27/2026		Emailed	Emailed: Martin Evans on date & time of the second mediation	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
04/27/2026	AK	Communication	Martin Evans (Mediation details).	\$250.00	0.5	\$125.00
04/30/2026		Reviewed	Reviewed: Email from Jim Porter concurring with the Joint Stipulation followed by phone call.	\$250.00	0.3	\$75.00
06/08/2026	AK	Reviewed	Emailed: Received from Martin Evans regarding Joint Motion to Continue.	\$250.00	0.8	\$75.00
06/09/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed; Order Granting Havron's Motion to Continue and Continuing status conference to July 1, 2026	\$250.00	0.2	\$50.00
06/22/2026	AK	Reviewed	Reviewed and approved Joint Stipulation of Dismissal	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00
06/22/2026	AK	Reviewed	Received: Filed Order of Dismissal entered by Judge Hobdy	\$250.00	0.1	\$25.00

Totals:

90.8 \$22,700.00

Time Entry Sub-Total. •	\$22,700.00
Sub-Total:	\$22,700.00
Total:	
Amount	\$22,700.00
Paid:	\$0.00
Balance Due:	\$22,700.00

Councilor Collier made a motion to approve the item. Councilor Thigpen seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Abstention: Councilors Cynthia S. Donald and Valerie Williams. Nays: None. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#9: Val’s Place LLC – Type 010-LoungeRetail Liquor – Class and a Type – 990 Tobacco and Alternative products.

Councilor Thigpen made a motion to approve the item. Councilors Eades and Collier seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: None. The motion carried.

Councilor Thigpen asked to add to items to the city council agenda.

Councilor Thigpen made a motion to add two items to the agenda. Councilor Collier seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: Councilor Cleo King. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#9A: A resolution of the City Council of Bessemer, Alabama, authorizing settlement of compensation claims arising from the 2026 transition of Municipal Officers.

Councilor Thigpen stated that the previous council members had been elected to take office in November. However, following a recent court ruling that changed the date newly elected officials assume office, the outgoing council members did not receive their final month of salary.

Councilor Donald asked for clarification regarding the missed payments to current council members.

Councilor Thigpen explained that her previous term was scheduled to end in November of this year. However, under the recent court order establishing October as the month newly elected officials take office, the transition resulted in a missed salary payment for October 2010.

Attorney Pernell stated that former council members who were not reelected were no longer serving as public officials and that issuing payments to them could violate Section 94 of the Alabama Constitution. He requested that the council table the matter to allow the city attorneys additional time to review the document and discuss the issue at a later date.

Councilor King made a motion to table the item. Councilor Donald seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S.

Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W.

Porter. Nays: None. The motion carried.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#9B: A resolution of the City Council of Bessemer, Alabama, retaining Aaron Killings, Jr. and Killings & Poe, LLC as legal counsel to the Bessemer City Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 1517-26

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA, RETAINING AARON KILLINGS, JR. AND KILLINGS & POE, LLC AS LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE BESSEMER CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Bessemer, Alabama ("Council"), is vested with legislative powers and responsibilities under the laws of the State of Alabama and the Mayor-Council form of government established by Ala. Code I 1 -43D-1, et seq.;

WHEREAS, the Council finds that, from time to time, issues arise requiring independent legal advice and representation concerning legislative matters, governmental operations, investigations, ethics issues, parliamentary procedures, litigation, and other matters affecting the powers, duties, and interests of the Council; and

WHEREAS, the Council has determined that it is in the best interests of the City and the Council to retain experienced legal counsel to advise and represent the Council in such matters; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds that Aaron Killings, Jr. and Killings & Poe, LLC possess the qualifications, experience, and expertise necessary to provide such legal services.

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

Section 1. Retention of Counsel. The City Council hereby retains and employs Aaron Killings, Jr. and Killings & Poe, LLC as legal counsel for the Bessemer City Council to provide legal advice, consultation, representation, research, drafting of ordinances and resolutions, attendance at meetings when requested, litigation services, and such other legal services as may be requested by the Council.

Section 2. Scope of Representation. The attorneys retained pursuant to this Resolution shall represent the City Council collectively and shall serve at the direction of the City Council acting by majority vote or through such Council officer or designee as may be authorized by the Council.

Section 3. Compensation. As compensation for legal services rendered, the City shall pay Killings & Poe, LLC the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) per month.

Such compensation shall:

1. Be earned monthly;
2. Be payable in arrears;
3. Commence effective October 2026;
4. Be due and payable on the first day of each month, beginning November 1, 2026, and continuing thereafter on the first day of each month during the term of this engagement.

Section 4. Source of Payment. The Mayor, Director of Finance, City Treasurer, and all other appropriate municipal officials are authorized and directed to process and remit payment from legally available municipal funds appropriated for professional services and legal services.

Section 5. Term. The engagement established by this Resolution shall continue until terminated by majority vote of the City Council or by written resignation of counsel, subject to any written engagement agreement approved by the Council.

Section 6. Authority to Execute Agreement. The President of the City Council is hereby authorized to execute an engagement agreement consistent with the terms of this Resolution and to execute any documents reasonably necessary to effectuate the Council's retention of counsel.

Section 7. Severability. if any provision of this Resolution is determined to be invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

ADOPTED this the 6th day of October 2026.

Councilor King requested that the item be tabled to allow the council to interview and select a legal counsel candidate who would collectively represent the Bessemer City Council members.

Councilor Collier asked whether the council would consider entering into a six-month contract with a legal counsel candidate.

Councilor King stated that he had advocated for legal representation for the council but emphasized that the decision should be made with input and consideration from all council members. He further explained that the city had not yet approved the 2026–2027 fiscal year budget, making it necessary to determine whether funding would be available for legal representation for the City Council.

Councilor Donald requested that the item be tabled until the next meeting to allow all council members sufficient time to review the resolution.

Councilor King questioned where the funding would come from to hire a council attorney before the 2026–2027 fiscal year budget was finalized.

Councilor Thigpen made a motion to retain Aaron Killings Jr. and Killings & Poe, LLC, as legal counsel for the Bessemer City Council for a period of six months. Councilor Collier seconded the motion. Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Kelvin Eades, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: Cynthia S. Donald, Cleo King, and Valerie Williams. The motion carried.

Councilor Thigpen asked Finance Director Alicia Moss how much funding had been allocated in the previous fiscal year's budget for legal representation for the City Council.

Ms. Moss confirmed that \$72,000 had been allocated in the prior fiscal year's budget for the City Council's legal representation.

Councilor King asked when the funding for legal representation for the city council had been discussed and identified.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#10: Council member's comments, statements or motions.

Councilor King expressed disappointment that he had not been given adequate time to review the resolution regarding legal representation before it was approved. He stated that he had anticipated the new administration would work collaboratively and consider matters collectively as a team.

Councilor Donald noted that during her previous service on the city council, the council had legal representation. However, she expressed that she would have preferred a more thorough discussion of the matter before voting on the resolution.

Councilor Eades stated that he had attended several city council meetings before being elected and had questioned why the council did not have its own legal counsel.

Councilor Thigpen explained that the council had limited time to make a decision regarding legal representation due to the recent court order changing the date newly elected officials would assume office.

Attorney Aaron Killings thanked the council members for selecting his firm to serve as legal counsel for the Bessemer City Council for a six-month term. He acknowledged that the recent court order had accelerated the timeline for several matters and expressed his eagerness to work with the council.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presented Item#20: Citizen's Participation:

Teco Stephens, of 622 Somerset Boulevard, thanked the citizens of Bessemer for the opportunity to serve as the former District Five City Council representative. He congratulated the Mayor and Council members who had been sworn into office and expressed his intention to remain actively involved in serving the City of Bessemer beyond his tenure on the City Council.

City Clerk Wanda D. Taylor presents Item#21: Motion to Adjourn.

All Councilor made the motion to adjourn. Councilor Porter adjourned the meeting.

Upon roll call, the following votes were recorded: Ayes: Jarvis Collier, Cynthia S. Donald, Kelvin Eades, Cleo King, Valerie Williams, Donna Thigpen, and Chester W. Porter. Nays: None. The meeting was adjourned.

**Wanda D. Taylor
City Clerk**

Presiding Officer