

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
JULY 11, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION:** Councilman Eric Gaither

**PLEDGE:** Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton

**ROLL CALL:** Members of the City Council present included Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton, Councilmen Antonio Carter, Eric Gaither, Rodrick Smith, Shane Willis and Councilwoman Amy Garner. Mayor Travis Brown was out of town on previously scheduled business.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rudolph Smith, Tina Ward, Winshell Preston, Police Chief Chuck Edwards, Police Major Ronald Knowles, Fire Chief Clay Davis, Brandon Rice, John Reynolds

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING(s):**

June 27, 2022 Regular Meeting and June 27, 2022 Executive Session: Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the minutes. Rodrick Smith seconded the motion, with motion carrying unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:**

Antonio Carter made a motion to adopt the formal agenda. Shane Willis seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1- Intergovernmental agreement between the County and City on collecting property taxes:** Interim City Manager Rudolph Smith  
Smith reported that some revisions need to be made in the wording of the agreement since it is specifically between the Berrien County Tax Commissioner and the City of Nashville and not between the County and the City. The Tax Commissioner's office is to be paid \$5,000 annually plus a 2.5% commission set by law for collection of city taxes. The county will have a list of those owing delinquent city taxes, and prior taxes must be cleared before allowing current year payments. Smith said the document should be ready to execute at the next city council meeting. Item was tabled by council.
  
- 2- Discussion on paving all the City's cemeteries:** Rudolph Smith  
Smith brought before the council the results of a survey of the cemeteries conducted by city staff. Discussion centered on Eastview, Westview, Prescott, and Memorial Gardens cemeteries. Council members discussed getting bids on the work individually and collectively, the possibilities of ranking priority by condition of each cemetery's access roads, the availability of grants for the cemeteries, and whether state inmate work details have equipment available to handle paving. Smith suggested developing a five-year plan

to complete the work. An advertisement for cemetery paving bids will be placed in *The Berrien Press*.

**3- LOST Report:** Rudolph Smith for Peter Schultz

Smith reported that the City had received \$342,335 as of the end of June 2022. He said that was about an \$8,000 increase over the same time period last year. The figures were also an improvement over the expected income, which was projected at \$285,000 this year as compared with \$260,000 last year.

**4- City of Nashville Expense Report and Checks over \$5,000.00:** Rudolph Smith for Peter Schultz

Smith presented the Council with the monthly expense report and list of checks written over the amount of \$5,000.00 as required.

**City Manager Report:**

Rudolph Smith reported the following:

- Budget adoption for FY 2023 is on track for approval at the July 25 meeting.
- Landscaping on the City Hall lot has been surveyed prior to upcoming painting of the building and paving of the parking lot. Smith reported that several trees are diseased, damaged, or dead and other vegetation needs to be either trimmed or taken out before the projects begin. He suggested the City begin seeking cost estimates for replacing the vegetation with low maintenance plants. Smith also addressed the condition of the cinder block fence on the west side of the building. It was decided to use city workers to handle the tree and vegetation maintenance and to remove the architectural block from the fence as time allows.
- The five employment positions available at City Hall are still being advertised on the city's webpage, in *The Berrien Press*, and through GMA. Smith added that the six people who have applied have been contacted and given an update. July 31 application deadline will be extended as necessary.
- The Nashville Historic Preservation Commission is currently without a chairman and did not provide Dr. Andrew Solomon with notice of denial in a timely manner for his project on the corner of South Davis Street and West Washington Avenue. Smith is in the process of setting up a meeting with NHPC members.
- Georgia Power has given the City notice that they will be enhancing the power substation this fall, and the city's dog kennels will need to be moved to another location since they will be in the way during construction.
- Smith gave updates on the financial report, CDBG surveys for the Beetree Avenue project, LOST negotiations between the cities and the County, painting bids for City Hall, planning for a senior citizens fishing day at Tygart Park, and new e-mail accounts for Council members.
- Smith yielded the floor to Winshell Preston to report on Main Street activities. Preston said they will be working more closely with the Berrien County Chamber of Commerce, will need sponsorships from businesses for this year's Harvest Festival, need volunteers to help with events, and are working on grants for downtown beautification.

**City Attorney Report:**

None.

**Department Head’s Report:**

Fire Chief Davis reported the following:

- Davis thanked everyone who had helped with the Independence Day fireworks show.
- Davis thanked Brandon Rice for installing the wiring for bay doors at the Nashville Fire Department which were recently fitted with garage door openers.

Winshell Preston reported on behalf of Nashville Main Street that a tent revival will be held on the Farmer’s Market lot soon. She said the Market is doing well and thanked the local farmers who support the Market by offering their products there.

**Public Comments:**

Skeeter Parker was the only member of the public present. Based on comments made regarding NHPC earlier in the meeting he addressed the council as a former member of the NHPC, stating that it has encountered obstacles since its origin in 2013. He encouraged the Council to revisit the historic preservation ordinance and to find the best way for the City to move forward.

**Council Comments:**

Shane Willis gave an update on ordering boots for city employees. Council in general commended Nashville Fire Department, Nashville Police Department, and Berrien County Sheriff’s Office, and all other involved in putting on the Independence Day water park and fireworks and traffic control afterwards.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Antonio Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM. Rodrick Smith seconded the motion, with it carrying unanimously.

*July 11, 2022.*

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Mayor, Travis Brown

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Councilman John Clayton

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Councilman Eric Gaither

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Councilman Rodrick Smith

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Councilman Antonio Carter

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Councilwoman Amy Garner

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Councilman Shane Willis

**ATTEST:**

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Tina Ward, City Clerk