

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN**

**June 13, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Keith Stone

PLEDGE: Mayor Travis Brown

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Travis Brown

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Mayor Travis Brown, Councilmen John Clayton, Antonio Carter, Eric Gaither, Rodrick Smith, Shane Willis and Councilwoman Amy Garner

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Schultz, Brandon Rice, John Reynolds, Winshelle Preston, Police Chief Edwards, Tina Ward, Rudolph Smith, and City Attorney Tim Tanner

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING(s): Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meetings and The Executive Sessions. Alderman Clayton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA: Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the amended agenda. Alderman Clayton seconded the motion to adopt the formal agenda and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Advance Disposal Contract Renewal-** Rudolph Smith told the Council that the contract for the City's waste is up for renewal. Advanced Disposal is the City's current disposal company. Rudolph told the group he looked into some of the other waste disposal companies and he recommended the City stay with Advanced Disposal Company. Mr. Steve Edwards of Advance Disposal told Council his company will do a price increase of two dollars per month per home. He stated the only reason for this increase is due to the rising cost for labor due to the national labor shortage. Global inflation and fuel charges. Alderman Carter made the motion to sign the contract with Advance Disposal. Alderman Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2. Intergovernmental Agreement with the County on Zoning and Property Tax:** Rudolph Smith said the Zoning Intergovernmental Agreements has been completed. He stressed that the Historical committee

needs to go over the new agreement with the County because there are some COA's that govern how those are processed. The Property Tax agreement will be completed soon. He said he and April Copland spoke with the County Tax Assessor Mr. Nugent about the past due City taxes and he agreed that if someone tries to pay the 2022 taxes and they owe taxes from previous years then they will have to pay the past due taxes first. Rudolph also stated Mr. Nugent will put the past due bills in the digest and anyone who is past due with the City taxes will not be allowed to pay the 2022 taxes until they pay the past due amount owed to the City. Rudolph Also told the group he would like to praise the ladies in the front office. They have collected around \$77,000.00 of the \$211,000.00 past due taxes in two months. Alderman Gaither made a motion to nominate Greg Ray for the Historical Committee. Keith Stone added that he will need to fill out an application. Alderman Smith seconded the motion. . Alderman Carter concurred with Keith Stone and stated we need to stick to the process and have the nominee fill out an application. Alderman Gaither stated that the Council can also appoint someone to the Historical Committee. The motion carried with Alderman Carter opposing. Alderman Carter stated he thinks Mr. Ray would be an excellent candidate but the Council should stick to the process of filling out an application and then appointing Mr. Ray. Alderman Gaither stated he has spoken to Mr. Ray and he is willing to serve. Rudolph Smith stated that in the future we need to stick to or be consistent to the way in which things are done. Rudolph Smith asked the Council for a motion on the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County on Zoning. Alderman Clayton made the motion to accept the Intergovernmental Agreement with the County. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- 3. And 4. Painting and Paving City Hall-** Rudolph asked permission to get quotes for painting the City Hall. The City employees washed down the building and we now need to paint. Alderman Gaither made the motion to get bids on painting the City Hall and repaving the parking lot. Rudolph concurred the parking lot was the next on the agenda and it really does need to be resurfaced. Alderman Clayton seconded the motion to take bids on the painting of City Hall and repaving the parking lot. The motion carried unanimously. Rudolph asked the Council if the front office window can be replaced. One of the windows is broken and the lady's need a way to close off one side so the person completing accounts payable can do so without interruption. Tina Ward told the group she called a glass company in Adel so they could give a quote but has not heard anything from them. Rudolph added the building maintenance portion of the budget for this year may be

able to pay the cost for this request so if it cost more than what is in the budget, we will have the Council to approve.

4. **LOST Discussion-** Rudolph Smith updated the Council on the LOST negotiations which will be held at 10:00a.m. June 17th in the Administration building. Rudolph request volunteers to attend the meeting and he noted only two people need to attend. Council decided to allow Rudolph and Peter Schultz the City's Assistant Manager attend the renegotiations on the LOST.
5. **Water Tap for Tony Lanier-** Rudolph Smith told the group that Mr. Lanier has worked out something with John and Brandon to receive water for the newly laid sod. A water meter was placed on the fire hydrant for now. The City's Attorney Tim Tanner stated that Mr. Lanier asked the City to pay for a water tap for the field since it would be used for the children of Berrien County. He said right now the City can't give Mr. Lanier a free tap but he will continue looking into the matter.
6. **Trucks and Mowers for Street, Water, and Gas department-** Rudolph told the Council during the last Budget workshop we discussed getting a list of the equipment needed in the Street, Water, and Gas departments. Brandon Rice the Public Works Director received bids for a half ton truck for the Gas department and bids for a 2500 truck for the Water. He stated bids were hard for the local business's due to production. They gave bids on what they had in stock. The lowest bid for both trucks was O'Steen. Alderman Gaither made the motion to purchase the two trucks from O'Steen Alderman Clayton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Brandon also presented the Council with options for tractors and mowers needed for the Street department. The employees are currently using two Kubota's with a five-foot mower to mow the right of ways. The employees have thought of ways to save labor and be more efficient by purchasing a seven-foot mower. The Council discussed the availability of each mower and tractor and the various components. Brandon recommend the seven-foot mower and the bigger tractor which will be available in July. Alderman Gaither asked if the City has the fund for these purchases. Rudolph stated the Sinking Fund should be able to handle the cost if we are looking at the 2023 Budget year. Alderman Willis made the motion to purchase the bigger Kubota tractor which will handle multiple mowers, and the seven-foot mower. He amended his motion to include a King-Line zero turn mower. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
7. **Ms. Barbara May concerns about the City roads and Police Department-** Ms. Barbara May had several concerns and complaints she wanted addressed. Her concerns were the speed bumps and how they are placed. She thanked Alderwoman Garner for answering some of her

concerns about the speed bumps. She also had concerns about the railroad tracks. She told the group the railroad claimed they were going to spend a million dollars on the rail road tracks and nothing has been done. Peter Schultz told Ms. May they will begin in August. Ms. May also had some complaints and concerns about the Police department. Including disposition of applications, lack of female officers, and the efficiency of officers working 12-hour shifts. Ms. May also had concerns about the lack of activities for senior citizens in Nashville. She had several concerns about the lack of support the City of Nashville had toward the County ball fields, Parks and County buildings. Several of her concerns were addressed by the Interim City Manager Rudolph Smith. She asked Rudolph to get her some figures for the support the City has toward the County facilities and recreational parks.

City Manager Report and D- Interim City Manager Rudolph Smith reported to the Council he received a refund from the County regarding the light bill at the softball field beside Hope Baptist Church. Peter Shultz brought this to my attention because the City had a three-year-old Intergovernmental agreement but the City was still paying the bill. So, We have received a check from the County for around \$5,000.00. Rudolph also stated that the budget process is moving along with the public hearing scheduled for July 11th. He also stated the 2021 audit has been completed. He also updated the group about some of the job positions the City will have available. Rudolph stated that some of the funding for these jobs will come from allowing the County to take over the zoning for Nashville as well as other intergovernmental agreements the City will have with the County. Rudolph told the Council the City has several accounts that need to be closed out. He handed the Council the six accounts that need to be closed first. These accounts are no longer used and they have very small amounts on them. The Bank is now charging each account seven to eight dollars a month just to have them open. Alderman Clayton made a motion to close these bank accounts. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously. Rudolph told the group he will need an approval from Council to approve the following jobs, HR and Staff Accountant, He will also need the Councils ok on the City Marshall pending the job description. He also told the group he wanted to use several different job sites to post these positions. Alderman Gaither made the motion to post the three jobs pending the job description on the City Marshall. The motion was seconded by Alderman Willis and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Carter asked if the Main Street position is still vacant and does the City need to advertise that position as well. Rudolph told Council that position will need to be advertised as well. He also made note on the nomination process for the Main Street Board, its

composition and required training. Rudolph told the group to give a thank you to Peter Schultz for the work he has done on the issues with the Department of Community Affairs in the audit from July 2015 to July 2016. He stated if these were not corrected then the Department of Community Affairs would not clear us to apply for Grants. Rudolph concluded with a reminder that the CDBG process for next year needs to start now with survey data, documentation and photographs of areas under consideration

City Department head Reports- Chief Chuck Edwards asked the Mayor if he could address some of Ms. May's concerns. Mayor Brown told Chief Edwards he would allow it since Ms. May asked those questions. Chief Edwards stated he could have cleared up most of her concerns if she would have come to the Police Department and talked with him like she has done in the past. He stated that the speed bumps are placed by the City not the Police department and in order to place a speed bump the City has guidelines in which a resident must apply . The speed bumps on Jackson were put down by the residence due to the amount of school traffic that were speeding through in the morning and afternoon. These speed bumps are way more cost effective than putting a patrol officer there morning and afternoon. Chief Edward stated the Police department including himself has only 15 officers in the department. We have one officers who will graduate from the academy next week so that will leave two slots still open in the department. Chief Edward told the group that Nashville is on twelve as well as other law enforcement agency's such as Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. Chief Edwards concluded by telling the Council and s. May his department will always and has always been run with integrity. He informed the Council about a project the department has been working on. He asked the Council to look at the pie charts he provided them. These pie charts are part of a proposal he has been working on to help with speeding violation near the high school. Chief Edward stated he would like to have this proposal ready and the by next month or the first of August the Company All-Traffic Data Service provides for a camera system and the monitoring and the actual issuing of citations that will come directly through this company at zero cost to the City. Chief Edwards also asked the Council to still keep considering the license plate recognition system.

Assistant City Manager Peter Shultz told the Council the Resolution Mr. Tanner put together for the GTIB Grant for paving roads needs to be signed by the Council so it can be sent back to GTIB and we can start the bidding process.

John Reynolds told the group the water department is still working on the water lines so the street can be repaved.

Fire Chief Clay Davis wanted to remind everyone about the Fireworks Celebration which will be held July 2nd. The Fire Department will be hosting a free water park as well from 1 to 6 pm the same day at the softball field on Adel Highway.

Rudolph Smith also wanted to remind the group it is about time to set the milage rate. He will get back with the Council once he gets the five-year history or tax digest from the County tax office.

City Attorney Report: Tim Tanner had nothing to discuss with Council at this time.

Public Comments: Keith Stone thank the Police Department an all their hard work. He also stated that years ago 50% of the residence had to agree before a speed bump was considered.

A concerned Citizen asked if the Fishing Rodeo would be held this year. Chief Edwards stated the fishing rodeo has been replace with another program which has more to offer the youth. There was some talk of fishing out the pond because of the abundance of fish. Alderman Carter asked Peter Schultz if he could open up the park so that some of the residence can fish. Peter said he spoke to the City's insurance company and it can be opened but signs must be posted. Peter recommended the pond be opened during work hours. Alderman Clayton stated he would like for the pond to be opened for the Seniors first and then the City Employees once the signs have been posted.

Mayor Travis Brown asked Brandon Rice if he could consider looking at the speed bump behind the Huddle House. The citizen asked if asked the center can be sperate because the entire bump is across the road and he can't get his wheel chair around it.

Alderman Carter said thank you to Rudolph all the City Employee's and the Mayor and Council.

Executive Session Alderman Gaither made the motion to go into executive Session at 7:46pm. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Clayton made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:18 pm. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

Regular Session: Alderman Clayton made the motion to increase the base salary for the employees. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously. Rudolph Smith gave a copy of the proposal on base rates for employees. Effective date will be Payroll for the 23rd of June.

ADJOURNMENT: Alderman Willis made the motion to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Brown

Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

Councilman Eric Gaither

Councilman Rodrick Smith

Councilman Antonio Carter

Councilwoman Amy Garner

Councilman Shane Willis

ATTEST:

Tina Ward, City Clerk