

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
JUNE 27, 2022  
6:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION:** Keith Stone

**PLEDGE:** Mayor Travis Brown

**SWEARING IN OF NEW NASHVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT OFFICER ANDREW GHEE:** Tina Ward

**WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Travis Brown

**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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rudolph Smith, Peter Schultz, Tina Ward, Winshell Preston, Police Chief Edwards, Fire Chief Clay Davis, Brandon Rice, John Reynolds, Tim Tanner

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

June 13, 2022 Regular Meeting and June 13, 2022 Executive Session: Alderman Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the minutes and the Executive Session. Alderman John Clayton seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:**

Alderman John Clayton made a motion to adopt the formal agenda. Alderman Rodrick Smith seconded the motion, with it carrying unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1- Mauldin and Jenkins: 2021 Audit Update**

David Irwin, the partner at Mauldin and Jenkins who oversaw the city's audit, made a presentation to the council and stated the firm was giving the city a "clean or unmodified opinion", stating, "This is what you want. It's the highest level of assurance we can provide you as your external auditor." The single audit report was given a "clean or unmodified opinion", while the fund balance report had one finding. Irwin said adjustments are needed in the general fund revenue/receivables to put it in proper balance. Irwin stated the city had made significant improvements in that area over FY 2020. Irwin concluded his report with brief overviews of the financial statements: government-wide, fund level statements, and footnotes.

**2- Fire Department Consolidation: Chief Clay Davis**

Fire Chief Clay Davis came before the council requesting the city's approval for his department to become part of the Berrien County Fire Department that is being formed. Davis stated the County Commission had hired a consultant to help find ways to lower

the ISO rating in unincorporated areas of the county. At present there are seven (7) departments with eleven (11) stations and each is graded separately for ISO purposes. The consultant's recommendation is to combine all departments onto a single roster with a single grade and a better overall score. Davis said this will help lower homeowners' insurance premiums for those living within five miles of a station, that nothing will change operationally for the departments, and that his department would have two certifications instead of one (city and county). Council asked questions for clarification with Alderman John Clayton then making a motion to approve joining the new Berrien County Fire Department. Alderman Eric Gaither made the second. Motion carried unanimously.

**3- Amend the 2022 Budget: Peter Schultz**

Assistant City Manager Peter Schultz updated the council on recently approved purchases, stating that the tractor, lawn mower, and bush hog cutter were already in use and the equipment for Nashville Police Department and two trucks for city departments had been ordered. Schultz gave an update on paving projects. He said the LMIG project has been bid out and the GTIB Loan/Grant paperwork was completed and the project ready to be bid out. In relation to the budget amendment Schultz said money had already been transferred from the sinking fund to the general fund checking. He needed approval from the council to be able to pull from the general fund checking to put in the fiscal year budget, including incentive pay for employees. \$104,967 is to be put into the contingency fund to cover rising gasoline, insurance, and electricity costs. Alderman Shane Willis made a motion to allow pulling money from the general fund checking to use in the fiscal year budget. Alderwoman Amy Garner seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**4- Paving Memorial Gardens: Rudolph Smith**

Interim City Manager Rudolph Smith presented a request to repave the streets in the Memorial Gardens Cemetery on behalf of Councilman Eric Gaither. Smith said a preliminary quote of \$68,000 had been received and suggested requesting more quotes. Alderman Antonio Carter expressed reservations about the project since the city is also preparing to have the City Hall lot repaved and that other cemeteries including Eastview need paving. Alderman Rodrick Smith also brought up the conditions at Prescott Cemetery. During the discussion Alderman Gaither made a motion to repave Memorial Gardens and to address other cemeteries later. He later rescinded the motion. Council asked Brandon Rice to survey streets and needed repairs at all city owned cemeteries and to report back at the next meeting. Alderman Eric Gaither then made a motion to table the item until Brandon Rice could complete his survey. Alderman John Clayton gave the second with motion carrying unanimously.

**City Manager Report:**

Rudolph Smith reported the following:

- Money is available to proceed with painting City Hall and bids will be advertised soon.
- Paving of City Hall needs to be a separate item even though it was voted on with the painting in one motion at the previous meeting.
- Winshell Preston is filling in as Main Street Director on the days she is not operating the Farmers Market.

- Harvest Festival for this year is scheduled for October 22.
- The city has five job postings currently being advertised in The Berrien Press and other locations. The positions are already budgeted or otherwise already funded.
- Delinquent tax collection efforts have brought a beginning balance outstanding of approximately \$208,000 down by \$75,000 to approximately \$133,000.
- The tax collection agreement with the Berrien County Tax Commissioner needs to be signed soon.
- Mayor Travis Brown, Peter Schultz, and Rudolph Smith represented the city at the first LOST negotiations meeting. A spokesman for the city must be appointed to discuss the percentages in the agreement which must be executed by the end of December.
- The process is ready to move forward in applying for a CDBG for drainage in the Beetree Avenue area. Rudolph Smith stressed the importance of residents taking pictures showing the impact on their properties by flooding and also the importance of their testimonial input regarding how flooding damages the properties.
- Budget hearing for public input will be held July 11.
- The county will set the city's millage rate since the county has taken over tax collections for the city.
- More planning needs to be undertaken in relation to opening up the Tygart Park pond for public fishing.

**City Attorney Report:**

None.

**Department Head's Report:**

Police Chief Edwards reported the following:

- Chief Edwards commended Major Ronald Knowles for making Dean's List while working on his college degree.

**Public Comments:**

Keith Stone reported that the floor and toilet seal in the restroom building at the softball field on the Adel Highway needs replacement.

**Council Comments:**

Alderman Shane Willis asked for clarification on whether boots for Nashville Police Department and city workers could be purchased this budget year.

Alderman Antonio Carter requested getting polo shirts for council members to wear at out-of-town meetings.

Alderman John Clayton stated that he had received a check from the Deep South Regional Solid Waste Authority in the amount of \$8,970.02 for the city's semiannual royalty disbursement.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION (Legal/Personnel) 7:20 PM – 8:20 PM**

At 7:20 PM, Alderman Antonio Carter made a motion to go into executive session for legal and personnel discussion. Alderman Shane Willis seconded the motion. Council adjourned to the conference room for executive session.

At 8:20 PM, the Executive Session ended and the regular meeting resumed in Council Chambers.

Mayor Travis Brown stated no action taken in Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Alderman John Clayton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. Alderman Shane Willis seconded the motion, with it carrying unanimously.

*June 27, 2022.*

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Mayor Pro-Tem 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