

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JUNE 8, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Mayor Travis Harper

PLEDGE: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Travis Harper

WELCOME: Mayor Travis Harper

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Mayor Travis Harper, Aldermen Scott Stalnaker, Billy Retterbush, Eric Gaither, Antonio Carter, Walter Steward and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

STAFF PRESENT: Jackie Jordan, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Chief Edwards and Mitchell Moore

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING – Eric Gaither made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA – Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the formal agenda. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Service Delivery Strategy – Mayor Travis Harper** – Mayor Harper said there is a meeting at 10:00 in the morning with Enigma, Ray City and Alapaha to discuss the County wanting the City to give up the City's part of the SPLOST funds to fund E911 and wanted to make sure everyone was still in agreement and none of them is in favor of the City giving up any more funds for this purpose. Mellisa Watson said she is in favor of sitting down to discuss it if they would like to do that. Mayor Harper said they have not been in favor of actually discussing it at the last meeting. Billy Retterbush said they got the City's money and they should use it wisely. Mayor Harper said the County has cut a deal with Ray City and Ray City may be in agreement with them but Alapaha and Enigma are not on board with their proposal. Mellisa Watson said they clearly stated they used the money to pay old debt and that was not what the money was supposed to be used

for. Mayor Harper restated the meeting is an open meeting at 10:00 on Tuesday morning and any other two members may attend but no more than two.

2. **Community Center Rental for GSP 400/David Sellars – Mayor Travis Harper** – Mayor Harper stated David Sellars approached him recently asking the procedure for renting the Community Center and the cost. Mayor Harper said he wanted to know if the Council would be in favor and letting him use it for free once as done for the employees since he does a lot to help the city working wrecks in our area freeing up our officers and a lot of our local events. Billy Retterbush asked if it was a GSP function. The Mayor and Scott Stalnaker said it was for a birthday party. Mitchell Moore asked to clarify would it be from the standpoint because he has gone over and beyond to help the City and not because of his position of State Patrol which Mayor Harper answered yes and said he had worked with our departments in the City and the County. He further stated he would like to offer that as a one-time free rental to him. The Council stated they would be ok with it one time only. Billy Retterbush said to let him know to make sure it is cleaned up afterwards and Scott Stalnaker said he already has a deposit put down for that. Mitchell Moore restated to clarify it would be a one-time thing which the Council agreed.
3. **Wiregrass Lease – Mayor Travis Harper** – Mayor Harper said he was contacted by Mr. Alton Payton of Wiregrass around end of March or first of April about the lease asking to reduce from \$750.00/month to \$500.00/month. He checked with Mandy about how much had been spent on the building and how much had been recouped which was around \$95,000 spent and about one-third was recouped. The Mayor said he contacted Mr. Payton back and told him he felt the Council would want to recoup more of that expense before renegotiating. He said Mr. Payton's response was that they were going to put \$750.00/month in their budget for the monthly lease payment. Mayor Harper said he wanted to make sure the Council was in agreement on that of which the Council agreed. Scott Stalnaker said once the City had recouped it back, they would be willing to look at it again. Mitchell Moore asked if it is for another three year term and Mayor Harper said he was pretty sure it is according to the information he had reviewed. Mitchell Moore mentioned the figures he had remembered seeing on it and the impact Wiregrass has on the community. Mitchell has mentioned some comparisons that could be made to price of square foot rental although this is not a retail space.

REPORTS

4. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – None.
5. **City Attorney's Report** – Mitchell Moore said the bid opening on the EDA/DPP has been backed up to Friday because there was an addendum that had to be done. He further stated he still does not have a contract from DPP and would not want the City to break ground until then. Mitchell said he {Stacy Watkins} will take the bids with him to his office for review of the requirements and the bids are good for sixty (60) days. Mayor Harper mentioned that he spoke with Larry Reiner concerning the CD's with Tifton just

before Memorial Day. The initial price was \$52,500 per year and the payments came in a couple thousand over and the City would up the amount to cover the payment. He said Mr. Reiner told him he would get back with him after Memorial Day but he never heard back from him so he called him again saying we want to get some of them released for collateral. Mitchell said if need be, we could file an open records request but would prefer to get them by agreement. Mitchell said he was contacted by Fire Chief Buck Warren Friday because of inquiries he has had about personal care homes and assisted living homes in private homes and our Codes have very little on this and while the laws were revamped in 2011 but our Code was written in the seventies or eighties. He further mentioned the new legislation on it is highly regulated and it puts a burden on the Fire Department as they have to sign off on the premises according to Code and state requirements. Upon question by Mitchell, Mayor Harper stated in his experience working with Emergency Medical Services how dangerous and risky it could be with several residents in one place especially with elderly and special needs residents in the event of a fire, having the fire department in the building, medical emergencies, sizes of doorways, wheelchairs, etc. Mitchell said they had closed out the Perkins special assets and title has been transferred to Nashville Urban Redevelopment Agency.

6. **Department Head's** – Peter Schultz updated the council the landfill had been closed out. Chief Edwards informed the Council of the passing of a Bill which allows the State of Georgia to sell and purchase a wide array of fireworks emulating what Florida, Alabama and possibly South Carolina have including Roman Candles. He said one of the things he is trying to do is to decipher and get with other agencies including the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to get a list of what is allowed to be sold and purchased. This bill was signed by the Governor on the 5th of May and goes into effect July 1st. The Chief went over portions of a copy of the bill mentioning line 34 defining the fireworks devices; lines 41 and 42 mentioning Roman Candles; line 106 stating hours on any day of 10:00 a.m. until midnight extended to 2:00 a.m. on January 1, July 3, July 4 and December 31; line 350 stating any governing authority shall not prohibit the sale or use, shall not enact additional regulation of the sale or use of same. The Chief further stated it basically says this is the law and we cannot do anything more to regulate it and basically the City cannot prevent the sale of the fireworks. He said according to line 234 a permit has to be applied for which shall be \$500 per location payable to the City but there is a caveat on line 273 that the governing authority shall expend such fees for public safety purposes. Mayor Harper asked if that means it goes back to the Police Department's budget and the Chief stated it depends on the interpretation and he just wanted to make everyone aware of this. He further stated we would catch some disagreement from the citizens about this but the law is the law and at some point we will have to revise our city ordinance on same. Mayor Harper mentioned on the back page beginning with line 381 the explanation of the excise tax going back to the State. Mayor Harper asked Chief Edwards if he was ready to discuss an event that happened at the Blue Flame over the weekend. Chief Edwards said he was not at liberty to discuss it in open forum yet because the investigation is still open and ongoing. Mayor Harper advised that he and Antonio Carter will not be at the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bryan Shaw expressed his thanks to the Fire Department and the City for their work in getting the rating dropped. He said he got back \$85.00 on his home owner's insurance. He advised everyone to call their insurance company to inquire about reimbursements.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mellisa Watson asked if everything was ok with the BiLo lease since they had swapped hands or changed names. Mitchell Moore said that would not affect anything because of the contract in place. She asked Peter if we had the backhoe yet which Peter confirmed. She asked about a ditch out by the hospital and was told it was taken care of. She said she had received many calls about yard trash not getting picked up. Peter explained his department has been very short staffed and the City is running ads for help. Billy Retterbush said he wanted to discuss the Blue Flame incident as soon as they were able to. Mayor Harper announced he is stepping down from the Recreation Board and is appointing Mellisa Watson in his place.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Billy Retterbush made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Walter Steward

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk