

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015  
6:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Pro-Tem Billy Retterbush

**PLEDGE:** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Billy Retterbush

**WELCOME:** Mayor Pro-Tem Billy Retterbush

**ROLL CALL:** Members of the City Council present included Mayor Pro-Tem Billy Retterbush, Aldermen Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Walter Steward and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mandy Luke, Jackie Jordan, Chief Edwards, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Ben Murray and Mitchell Moore.

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA** – Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the formal agenda. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **FY 2014 Audit – Mike Sirmans, CPA {Meeks CPA, LLP}** – Mike Sirmans presented the report of the FY 2014 Audit to the Council explaining the format stating they have already received a response from the State that everything is alright and in compliance. Mr. Sirmans further described the assets and liabilities in General Fund, the net position of Water and Sewer fund mentioning the GEFA loan and the Natural Gas Fund. Mr. Sirmans extended his appreciation to the City and Council and the Council reciprocated the same.

**REPORTS**

2. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – Mandy Luke stated she has a list of 8 streets Peter Shultz compiled that are in need of repair or repaving to be considered for the 2016 LMIG project. She said a list needs to be submitted to Department of Transportation (DOT) for them to select which ones and the 8 streets to be considered are Scruggs Street, South Jefferson Street, Decatur Street, Day Avenue, South Jefferson Street, Langdale Street, M.L.K. Street & East Avera Avenue. The City's LMIG funds for 2016 are supposed to be \$53,542.82 and our match is 30% which is \$16,062.85 for a total project of almost \$70,000 and this amount would pave approximately 0.65 miles. The Council agreed for her to submit the list. Mandy next mentioned 2015 millage rate 5 year history is running in the paper this week keeping the millage rate at 8 mills. She said they will advertise the rate for 2 weeks and will need to adopt the millage rate at the next meeting to get the tax bills in the mail by October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mandy mentioned she was contacted by Michael Roberts from GEFA stating the mayor sent something to Chris Poje about radio read meters and Nashville had submitted a pre-application for this for \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Roberts said they would have a principal forgiveness that they could provide our community \$600,000 in loan funds along with \$400,000 in principle forgiveness to equal the \$1,000,000.00 and they need to know something by June 30, 2016 or the principal forgiveness would be provided to another project and wants to know where the City stands on that. Mellisa Watson said the Council had already voted on that. Billy Retterbush and Eric Gaither agreed with Mellisa stating it was a “no” vote. Scott Stalnaker said it would be a good project but we are not financially able at this time to take on the project. The Council advised her to tell them the City is not interested. Mandy asked if the Council wants to participate in the 2016 Okefenokee Occasion in January. She stated its \$1,500 and last year only one other City reimbursed the City and the City of Nashville had to pay the rest of it. Scott Stalnaker said leave it open for now only allowing the one City who paid last year to be able to go unless the other Cities pay double. She mentioned the lease agreement from Coastal Plains asking Mitchell Moore if she needs to sign it or if they need to do something with it in a meeting. Mitchell explained the correspondence with their attorney and the questions about it asking if the Council would approve it subject to him finalizing the changes. Scott Stalnaker made a motion to allow the City Manager subject to the City Attorney's approval of the contract to enter into the contract. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **City Attorney's Report** – Mitchell Moore mentioned Mandy had received a phone call from a gentleman from BiLo {Harveys} indicating there's been a downsize in the local labor force and inquiring as to when is the City going to put an elevator in the office building and pave the parking lot. Mitchell said the 5 year lease agreement does not provide for either. He said the gentleman also mentioned in the conversation they were considering downsizing and moving. Mandy Luke said he said the City was not fulfilling the obligations in the lease which is when he mentioned the elevator and parking lot. Mitchell said the gentleman's name is Scott Freeman and spoke with him explaining he reviewed the lease and there was discussion of an elevator and if they wanted an elevator, they would have to pay for it. Mitchell said they have made an inquiry that they might

like to terminate the lease but Mitchell said the initial term is 5 years. Mitchell said Mr. Freeman told him he was involved in preliminary discussions but was not involved in the final negotiations or executions of the lease. Mitchell said the building was built to their specifications with the understanding there would be a 5 year lease of \$6,000/month and there's no provision for termination. Mitchell said there is several projects pending asking John Reynolds about the WinFab project stating it is well underway. Mandy stated the City had received the checks from Crissy Staley for same. Mitchell said he spoke with Stacy Watkins about the Dupont project and everything is on track with it. Peter Schultz said it is supposed to begin on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Mitchell said he had not heard anything from the attorney concerning the Blue Flame issue.

4. **Department Head's** – Peter Schultz said the City has an old side arm mower in surplus that he spoke with Scott Stalnaker about. Scott said Cook County contacted Peter saying they would give the City \$1,000. He further explained scrap prices would not bring that much and didn't think they would get that much at an auction either stating he would like to go ahead and do this. Scott Stalnaker made a motion to sell the item to Cook County for \$1,000. Walt Steward seconded the motion with it being sold as is and the motion carried unanimously. Ben Murray reminded everyone of the Harvest Festival on September 26<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 4:00 describing some of the festivities asking if any of the Council would be interested to participate in the Grape Stomping event. Ben also mentioned and gave a brief description of the Vietnam Memorial Wall to take place November 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Mitchell Moore brought up a point of clarification regarding the radio read meters if they took action. Scott Stalnaker said there's been no action taken to request it so why would we need to take action to stop it. Mitchell said he wanted to clarify there was a unanimous decision. Mandy said Travis gave Chris Poje authorization to apply for it and he turned it in but does not know if Travis signed anything. Mellisa Watson said she remembered them having to pay a fee last year for something for an application. Scott Stalnaker said it was not discussed by the Council as a whole and they did not authorize it and at this time the City is not financially able to take on such a project and made a motion that we are not interested in radio read meters at this time. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Billy Retterbush stated for the record he is against it also.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Larry Osheim with the American Legion spoke to the Council concerning a Memorial at the Doughboy located at the Court House asking about the grounds around the Court House of which he was told that belonged to the County and they were working on the shrubbery. He said Bryan Shaw and the Chamber has been very helpful. He said the Lieutenant Governor is scheduled to attend along with the 2 or 3 members of the Georgia State World War I Commemorative Group. He said they are still working on some things such as a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailer to be used as a stage and asked about closing a couple of the streets at the Court House and said it will be October 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:30 a.m. Mellisa Watson said the Council will be glad to

help him and talk to the County for him. Mr. Osheim asked about putting up a banner and Scott Stalnaker let him know to get with Bryan Shaw about that with it being in the historic district. Billy Retterbush asked him to make an appointment with the Chief and discuss with him about the logistics. Bertrum Fountain spoke saying he and his friends (Patrick Owens and Quanay Carter) were here to see what a Council meeting was all about. Bertrum Fountain, Patrick Owens and Quanay Carter having been helping to keep Beetree Park cleaned up. Peter Schultz, Mellisa and the Council thanked him and his friends for their efforts.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mellisa Watson said she wanted to apologize to the City about the problems with the trash pickup stating she had contacted Advance Disposal and they said they had had some trucks out of order which had been fixed and hopefully the situation will improve now. Scott Stalnaker updated the Council concerning contact by Miss Stanley about the volleyball park that was discussed at the previous meeting. Walt Steward stated he was opposed to the Council's decision concerning this issue.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Scott Stalnaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

---

Mayor Travis Harper

---

Alderman Eric Gaither

---

Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

---

Alderman Antonio Carter

---

Alderman Billy Retterbush

---

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

---

Alderman Walter Steward

**ATTEST:**

---

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk