

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
NOVEMBER 23, 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 and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Jackie Jordan, Jill Wise, Chief Edwards, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz and Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Allen Davis, Cleon Knight, Bob Ellis, Keith Stone, John Hunkele, Brenda Thomas, Jessica Steward, Ben Murray.

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

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA – Scott Stalnaker made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the addition of item #7- Water Read Meter Project – Mayor Harper. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Letter from Alderman Walt Steward – Jessica Steward** – Alderman Steward's daughter, Jessica Steward, read a letter to the Council written by Alderman Steward.

2. **To Appoint Someone to Planning Commission – Mandy Luke** – Mandy told the Council she had been notified by the County they need someone from the Council to serve on the Planning Commission. Mandy and the Council discussed it stating the last person that served was Pat Sutton. They also discussed when and how often they meet and if it has to be someone from the Council. They decided to post pone it at this time to try to decide who could serve.
3. **Mayor’s Veto of Two-way Traffic at Post Office – Mayor Travis Harper** – Mayor Harper brought up the subject of his Veto of two-way Traffic at the Post Office stating they briefly spoke of it in the last meeting during public comments and asked if anyone would like to take action on this. Mellisa Watson asked the Chief Edwards if there had been any notification of accidents to which he replied there had not been. Billy Retterbush he thought it should revert as was voted on the last time. Mellisa Watson made a motion to keep it one-way permanently. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion. Mellisa Watson, Antonio Carter and Scott Stalnaker voted to keep it permanently one-way. Billy Retterbush and Eric Gaither voted against it. The motion passed three (3) to two (2) to remain one-way. Mitchell Moore asked about signage and barricades which Scott Stalnaker said Peter Schultz was waiting for the decision to make the necessary changes.
4. **TEA Project Bids – Statewide – Mandy Luke** – Mandy Luke updated the Council of opening bids for a TEA project for sidewalks around the Court House in the middle of the square on October 22, 2015. She said there was supposed to be three (3) bids but only two (2) bids were received being A. C. Blount Concrete Services for a base bid of \$197,365.50 along with Curb and Gutter Professional, Inc. for \$259,148.00 stating Statewide Engineering recommended going with A. C. Blount Concrete Services. Scott Stalnaker made a motion to go with the lowest bid. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
5. **Resolution of Election Returns of Municipal Election, 11/03/15 – Mayor Travis Harper** – Mayor Harper read the election returns of the election held November 3rd stating the only contested race was Eric Gaither’s post with him winning 219 to 151. Billy Retterbush made a motion to approve the resolution. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
6. **Possible Purchase of a Tractor/Surplus of a Tractor – Mandy Luke** – Mandy explained the Street Department has a tractor but they need something else that would hook up to the side arm mower and work more efficiently. She said Peter checked around and Nashville Tractor has a used one with very few hours for \$42,500.00, Massey Ferguson doesn’t have anything for that size, one John Deere

dealership has one for \$54,343.00 and the other John Deere dealership has one for \$55,932.18. Mellisa Watson made a motion to go with the lower bid from Nashville Tractor. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Eric Gaither made a motion to add the current tractor to the surplus equipment. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Water Read Meter Project – Mayor Travis Harper** – Mayor Harper told the Council Michael Roberts with GEFA said they have a meeting in January and if approved tonight, the City could be put on their Agenda for the January meeting concerning this loan which the City could get a 40% loan forgiveness and asked the Council to consider approving the beginning of the loan process. He further discussed the man hours required at this time to read the meters, where this could possibly be covered under the budget and the time sensitivity of moving forward with the loan process. Billy Retterbush questioned this along with the City's current debt and the upcoming possibility of water rate increases per GEFA and USDA stating it was not necessary to make a decision right now. Mitchell asked how much it would cost to apply for the loan and the Mayor replied it would cost nothing to apply but there would be fees on the loan if the loan is done. Bob Ellis questioned the Council where the funding would come from and how it would affect the water bills. Billy Retterbush mentioned USDA can come in and look at our debt to income ration and adjust our rates accordingly. Scott Stalnaker also mentioned it is designed to help picked up leaks and problems before the entire month is billed saving on high water bills. Mellisa and Mandy also mentioned the equipment needed and frequency of readings to be able to do this. Antonio Carter explained seeing someone stop by his meter and enter information but did not actually lift the lid and read it. Cleon Knight mentioned seeing someone reading meters on his street using a pickup truck and his opinion concerning the costs involved. Mayor Harper added on to Mr. Knight's comments discussing the amount of time required in reading the meters the way it is done now compared to using the new meters. Mellisa and Eric expressed their concerns pertaining to the warranties and new technology. Allen Davis inquired of liabilities of City employees with dog bites, injuries, etc. while reading meters. Keith Stone asked the Mayor if, at this time, he is asking the Council to approve buying the meters or approve to apply for the loan and the Mayor's answer was to apply for the loan. Mayor Harper discussed speaking with other Cities who are using this and their results. Mayor Harper asked the Council if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve Mandy to move forward with the loan process. Antonio Carter made a motion to authorize the City Manager, Mandy Luke, to move forward with the loan process with GEFA for the radio read water meter project. Scott Stalnaker

seconded the motion. The motion failed two (2) to three (3) with Mellisa Watson, Billy Retterbush and Eric Gaither voting against it.

REPORTS

8. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – Mandy Luke said the 2016 CDBG is going to be available to be applied for and she spoke with Kim Hobbs, John Reynolds and Peter Schultz. She said they came up with one area they thought could use storm drainage and sewer work. She said to move forward, Kim needs to know if we want to stay with Coastal Engineering or put it out for bid explaining the differences in the fees and the ads stating if we stay with Coastal Engineering, the grant would not pay the engineering fees but if we go through the RFP (Request for Proposal) process, they will pay the engineering fees. The Council advised Mandy to have Kim run the ad for it.

Mandy also mentioned the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Dogwood Drive sidewalk project. She said the City has already signed one but they are requesting an updated MOU to validate a continued interest in completing the project which contains a provision that the project be ready to bid no later than June 30, 2019 to ensure this project is ready for the Fiscal Year 2020 funding. Mayor Harper asked if we had the money and Mandy said it was already in the budget. Scott Stalnaker made a motion to sign the MOU. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mandy mentioned the 2016 LMIG project letting them know Statewide needs to know by the end of December 2015 which streets we want repaved. She said Peter gave her a list of which ones are the worse and most traveled and that Statewide went through the list and gave cost estimates. She said there is a certain amount to spend and asked if the Council wants to make that decision or if they want Mandy and Peter to decide. The Council advised Peter and Mandy to decide.

9. **City Attorney's Report** – Mitchell Moore discussed an issue of where the dirt is being taken when removed from City cemetery plots. Mitchell mentioned an email to Kim Hobbs on pending projects stating he had not received a reply yet. Mitchell updated the Council he has prepared the Deed for the property with the warehouse located south of town from Downtown Development Authority into Nashville Urban Development Agency.

10. **Department Head's** – Jill Wise reminded everyone of the Shop Small event November 28th, the lighting of the tree on December 3rd and the Christmas events on December 5th.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Allen Davis commended the Police Department for the help with his mother's issues with her home alarm. Keith Stone congratulated Eric Gaither on his win, welcomed Jill Wise to the City and commended Mandy on her job as City Manager. He also mentioned a burglary that occurred recently at his neighbor's house. Cleon Knight commended the City on the subjects discussed this evening asking for more information concerning the tractor which Scott Stalnaker explained. Brenda Thomas brought up a recent interaction with one of the Police officers recently complaining about the way the officer spoke to her and Chief Edwards assured her he would see about it.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mellisa brought up the issue of abandoned houses, code enforcement and how we can improve the situation which the Council and Chief Edwards briefly discussed. Mayor Harper mentioned the Thanksgiving lunch for the City employees on Wednesday, November 25th, the City Christmas party on December 8th and the Fire Department Christmas party on December 10th. Scott commended the Chief and the Police Department concerning the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Antonio Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. Billy Retterbush 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