

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
AUGUST 22, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Bryan Shaw

PLEDGE: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Michael Richbourg

WELCOME: Mayor Michael Richbourg

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Mayor Michael Richbourg, Aldermen Billy Retterbush, Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Walt Steward, Antonio Carter and Alderwoman Mellisa W. Brown.

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Jackie Jordan, Jill Wise, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Chief Edwards, Henry Yawn, Vivian Shirah, Fred Busbin, Chris Youngblood, John Carter, Richard Varn and Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Fred Busbin family members, Chris Youngblood family members, John Carter family members, Richard Varn family members, Joann Register, Sarah Register, Rachel Register, Crissy Staley, Ben Murray, Bryan Shaw, Kyle Person, Cheryl Rowe, Sam Thomas, Donna & Daniel Kent, Maxine Harris Carter, Lurena Collier

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS – 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 – Billy Retterbush made the motion to adopt the formal agenda. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **“Pin-On Ceremony” – Seven (7) Officer Promotions – Chief Edwards** – Chief Edwards asked the Mayor and Council to have a seat with the audience in order to better observe. He then asked John Carter, Richard

Varn, Chris Youngblood and Fred Busbin to take a stand in the front of the room facing the audience and gave the following speech, “The badge, sometimes referred to as a shield, is a tangible symbol of authority. There are two times a shield is presented to an officer. The first is upon graduation of the police academy and the second upon being promoted. The “pin-on” ceremony, all be it brief and simple, is steeped in tradition and is an exciting and prideful moment, not just for the officers but also their loved ones. As we climb the ladder of rank and authority, we become increasingly responsible. Responsible to lead by example in both word and deed. Because not only are we responsible for the actions we take, but also for the answers and guidance we give to those depending on us, because of our expected knowledge from training and experience. And with this increased responsibility, also comes increased personal sacrifice. In public service work especially, this personal sacrifice involves not only the employee, but also the immediate family, which is why we like to include them in this ceremony and encourage their participation, for it is these people that will be most important in the officer’s lives as they continue their career. There will be more missed birthdays, anniversaries and holidays, and for officers with increased rank and responsibility there will be calls at all hours, dinner interruptions, conversation interruptions, and other interruptions, vacation and time off cancellations, and other last minute change of plans. So while I celebrate this moment of pride with you, I remind you this is also the moment more responsibility begins and the moment, we the officers, and we the families, accept this responsibility.” With the help of Vivian Shirah, Chief Edwards proceeded to take their old badges presenting them with their new badges representing the promotions for John Carter from Patrol Officer to Corporal, for Richard Varn from Patrol Officer to Sergeant, for Chris Youngblood from Patrol Officer to Sergeant and for Fred Busbin from Detective to Lieutenant Detective. The new badges were pinned-on by Joann Register for John Carter, Consuelo Varn for Richard Varn, Tyler Youngblood for Chris Youngblood and Laura Busbin for Fred Busbin. Three officers who were not able to attend were Ronald Knowles who was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain, Timmy Jernigan who was promoted from Sergeant to Lieutenant and Donald Franklin who was promoted from Detective to Sergeant Detective.

2. **New Industrial Park, Berrien County Business Park – Crissy Staley –** Crissy Staley stated the Development Authority recently acquired a new piece of property by taking the park previously owned in Enigma and trading it for a piece of property on Homerville Highway - Highway 168.

They are currently running bids to clear the land and grass the property which is expected to cost over \$100,000 - \$150,000 for the fifty (50) acres, the proposed development section on the map provided, for which SPLOST funds will be used. The proposed development will be funded through a Tier 1 Georgia grant of \$500,000, which is the maximum that can be applied for capacity building funds and will be exhausted. The reason this property was chosen is the proximity to city utilities of water, sewer and gas. The Georgia 1 grant will pay for water and sewer extension but not gas extension. In order to maximize the grant funds and make it competitive, they need to pave with industrial grade paving (to the dark line on the provided map) which the grant writer advises is much more competitive than parks with a dirt road. They have spoken with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and if the grant is funded, GDOT will provide a left turn lane and a right turn lane for entrance to the park which will save upwards of \$125,000 that can be put back into the infrastructure of the park. The County was approached to do the rough grading and to undercut and replace the unsuitable soil which is upwards of \$50,000 which the County has agreed to do. The City is being asked to assist with running the water up to the dark line on the map which will leave enough funds to pave with the heavy industrial paving to the same line. What will be written off will be a higher number than what it will cost because it can be written off at a contractor price according to the engineers estimates of what it would cost if a contractor was hired. Part of the plan includes sewer and a lift station which according to the engineers may possibly provide relief to some neighboring sewer problems. The request is for the City to provide water service to the black line on the map. The sewer would be paid from the grant. The Mayor asked the approximate cost. John Reynolds said if GDOT would allow the City to cut the road, it will cost approximately \$16,000. If the City has to bore it, it will cost approximately \$21,000. Crissy said the amount that can be written off is about \$35,000. She said the sewer and lift station alone is approximately \$200,000 which is a big investment that is coming out of the grant money. She further explained that while the property has not yet been annexed into the City, that is part of the plan but it will be better to leave as County property, due to regulations on burning and other things, until the clearing process has been completed. The intention is to annex it into the City. She said the timber has been cleared and bids open on Thursday for removing the stumps and get it cleaned up. The deadline for the Tier 1 Georgia grant is in October, which is why they need a commitment from the City. She said it would probably be the end of the year before they receive an answer which could possibly have a construction start time of February or

March if the weather and everything is cooperative, which would be aggressive. Billy Retterbush made a motion to approve the commitment. Antonio Carter asked where the money would come from. Mayor Richbourg and Mandy Luke said it could come from SPLOST funds for infrastructure. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Scott Stalnaker abstained from voting due to serving on the Development Authority Board. Crissy stated she may need a letter of the City's commitment. She said she has the commitment from the County and received an email from GDOT today which is contingent on receiving the grant funds. The Mayor stated this is another good example of the Chamber, Development Authority, County and City working good together.

REPORTS

3. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – Mrs. Luke presented the Intergovernmental Agreement between the County and the City for the purchase of scoreboards to be signed by the Mayor and City Clerk. Mandy said she had been contacted by the high school band. They want to use the Nashville Community Center for a fund raiser which she said we have let the schools use it for certain things before but what is different about it is they want to use it for three (3) days in a row, October 20th thru 22nd, which is a Thursday, Friday, Saturday. She said it is not currently booked and she thinks they plan to do some sort of auction but is not sure what they have planned. The Mayor and Council said as long as what they have planned does not go against what is allowed and because the band played Saturday morning for the opening of the Smithsonian Exhibit and did such a great job, they would like to do it as a “Thank You” to them. Mandy said she spoke with Mike Sirmans about our audit and he is getting ready to put the books together to present the audit to the Council as soon as he hears from the State that everything is ok.

4. **City Attorney's Report** – Mitchell Moore stated John Hunkele is to come see him tomorrow concerning the WINFAB project. He said there were some complications concerning the access easements. He said when doing this, the government has to go through a Uniform Relocation Act compliance which has been done and Roy Guy got approval from the supervisor. Mitchell said in connection with providing supplementary financing as it pertains to the REDLG loan, there had been complications getting the necessary figures from the EDA but Tonia Hendricks has sent the

preliminaries she submitted for approval and based on those, we should be able to come up with the Attachment A. Mayor Richbourg asked if the letter of credit had been secured. He said we had two (2) proposals out of three (3) and would like permission to explore another option from a pricing stand point even it means going beyond local lenders because on a \$360,000 loan, 1% versus 3% is the difference between \$16,200 and \$48,600 over ten (10) years. The Mayor and Council were in agreement and would like to stay within the counties that touch us if possible. Mitchell said he has an ordinance in the works regarding the Slum and Blight policy which he has sent to Henry Yawn for review. He said Mr. Henry is compiling a list of properties he has been working on and they have gone over some of the standards to go by in addition to reviewing that statute in comparison with the nuisance statute but only one provision deals with property. He said the process entails a hearing that is not less than fifteen (15) days and not more than forty-five (45) days and has a window giving people up to a year to comply, depending on what the court orders, and gives the court much more leeway to come up with a remedy.

5. **Department Head's** – Jill Wise reminded everyone of the Lip Sync battle on Friday, September 23rd and the Harvest Festival on September 24th around the square downtown.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cheryl Rowe, owner of Chossi's, 403 South College Street, approached the Mayor and Council about closing the one-way street behind her business to use it for parking. She said it is kind of a dangerous area because a lot of people tend to go the wrong way. Mayor Richbourg said he thought it was a great idea, mentioned the right of way and said we would not want to impede on any other property owners. Billy said we would need to get with the property owners of the adjoining property for their input and asked John about pipes and there are pipes going through there. Chief Edwards asked if the City would own the property. Mitchell said normally when a road is closed, you would have the same owner and in this situation, there are two (2) different owners and there is a process to closing a road which we would have to comply with. Chief Edwards said he could not think of any adverse effects from closing it. Mayor Richbourg mentioned the City's infrastructure under it and said the City would need to do some detailed research. Sam Thomas of 1609 East Marion Avenue asked about cleaning the ditches. The Mayor asked Peter if the City kept the ditches up on the state highways if they

were in the city limits and he said there was a program where the State paid the City to do it at one time but they stopped that program and they would have to have the State's permission to do anything. Mr. Thomas also asked about the drains. The Mayor explained the street sweeper has been broken down and the City is in the process of getting a new one.

Donna Kent of 731 North Jackson Street asked about the same issue on their street. Peter said he would take a look at it.

Maxine Carter Harris asked about repairing Short Street next to Gaskins Store.

Peter said it is on the list for the next LMIG project.

Bryan Shaw spoke about the Smithsonian Exhibit at the court house and said there will be an event taking place in Nashville this Saturday. There will be Frisbee golf at 9:00 a.m., a wooden racquet tennis tournament at 10:00 a.m., a women's soft-pitch softball tournament at 3:00 p.m. and a men's soft-pitch baseball tournament at 4:00 p.m. He also mentioned the new benches that were installed around the square stating one of them is right at the edge of the curve at the yield sign and is afraid it may get run over by a truck as they have crossed over that curb before.

Lurena Collier of 201 Mitchell Street presented the Council with information to indicate she thinks there is an error in her bill. Mayor Richbourg said he briefly spoke with Mrs. Luke and John Reynolds, and since this is the Council's first time hearing about it, he would like for her to meet with Mrs. Luke, John and April together so there would be no miscommunication and then come to the next meeting so they can make a recommendation.

Ben Murray asked the Mayor and Council for their help asking them to appear in a promotional video he is helping the Chamber and Development Authority with which will include local businesses, board members and so forth.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Walt Steward asked if there was any resolution on the situation in front of Subway. Mayor Richbourg told him it was in the State's right of way.

Billy Retterbush thanked Bryan Shaw for his and his staff's hard work on the Smithsonian project. He also asked Mitchell if there was an update on the drum samples with TTL. Mitchell said he did not know if they picked up the drums but they got the samples run and got the information they needed and it's underway.

Mayor Richbourg said there was no hazardous material and the quote was less than initially quoted.

Mellisa W. Brown also commended Bryan Shaw. She mentioned an email about a bike route. Mitchell said it just came in and is in the beginning stage. She asked

Peter for an update on the street sweeper. Peter said he is awaiting another company to see if they can demo another sweeper and has five (5) quotes and a decision will be made after he finds out if the other company is going to demo one. She also thanked the Chief for all the hard work from him and all the officers. Mayor Richbourg commended Bryan Shaw and his staff for all that was done on the Smithsonian project especially since it is all volunteered work stating what a great job he had done compared to others throughout the entire country, not just the state but the entire country.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Eric Gaither made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Michael Richbourg

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderwoman Mellisa W. Brown

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Walter Steward

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk