

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JANUARY 9, 2012**

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 Eric Gaither, Antonio Carter, Dick Perryman, Michael Richbourg, and Scott Stalnaker.

STAFF PRESENT: Tina Ward, Randy Lane, Mandy Luke, Henry Yawn, John Reynolds, Tommy Davis, Dawn Morrison, and City Attorney, Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randall Milton, Frank Watts, John Black, Crissy Staley, Todd Miller, Allen Davis, Brenda Thomas, Donald Harris, and Pearlene Daniels.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper asked the group to delete item four and replace the item with, Georgia Academy Discussion. Also, add an Executive Session to the formal agenda. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Richbourg and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Urban Redevelopment Plan for the City of Nashville- A public hearing was held today at 5:30pm and Todd Miller from Southern Georgia Regional Commission was asked to give the group an idea of the purpose of the public hearing. The Purpose of the Public Hearing was to obtain citizens input into the formation of an Urban Redevelopment Plan for the City of Nashville. The general scope of this project is to establish a redevelopment plan in order to address slum and blight, underdevelopment and adequate housing verses inadequate housing for the City of Nashville. The plan will also utilize all potential local, state and federal incentives possible. In June of last year the City and County were awarded a grant from the Department of Community Affairs in the amount of \$11,250.00 and the match for this grant was provided by the City of Nashville in the amount of \$3,750.00. These moneys are to go toward the redevelopment of the two areas designated earlier; Perkins and Washington. An investigation was conducted on these two target areas to determine the conditions of the structures and it was determined that 58% of the structures were deteriorated, 31% of the structures are vacant, and 10% of the structures are in good condition. The Urban Redevelopment Plan gives the City and County the power to redevelop or preserve the properties designated by the Urban Redevelopment Authority. The Council

needs to adopt the Urban Redevelopment Plan Resolution and the Resolution for the creation of the Redevelopment Authority. The Redevelopment Authority will implement the Redevelopment Plan and take any action needed if the properties are to be re-habitable or demolished. Mayor Harper asked Todd Miller, what length of time this Authority will serve or is there a time limit. Todd replied no, this is a local action and does not require State approval and therefore can go perpetuity unless action is taken by the local body. Mitchell Moore wanted to clarify the Council will serve as the Authority, and the Plan is the only thing Council needs to approve, the Resolution will be constructed after the approval and sent to the City of Nashville. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to approve the Urban Redevelopment Plan. The motion was seconded by Alderman Richbourg and the motion carried unanimously.

2. RFP's for CDBG- Mayor Harper told the group bids were advertised for refurbishing the Lift Station at Park Street and we had (12) twelve Engineering firms respond to the advertisement. On January 3, 2012 Randy Lane, Peter Schultz and myself opened each bid and graded each proposal. The top proposals were, G. Ben Turnipseed Engineering, out of Atlanta, scored 108 points; Statewide Engineers, out of Douglas, scored 106 points; and Watkins and Associates, out of Tifton, scored 105 points. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to award the project to the highest scoring firm which was B. Turnipseed Engineering. Alderman Richbourg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Update on Berrien County Chamber of Commerce- Crissy Staley wanted to update the group on the accomplishments of the Chamber and Better Home Town for the past year, 2011. In the promotion of "Buy Berrien", we now have 65 businesses that redeem the Berrien Bucks, and last year \$25,000.00 Berrien Buck Dollars were sold to consumers. Also, during the Holidays, in an effort to promote "Buy Berrien" we held a raffle. For every \$100.00 spent in Berrien County with proof of purchase, the consumer would receive a raffle ticket for a chance to participate in the challenge game for two prizes. The two prizes were a boat from Chaparral Boats and 1,500.00. We have put together a RAC card with the advertising funds this year. The card has our demographics, historical landmarks, special events, and places of interest and will be placed in all the welcome stations across Georgia. We also hosted two round table events, and a strategic planning session last year. We assisted in recruiting nine new businesses to the Nashville area last year. The Berrien County Chamber now has 243 members. We will continue to work with Wiregrass on establishing a permanent place in the Miller building. We celebrated our "Work ready" certification in March of 2011 and have placed fifteen signs up around the county. We are working on the Harvest Festival, and the Rodeo. Berrien County is also "Camera Ready" and will host a music video this Sunday at the old jail. Better Hometown and the Chamber are now involved in a monthly "Right Start" program which is for the new recruits at Moody Air force base; we promote Berrien County and Nashville and let them know what we have to offer as far as housing, and recreation. The Gate way grant on the Adel highway has now been completed. We need to remind everyone that the annual banquet is coming up on January 26, 2012. In closing we would like to invite the Council to attend our Chamber meetings which are every second Wednesday of each month at noon.

4. Georgia Economic Development Academy- Mayor Harper told the group together DCA and other organizations team together to hold the Georgia Economic Development Academy classes. The classes will be held one day a month for four months and the total cost to attend is \$195.00 per person. Mayor Harper said he

wants to attend these classes and wanted to know if any other Council member was interested in attending. The Council agreed that Mayor Harper could go to these classes but no one else was interested at this time.

5. Additions to the Golf Cart Ordinance- A new law is taking effect as of January 1st that will create a separate classification of personal transportation vehicles for golf carts. Mitchell Moore told the group the City has an Ordinance on Motorized Carts and pointed out a few of the changes that could be made if the Council chooses to comply. Alderman Perryman asked Mitchell if the City needs to change anything in our Ordinance. Randy Lane stated that according to the City Charter, the City must conform to the State of Georgia's 40 code section which is traffic control. Mitchell said if the Council does not want to incorporate these things into our existing Ordinance they do not have to do so.

6. Beer, Wine & Liquor by the drink Applications- Mayor Harper told the group, Akridge's Get n Go, May's Café, and Cyprus Point a/k/a Cadillac Ranch have reapplied for beer and or wine licenses, and Cyprus Point a/k/a Cadillac Ranch has also applied for a liquor by the drink license. Criminal histories were pulled and all fees have been paid. He added each of these applicants is seeking their renewal. Mayor Harper also pointed out that Cadillac Ranch fell behind on paying their taxes on the liquor by the drink and the liquor by the drink license should not be given until all the "by the drink taxes" owed to the City are paid in full. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve all license and grant the liquor by the drink license contingent on the "by the drink" taxes due to the City are paid in full. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

6. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke handed the group a couple of handouts on the bank balances as of December 31st, and the budget as of December 31st. Every year we receive insurance premium tax from the state. This year we received \$21,188.13 less than we did last year. She warned the Council and department heads to watch their spending. Mandy also asked the group about the fire work display this year. Buck Warren the City's Fire Chief contacted me and wanted me to ask what day the Council wants to set for the fourth of July fireworks display since this year the holiday falls on a Wednesday. The group had some discussion on the matter and before they make a decision they asked Randy Lane to call the Churches around the park and see if holding the festivities on that Wednesday would bother their services for that night.

7. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore told the group due to the two cases of "dog bites" that have happened recently in the City I have looked at the State laws and discovered a couple of changes in the Statute. He said if I find any modification we need to do on our Ordinance at a local level he will bring it before the Council. Mitchell updated the group on the beaver removal. He said we have some more beavers on the upper Reedy Creek area, the Meadowbrook area, and Anderson which is behind the Hospital. John Hughes who removed the beavers last month from Reedy Creek, submitted a proposal of \$3119.52 for the removal of these beavers. Mitchell wanted some guidance on whether to allow Mr. Hughes to continue the removal of these pests or should he try and find another individual contractor to do the job. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to allow John Hughes to remove the beavers from the above areas. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Department Head's Report- Randy Lane told the group Mitchell Moore has devised a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Nashville and the Downtown Development Authority for the Wiregrass portion of the Downtown Center. Once the Council approves the Memorandum of Understanding the Mayor and the DDA chairperson needs to sign it. Randy updated the group on some of the construction progress being done on the Downtown Center for Wiregrass.

Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Nashville and DDA for the Wiregrass portion of the Downtown Center. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

John Reynolds invited everyone to come to the site of the new Waste Water Treatment Plant and see the construction going on.

Dawn Morrison told the group since the City Council appoints the members of the DDA; they need Councils approval to appoint two new members to the board. In order to qualify for this board each member must own property in the downtown area and do not have to live inside the City limits. Terry Danforth and Jane Knight are the two new candidates; they are both property owners within the City limits. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to appoint Terry Danforth and Jane Knight to the Downtown Development Authority. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously.

Dawn also updated the group on the Farmers Market Grant. She said they met with the Architect and made some changes to the plans for the Farmers Market and those plans will be sent to the Engineers for the project. Dawn also updated the group on the Hogan Project. She said they are still waiting to hear back from the Slum and Blight Grant with from DCA, this grant will allow us to purchase the property. She said they are also working on another Grant with USDA which will help to clean the property up. Dawn told the group she is also working on a Park Grant to purchase park equipment for the City Parks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Frank Watts told the group East View Cemetery has a problem with some of the graves being vandalized. He said not sure of who is doing the vandalizing.

Alderman Stalnaker asked Chief Clayton to look into the problem. Mayor Harper reminded the Council about the deadline for Campaign Disclosures. Alderman Stalnaker asked John Reynolds to replace some of the lights at the tennis courts. Alderman Gaither asked Tommy Davis to look into repairing the holes in the road on Old Coffee. Alderman Perryman asked Mitchell if he had any information on the discussion about a new Ordinance request he made which referenced "sex offenders" back in November 2011. Mitchell said no, not yet due to other obligations, but he will look into the matter and get with Alderman Perryman to discuss it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Richbourg made the motion to go into Executive Session at 6:50p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:45p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED

Mitchell Moore wanted to add something to what Dawn Morrison requested earlier about the two new nominees for the DDA Board. He said the individuals who are being replaced on the board are Judge Dane Perkins, and Frank Sutton.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50pm. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Dick Perryman

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Michael Richbourg

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk