

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JANUARY 14, 2013
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 Aldermen Eric Gaither, Antonio Carter, Scott Stalnaker, Michael Richbourg, and Mayor Travis Harper.

STAFF PRESENT: Tina Ward, Randy Lane, Mandy Luke, Dawn Morrison, Peter Schultz, John Reynolds, Henry Yawn, Tommy Davis, Chief Clayton, and Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randal Milton, Allen Davis, Kevin Morris, Frank Watts, Margie Tygart, and Bobby Dixon.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES- Mitchell Moore wanted to make some corrections to the minutes. Under item number five, Energy Excises Tax, correct the maximum of 5% to 2%. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with the change. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper added a few items to the formal agenda. Item number one should be changed to US Tank, tank refurbishing and maintenance, item number five, Beer application from the Pizza Hut, item number six, Qualifying fees for the 2013 election, item number seven, Okefenokee Occasion. Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. U.S. Tank, Inc. Tank Refurbishing, Maintenance- Kevin Morris with US Tank handed the group a packet with a proposal to take over the City's water tank maintenance contract. He presented the group with the prices for placing the two elevated water storage tanks under their Tank Asset Management Program. Prices for 2012-2013 Budget: The 300,000 elevated tanks price will be \$9,866.00 and the 500,000 elevated tank price will be \$13,058.00. These prices will only increase a max of 3% annually. The paint jobs will be based on an eight year period for the exterior and ten to twelve years for the interior or as needed. All repairs, inspections, washouts and recoats will be covered in these contracts. The contract will automatically renew each year, as long as the City of Nashville is happy with our service to your tanks. Mr. Morris pointed out the pictures of the City's water tanks in the packet and the minor repairs and maintenance needed for these tanks. He also pointed out the long list of references listed in the packet. John Reynolds told the group the Company that has the contract now needs to repair a few items before the contract can be bid out. Alderman Richbourg said we need to bid this out but first we need to find out when the contract can be put out for bids John Reynolds told the group we must give the present company a 120 day notice that we are putting out for bids. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to notify the present company and put the contract out for bids after the 120 days. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution on the Executive Session from the December 10th meeting- Mitchell Moore presented the group with the Resolution for the Executive Session held on December 10th. Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the Resolution for the Executive Session. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Update from the Chamber of Commerce- Crissy Staley the Berrien County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director updated the Council on the events that took place in 2012 and the upcoming events for 2013. Crissy extended her appreciation to the City of Nashville for their continued support of the Chamber and its activities. Many of our local businesses benefitted this past year from programs such as Berrien Bucks; \$17,500.00 was redeemed at local businesses last year. The Cotton Blossom Rodeo and the Harvest Festival together had an economic impact of more than \$377,000.00 last year. She told the group that the Chambers use of the Berrien Bucks and other advertising campaigns in 2012 drew

attention from the Georgia State Department of Tourism. Berrien County hosted a visit to Berrien County for the Department of Tourism and welcomed 12 journalists to our area. From those 12 journalists, five articles mentioning Berrien County were published and will be featured in an upcoming book. Crissy shared information with the Council on efforts to continue strong relations with Moody Air Force Base. She said we make frequent visits to Moody Air Force Base to show our support and strengthen the ties between our county and the base. Crissy also informed the group about some upcoming events in 2013. The Chamber will Host its Annual Banquet on January 29th. With the help of Wiregrass we will hold Customer Service Classes at the Community Center every Tuesday in February. The Cotton Blossom Rodeo is set for March 22nd and March 23rd. In closing Crissy wanted the group to know how much Dawn Morrison is missed since she moved her office to City Hall.

4. Resolution to update the 2012 Short Term Work Program- Mandy Luke told the group Todd Miller with Southern Georgia Regional Commission sent an email which stated: they have been working for several months to update the Short Term Work Program for Greater Berrien County. Recently, the Georgia DCA accepted the STWP Update for adoption after December 31st. The Adoption Resolution for the Berrien County and each of the cities was sent out for adoption. Once the City's and the County has adopted this Resolution it will be uploaded to DCA to verify the adoption, and obtain the extension of each community's QLG status. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to adopt the Resolution updating the Short Term Work Program. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Application for Beer License for Pizza Hut- Mayor Harper told the group Pizza Hut applied for a beer license. All fees were paid and a background history was completed with no records found. Alderman Stalnaker asked Mandy if they would have to pay any late fees for the license since they did not get the application turned in on time. Mandy said no late fees were applied but the facility cannot sell any alcohol beverages until the license is approved by Council. Alderman Gaither made the motion to approve the beer license for Pizza Hut. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Qualifying fees for the 2013 Election- Tina Ward told the group that the City Council will have three positions up for election this year, Post 4, 5, and 6. The qualifying fees for each are \$144.00 and this notification needs to be advertised in the paper before February 1st per the Berrien County Board of Elections.

7. Okefenokee Occasion- Mayor Harper told the group he wanted to discuss allowing Chief Clayton to accompany him to the occasion this year. He said Chief Clayton has attended the Okefenokee Occasion for the last nine years to represent the City of Nashville. Chief Clayton will continue to be a great representative for the City if he is allowed to attend the occasion this year. The Council has stated in previous meetings that no employee is to attend a function unless it is mandatory training. Mayor Harper said if the Chief is allowed to accompany me to this event; the City will only have the cost of his meals, so the Mayor offered to pay for the Chiefs meals so his attendance will be at no expense to the City. Mayor Harper said he made this request to Mandy and Randy and they said no because it is not mandatory training but I wanted to get the Councils opinion on the matter. Mandy said we told the Mayor what Council instructed in previous meetings that no employee is to attend unless it is mandatory training. Alderman Carter said if the City Manager and Assistant City Manager said no then the answer should be no. We should not go over their authority if they have made a decision. Mayor Harper said he will speak with Mandy and Randy again tomorrow morning.

REPORTS

8. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke handed out the updated revenue and expense reports. The City is doing fine right now but because we still don't know the outcome of Local Option Sales Tax we are still asking our department heads to cut their budgets where ever they can. Mandy also handed the group a copy of the budget and the totals of each fund within the budget. She told the group that as of today we have collected 90% of property taxes for 2012. We have \$65,000.00 in unpaid property tax for 2011, and a grand total of \$92,000.00 for all the outstanding property taxes.

9. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore updated the group on the Local Option Sales Tax preceding's. He told the group they have scheduled hearing on February 21st for the "motion to dismiss". He stated the to his knowledge as of last week there were only two case on the trial level and GMA indicated that they were anticipating an appeal by the County in one of those cases, and that will lead to the Supreme Court so the impact of this is unknown. Alderman Richbourg asked Mitchell, as of January 1st, are we still collecting the same amount as we in 2012. Mitchell said we are still collecting and distributing under the current certificate. Mitchell also updated the group on the Farmers Market project and the 2011 CDBG. He said on the Farmers Market, they have not received approval from USDA and the contractor who prematurely started the work was stopped.

Statewide has presented the paperwork to USDA and they hope to hear back from them in the next few weeks. On the 2011 CDBG project, Mitchell said he has the documents in hand and they anticipate the project will move forward. Mitchell also wanted to answer a question that was brought up about a pending alcohol license. The request was made by Berrien Café. The question was should they apply for a new license since a new operator will be running the business, or if the pending 2013 application can be transferred. The license is non- transferrable unless under section 83: there is a death or change in management. Under section 89 there is a procedure for an amended application if there is a change in the management. At this time we have not been provided with enough information to decide if section 89 can be applied. Mandy told Mitchell the owner wants to transfer the certificate, because the person who was going to be managing the business has left and will not be returning to run the business. She added the only thing that has changed from 2012 to 2013 is the name of the business. Mitchell said the Council looks at each alcohol license on its own and then a decision is rendered. Making a decision now would be premature so before a decision can be made the new management needs to submit an application. Mandy said she will research the issue and inform Mitchell and the Council.

10. Department Head's Report- John Reynolds told the group they have opened the new Waste Water Treatment Plant as of last week. Everything seems to be running smoothly so far. Nothing has been dumped into the river yet we have been running everything through the treatment plant and then through the old one. We anticipate three months from now we will be able to turn everything out to the river once we have all the "bugs" worked out. John told the group the only problem we are having right now is the grease build up on the walls of the plant. Mitchell told the group this is a problem that the City needs to deal with because the grease is coming from those businesses that are not in compliance and are in violation of the Ordinance. Randy Lane told the group that Mr. Henry Yawn is working on this issue. He will visit each facility and have them sign a sheet which states they have all the paperwork and if they don't comply he will issue them a citation and they will go before the Court.

Chief Clayton wanted to recognize one of his officers. Gary Nelms from the VFW contacted him and ask if he would like to nominate any of his officers, who he felt was worthy, for the "Officer of the Year" award. We filled out the application and nominated Sargent Paul Stagner. Sargent Stagner was awarded the Officer of the Year award for the Berrien County VFW Post, and also he was awarded Officer of the Year for the State of Georgia.

Randy Lane gave the group an update on the Beetree Park project. He said he went to a seminar in Cordele last week in reference to the Grant for Beetree Park. He

added he will speak to Stephen Rakestraw about setting up another neighborhood meeting, in the next few weeks and show the plans for the park so they can get the project underway. Randy also wanted to recognize Mrs. Margie Tygart who was re-appointed on the Area Council on Aging Board. She represents the City of Nashville and does an outstanding job.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Frank Watts told the group the lawn at the City cemeteries is looking good. Bobby Dixon the City of Nashville’s School Crossing Guard, Asked the Council to consider changing his employment position with the City to full time instead of part time and seasonal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55p.m. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Mellisa Watson

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Michael Richbourg

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk