

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JANUARY 27, 2014
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 Antonio Carter, Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Billy Retterbush, and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Tina Ward, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Chief Chuck Edwards, Paul Stagner, Henry Yawn, and Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kyle Pearson, Allen Davis, Bryan Shaw, Crissy Staley, Lynn Morris, Jerry Morris, and John Black.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING- Mitchell Moore asked the Council to look at item two from the previous minutes. He wanted to clarify the dates stated. He also asked the Council to change the name to Coach Luke not Mandy Luke, under his report of the tennis courts. Alderman Carter made the motion to adopt the minutes with the changes from the previous meeting. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper asked the Council to add a couple of items to the formal agenda. Item number seven, the polled vote on the Old Badcock building, and item number eight, the Council's committee assignments. Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the additions. Alderwoman Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Nashville Historic Preservation District- Bryan Shaw pointed out that each of the Council was given a copy of the Historic Preservation District design guidelines. These guidelines are what are required to have a historical district. Bryan said he spent the last several months going over our guidelines and other historical district guidelines to make them workable for us. He stated when he received the Historical Preservation training a few months ago one of

the things they specifically addressed was the designed guidelines. The guidelines should not be vague and that they are written in a way that they can be enforceable. One portion of the preservation guidelines presented is for commercial and residential and for future extension of the historical district. The other portion of guidelines is the construction guidelines. These guidelines are architectural guidelines, and the guidelines are for residential and commercial. The third portion of the preservation guidelines is the maintenance guidelines which pertain to historical site and the environment. Once the Council acts on designating the Historic district then the design guidelines is what the historical preservation commission will go by. Bryan asked the Council to review the guidelines so they will be ready for the Public Hearing which is set for February 6th at 5:30 pm. Bryan also pointed out the summary sheet he handed to each of the Council. This summary sheet is the recent findings of recent comparative studies of the effects of historic district designations over time, conducted in many different regions of the U.S. He also advised the Council if they would like to see the complete study he can supply them with that information. Mayor Harper asked Bryan if this affects any of the rezoning within the district. Bryan said no it has to abide by those same restrictions. Alderwoman Watson asked Bryan under the addition guide, the Certificate of Appropriateness, how much this will cost the owner. Bryan told her this will not cost the owner anything. The Preservation Committee will be there to help the owner and make sure the addition meets the needs of the historical district.

2. Berrien County Chamber of Commerce yearly update- Crissy Staley handed the Council a copy of the 2013 Chamber Wrap Up. The goal of the Chamber for 2013 was to continue to promote local shopping through the Buy Berrien initiative. Crissy told the group in 2013 the amount of Berrien Bucks sold was \$10,000.00. The Chamber also promoted Berrien County agritourism attractions through the Georgia Grown program and other opportunities. The Berrien Chamber is one of three founding members of the Georgia Grown Trail 37 Association. This trail is focused solely on agritourism attractions and is the first Georgia Grown trail and covers sixteen counties. One of the attractions along this trail is the “Cane Maze”. Crissy pointed out the attraction does not have to be on highway 37 but the attraction must be covenant to highway 37. The three founding organizations are Berrien, Cook, and the Brooks Chamber. We are a 501 C3 organization and we are working on recruiting members and doing some marketing. The trail has been approved by the General Assembly and we should be receiving some signage soon. Crissy told the group the chamber hosted the usual annual events, the Harvest Festival, the Concert, and the Rodeo. We also added a new event this past year which was the Monster Truck show. According to the Georgia Economic Developments impact calculator the four signature events had a combined economic impact of more than \$250,000.00 this past year. According to the 2012 Tourism Industry report, tourism in Berrien County supports 120 jobs and generates 11.14 million in direct tourist feeding and created 390 thousand in sales tax revenue and each household in Berrien County receive \$79.41 in tax relief. Crissy also told the group that one of the new things the chamber was involved in 2013 was the joint military affairs committee. The sole purpose of this committee is to meet with the incoming servicemen and inform them about Berrien County. Our county and several others hand out coupons to the airmen and women and give them information about their surrounding community. Crissy told the group the chamber has a position open on the chamber board. The

City of Nashville is the only City in the County not represented at all the meetings which are held once a month on the second Wednesday. Mayor Harper currently attends the meetings when he can but due to conflicts in his schedule he cannot attend all the meetings. Crissy asked the Council to allow the City Clerk to attend these meetings in the Mayors absence. The group discussed the matter but no approval or disapproval was completed. Mayor Harper told the group the story about how he and Crissy promoted a product in Berrien County while attending the Okefenokee Occasion.

3. Gate Way Grant for the Ray City Highway- Crissy Staley told the group that the City has applied for two of these grants in the past one for the Alapaha highway and one for the Adel highway. The grants are through the DOT and they must be used for vegetation only. The City can apply for funds up to \$50,000.00 and there is no match except for the landscaping and the maintenance. The deadline for the application is February 28th. We have looked at two locations for the gateway, one on the Tifton highway and the Ray City highway. Henry Yawn told the group the Tifton highway is a no go due to the communication line located on the site. Mayor Harper asked Mandy Luke how much the City spends on the maintenance of the Gate Ways located on Alapaha and Adel highway. Mandy said along with the watering and keeping stuff planted at the sites, pine straw is put down twice a year which cost around \$900.00. Alderman Retterbush asked Crissy is there any way we can scale down the Gate Way and not have one as big as the other two. Crissy told the group the reason the Gate Way on the Adel highway is so large is because the grant was for both sides of the road and once we started we found out there was fiber on one side of the road so we had to only use one side of the road. She added the DOT highly recommends the money granted should be spent on that site. After some discussion Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to move forward with the application for the grant. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Request for a Change in Zoning - Henry Yawn told the group that in 2004 Jerry Morris filled out the rezoning request to rezone his property located on Davis Ave. for a nursery. The request was heard and approved before the planning board in 2004. Henry said the request was to rezone the property from a R15 which is residential to general business. He said nothing was found in the City's minutes that this request was brought before the Council. Since this request was never brought before the City Council, Henry suggested the request be posted and advertised in the paper for two weeks and a Public Hearing be conducted. Mayor Harper stated a Public Hearing will be set for February 10th at 5:30 before the next Council meeting.

5. Beer Application for Alco Discount Store- Paul Stagner told the group that Alco has applied for a beer license. All fees were paid and a background history was completed with no records found. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the application. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Ratify the polled vote on the old Badcock building- Mayor Harper told the group on January 21st a poll of the Council was completed in reference to approving the move forward with the Bi Lo office renovations at the City owned old Badcock building. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to ratify the decision. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion.

Mitchell Moore wanted to clarify the decision the Council is making is to pursue the move forward with the project. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Council Committee Assignments- Mayor Harper assigned the following: Alderman Retterbush, Mayor Pro-Tem and Public Safety; Alderman Stalnaker, Gas and Street; Alderman Carter, Water and Sewer; Alderman Gaither, Parks Recreation and Cemetery; Alderwoman Watson' Economic and Community Development; Alderman Steward, Sanitation. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the assignments. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

8. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke told the group she was asked to discuss in the open meeting about the opening on the Recreation Board. Mayor Harper has volunteered to be on the board. Mayor Harper told the group he spoke to Alderwoman Watson about being on the board and she informed me that she has sketched my name in since she could not be on the board at this time. He also spoke to Alderman Stalnaker who was asked to serve on the board as well. Mayor Harper said he would like to let everyone know and be ok with his being nominated for that position.

9. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore informed the group that he has been contacted by the City Auditors and is in the process of addressing material matters for them. He also told the group in regards to the Historic District he has been in contact with Ms. Burns and told her we will send her a copy of the historic district nominations. Ms. Burns suggested that we post the district nominations on the City's website. Bryan Shaw told Mitchell the City's website has the link to the nomination posted. Bryan also suggested that the hearing notifications be posted on the City website. Bryan told Mitchell that he will send the design guidelines to him and those can be sent to Ms. Burns as well. Mitchell also told the group the City has some pending projects with DuPont and Chaparral that are at a standstill right now. Alderwoman Watson asked Mitchell about LOST. Mitchell said at this time we moved forward with the certificate with the understanding that we would give the legislature time to address it. Mayor Harper told Mitchell the legislature will not be doing anything this year. The only thing they are addressing is making sure the certificates were signed during the grace period of October 18th. Mitchell stated those certificates that were filed is contrary to what the statue provides so if they will clean that up then that puts back into moving forward with our alternative dispute Resolution. Mitchell said he spoke to Randy Lane about the Bi Lo office renovations. There is a time line so we just need to make sure that to the extent we are making these modifications to their specifications that we have a firm commitment from Bi Lo. Mayor Harper spoke with Randy Lane as well and a lease will be signed before any modifications are started. He added the time limit was contingent upon a rapid execution of the lease agreement. Mitchell also updated the group on the abandoned houses at the Perkins subdivision. He said he is waiting to hear back from the Bank of Ozark because the City has incurred some expense in maintaining those abandoned houses. The bank was going to quitclaim those houses over to the City and we are still waiting to hear back from them.

10. Department Head's Report- John Reynolds told the group John Hunkele will here sometime this week to look at Chaparral. Peter Schultz told the group Steve McMillian with Berrien Peanut has inquired about getting gas supplied to his facility. Peter said he is investigating his request. The group has some discussion over the matter. Chief Edwards told the group about the winter storm warning for January 28th for Berrien County that was put out through the National Weather Service.

Paul Stagner presented the contract for maintenance of highways. This is the contract DOT approached the City about taking over. The City presently has 7.62 miles of State highways and DOT will pay the City \$3500.00 per month to maintain these roads. Mayor Harper asked Paul if Dogwood was included as a State route. Paul said no, Dogwood is no longer included as a State route. Mayor Harper said he understood that Dogwood was considered as one of the alternative State routes. Paul said he has no knowledge of it being made a State alternative but will check into it. Alderman Stalnaker asked Paul if he knows how much time and man power it will take to run the complete route. Paul said they are looking at using some inmate labor and one part time employee three days a week. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to enter into the DOT Maintenance contract. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Alderman Carter asked Paul about the mobile homes that were to be torn down. Paul said the owner has a roll of on the property and is in the process of tearing them down. Alderman Carter asked Paul how long it will take him to complete the clearing. Paul said he will give him a reasonable amount of time to clear all the mobile homes. Alderman Carter also asked how much longer before Beetree Park is completed. Paul said to his knowledge several factors came into play to cause the delay, the contractor working on Beetree Park was pulled off in order to complete another City project and during that time he broke his foot which delayed the Beetree Park project. Then another problem was the concrete which was not poured due to the cold weather. Alderman Carter asked Paul to look into when the Beetree Park project will be completed. Alderwoman Watson told the group she was asked by a few people to invite the Council to a Banquet on February 8th for a man who died while building the gym at the Penfield Christian home. Also, the Bridge Church is now helping thirty six kids with their "backpacks for kids on Friday's". They are asking anyone who wants to donate to this cause to contact the Bridge Church.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Gaither made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00p.m. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Walter Steward

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk