

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
FEBRUARY 13, 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, Billy Retterbush, Antonio Carter, Michael Richbourg, Dick Perryman, and Scott Stalnaker.

STAFF PRESENT: Tina Ward, Mandy Luke, Henry Yawn, Major Edwards, Tommy Davis, Dawn Morrison, and City Attorney, Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randall Milton, Frank Watts, John Black, Allen Davis, John Hunkele, Cheryl Bonham, Sgt John Blake, Dale Harper, Marvin Barker, Donna Bell, Debbie Browning, and Keith Pitts.

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

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper wanted to move item number four, Relay for Life, to item number one. Also add as item number seven, Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security Mutual Aid Agreement, and as item number eight, Travel Policy for the Council and City Employee's. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Retterbush and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Relay for Life- During the last meeting the Council discussed closing the roads around the square for the Relay for Life walk. DOT approved the request to

close the three State highways and reroute traffic for the event, but Council had some concerns about safety and liability. We also had some concerns about closing the State highways; due to the fact our side roads were not built to endure big truck traffic. One of the ideas for traffic control during the walk is to barricade one lane around the square and keep one lane open for traffic to be escorted through. To elaborate, we could close both lanes on the East and the South side of the square and close one lane on the West and North side of the square. We also wanted look into cutting down on the local traffic and allow only the commercial traffic to go through. This would keep those State highways open and cut down on the amount of officers needed for traffic control during the event. Sgt John Blake volunteered to conduct an independent study of the amount of Semi-Trailers passing through the square on the three State highways on Friday February 3rd and 4th at 6:00pm until 9:00pm. The study presented to Council shows twelve tractor trailer trucks traveled through the downtown on February 3rd and nine traveled through on February 9th. Most of the tractor trailer trucks traveled North on 129. Sgt Blake told the group the American Cancer Society has said if all the roads around the City Square cannot be totally shut down for the walk, the Relay for Life event will not be held around the square. The Police department did their own survey from 6:00pm on Friday through 6:00am Saturday, and the average amount of big trucks passing through was twenty five. Major Edwards pointed out the original request that was sent to Van Mason at the DOT was to close down the streets around the square and reroute traffic during the event. Per the telephone conversation Major Edwards had with Van Mason, if the Council wishes to do anything different than the original request then they will have to resubmit the request to him at DOT. Alderman Perryman stated the Commercial trucks are supposed to have some kind of radio devise that informs them when and where a State route is closed. Sgt Blake told the group each Semi is now equipped with a devise that puts out alerts on closures and reroutes. The drivers also have (511) and DOT has a website which road closures and reroutes are posted. Major Edwards told the group that Mr. Mason advised that any change in the original request including the truckers alert will have to be resubmitted to DOT for approval. The group discussed the original plan to reroute the trucks and the number of policemen and volunteers to help with the rerouting plan. All agreed the amount of officers and volunteers will be sufficient for helping these trucks to travel safely around each of the detours. Mayor Harper wanted to compromise with the American Cancer Society about closing the state routes and rerouting traffic. Debbie Browning told him there is no compromise, per the American Cancer Society, if we can't close all of the roads around the square then the walk will not take place downtown. Mayor Harper was still concerned about the roads and turns the big trucks will have to make and wanted to move the traffic further out from the square if it is Council's wish to go

with the original approved plan. Alderman Stalnaker added when the map to move the traffic further out from the square is resubmitted to DOT please include the “trucker alert”. Alderman Perryman made the motion to close down the streets around the square and resubmit the plans to move traffic further out from the square along with the “truckers alert” to DOT. In addition if the new plan is not approved by DOT, then the motion will be to proceed with the original approved plan. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. 2nd Reading of the GMEBS Retirement Plan Restatement- Mayor Harper told the group one of the requirements for the GMEBS Retirement Plan Restatement was to appoint a pension committee before submittal. The plan defaults back to Mayor and Council when a committee is not formed so Council needs to adopt the Ordinance so it can be submitted to GMA. Mitchell Moore added, per Gwen at GMA, during 2007 when the original plan was submitted, the positions for the pension committee were never filled, and according to this agreement, unless otherwise specified in the adoption agreement, the Pension Committee shall be composed of the following: City Clerk, City Manager, three Council Members, and two Employee Representatives. Mitchell told the group that Tina Ward; the City Clerk has informed me that she alone is the Committee. When she was employed with the City of Nashville the position of Pension Committee Secretary was bestowed upon her as one of her job duties. GMA recommended the Pension Committee positions be filled. Mitchell advised the Ordinance can be adopted now and a committee can be appointed later if Council chooses. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the GMEBS Retirement Plan Restatement and appoint a Pension Committee. Alderman Richbourg volunteered to serve on the Committee. Mayor Harper appointed Henry Yawn, the City’s Code Enforcer and Brandon Rice, the City’s Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor as the two Employee Representatives. Alderman Stalnaker asked how many members of Council is needed for the Committee. Alderman Richbourg replied three, so he suggested himself, Alderman Carter, and Alderman/Mayor Pro Tem Stalnaker to serve as the three Council Members. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Resolution to apply for DNR grant for the City Parks- Dawn Morrison told the group this Resolution from the Department of Natural Resources is to apply for funds for the City Park (Beetree Park). This is a \$25,000.00 grant and requires a \$25,000.00 match, however part of that match can be the labor for putting the playground equipment together; building a shelter inside the park, and the labor it will take to do the landscaping for the park. With the time and work

from our guys on the project we can show \$15,000.00 in-kind and the City will only need to show the \$10,000.00 cash for the match. Dawn added this is a reimbursement Grant and we must spend at least \$10,000.00 in cash in order to get the \$25,000.00 reimbursement. Mandy said the funds can be taken from SPLOST. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the Resolution from DNR to apply for the grant. Alderman Perryman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously

4. Resolution for USDA grant for the Pedestrian Walkway (Hogan Project) -

Dawn Morrison told the group this Resolution is to apply for the USDA Rural Business Enterprise grant for the new Pedestrian Walkway (Hogan Project). The purpose of this Resolution is so that we can pursue available funds from the Federal Government for the Pedestrian Walkway. Money from this grant will purchase the necessary items to make the walkway pretty. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to approve the Resolution. Alderman Carter seconded the motion. Alderman Perryman and Alderman Richbourg abstained from the vote. The motion passed four to two.

5. 1st Reading of the Grease Trap Ordinance- Mitchell Moore told the group he found several typographical errors and several changes in the draft of the Ordinance presented. This can constitute as the first reading, he will make the necessary changes and present the document at the next meeting.

6. Raise the Water and Gas Deposits for New Businesses- Mandy Luke told the group the City has the same set amount for deposits on residential and businesses \$100.00 for water, and \$100.00 for gas. We have encountered several businesses going out of business and they leave behind a past due water bill or past due water and gas bill. Mandy asked the department heads to investigate other towns and find out what their rates are for new businesses and how they were able to set the deposit amounts for each. Most towns use a formula in order to estimate the amount of water and gas new businesses may use, and base the deposit amounts for each on the amount of usage. Council needs to make a motion allowing Mandy to develop a formula for deposits on new businesses. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to all Mandy to come up with a formula for deposits for new businesses. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Richbourg asked Mandy to let them know what formula will work best.

7. Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement- Mayor Harper told the group the Georgia Emergency Management Agency-Homeland Security renewal agreement

was sent in today. This purpose of this agreement is to provide for mutual assistance between the Participating Parties in managing any emergency or disaster that is duly declared by the governing authority of any political subdivision that is a Participating Party, whether arising from natural disaster, technological hazard, human caused disaster, civil emergency aspects of resource shortages, community disorders, insurgency, enemy attack, acts of terrorism, other significant events or a national security activity. Alderman Gaither made the motion to renew the agreement. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Employee's Travel Expenses- Alderman Richbourg wanted to discuss the City's travel expenses for training and other City related functions. The amount spent on some of these trips needs to be limited. The annual GMA Convention for continuing education is coming up, and due to the amount spent on other travel related functions the number of people who can attend this function has been reduced to two. Alderman Richbourg purposed that the Council and employees limit the amount of travel to "mandatory functions" only.

REPORTS

4. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke informed the group registration for the 2012 Annual GMA Convention is set for March 6th at 9:00 am. Pamphlets were passed out to each of the Council before the meeting, so we need to know who is going to attend this year's convention as soon as possible, so reservations can be made. Mandy also reminded the Council the importance of their presents at the County's Public Hearing set for tomorrow night at 6:00 pm. They will be discussing the road closing request and it will involve the City's new gas line.

5. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore told the group the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Nashville and the Down Town Development Authority was passed 3 to 2 at the last meeting, with the understanding the City may one day move into that building. Alderman Retterbush added some of the concerns DDA had was if the City was going to move to the building and what would happen to the Downtown Center when that happens. The City had to have this Memorandum of Understanding before any options could be explored. Mitchell also wanted to point out that DDA has spent close to \$100,000.00 on the Downtown Center renovations some of the funds came from different grants and some of the money came from private individuals. Dawn Morrison Pointed out the importance of the "new business incubator" within the Downtown Center. She said

two new businesses have come from the Center's business incubator and are now thriving new businesses.

Mitchell told the group he is working on getting some land owners to sign release forms. He also has to report to some insurers on some pending claims and once complete he will report back to Council. Mitchell also reported he heard from Statewide Engineers for the 2011 CDBG grant he reported, it is in the design phase.

6. Department Head's Report- None

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Mayor Harper wanted to inform the group he spoke with Chris Poje with G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers who is working on the CDBG grant for radio read meters. Mr. Poje informed me that there is some more grant money out there for drinking wells. The City has two dinking wells and is in need of a third according to John Reynolds. Mr. Poje was unsure of how much is offered or if a match is needed but the City could apply. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to move forward on the application for a grant for a new drinking well. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Frank Watts asked the Council if the City was going to hold the annual clean-up this year. Council informed Mr. Watts the clean-up will not take place in the City this year. Mr. Watts said someone needs to inform the public again, because a lot of people are putting out old furniture and appliances for the annual pick-up. Alderman Retterbush complemented Dawn Morrison and DDA.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm. 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