

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
MARCH 26, 2012
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, Scott Stalnaker, Michael Richbourg, Billy Retterbush, Antonio Carter, Dick Perryman, and Mayor Travis Harper.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Randall Milton, John Black, Bobby Roberts, Mike Hand, Keith Stone, Mr. Miles, Chris Poje, and Margie Tygart.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Alderman Perryman 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 asked the group to strike item number one, the Grease Trap Ordinance, this item will be postponed until the next meeting. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the change. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Cemetery Lawn Care Services- Mandy told the group at the last Council meeting we opened up the three bids for the Cemetery Lawn Care. Each bidder was missing something from their packet. Randy Lane called the lowest bidder

and requested that he bring in the missing item from the packet. Mandy informed the group that the City's Custodian along with some of the prisoners and probationers mowed all the cemeteries last week and they did an excellent job. We also wanted to throughout another option to the Council before they make a final decision. Will the Council consider allowing the Custodian, along with some of the prisoners and probationers, to continue mowing the Cemeteries? Mandy said her fear is that the prison labor or probationers will not be sufficient in the future, and that the Custodian would not be able to handle this job on top of what she is presently doing. The Council had some discussion about the possibility of allowing the City's Custodian continue mowing the cemeteries. Mitchell Moore said he will look into the liability issue but he thinks the prisoners are covered, although he is unsure about the probationers. Randy Lane suggested the Council allow the lowest bidder the six month contract so the City will have time to investigate these issues. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to enter into a six month contract with the lowest bidder which is Garner Lawn Care beginning April 1, 2012. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Open a Checking account for the GOHS SAI Grant for the Police

Department- Mandy Luke told the City of Nashville's Police department needs the Council's approval to reopen a noninterest bearing checking account for a new grant. This grant will pay for new recording devices in the department and there is no match. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to open the checking account for the Police department. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Phone and Internet Services for the Search and Rescue building-

Mike Hand from the County Search and Rescue unit asked the Council to reconsider disconnecting the phone and internet services to their building. Due to the budget cuts in the County the Search and Rescue unit is unable to pay this expense. Mayor Harper asked how often the unit visits the building. Mike said someone is in that building every week. They use the phone and internet to monitor bad weather, and training which benefits the City and the County because we train everyone, how to take care of themselves and their neighbors in the case of an emergency. Mayor Harper asked Mandy how much these services are each year. Mandy said the costs for these services are around \$1,000.00 annually. Alderman Retterbush asked Mike Hand if the County could help with this cost. Mike Hand said the budget of \$8,000.00 for this department does not allow for the phone and internet charges. It was never included, because the City has always taken care of that portion. Alderman Richbourg asked Mike Hand if some of the other municipalities will help cover the cost of this expense since the program benefits their Cities.

Mike told the group he will go to the other Cities and ask for help with this expense. Alderman Perryman added if the other Cities can come up with \$100.00 each then the City of Nashville will come up with \$700.00. Mike Hand said if not then he will put up the other three hundred. Alderman Perryman made a motion to fully fund the Telephone and internet expense for the Search and Rescue building. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

4. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke asked for the Council's approval on an Attorney bill that is over her limit of approval by \$1,600.00. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve and pay the Attorney bill. Alderman Perryman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mandy said she is waiting to hear back from Rhonda from Veolia in reference to the yard trash. She also updated the group on the search for financing the building for the Police department. GMA's reply was they would finance for 15 years at 3.5 to 4% interest, but the closing cost would be \$20,000.00. They suggested we try financing with our local banks. Randy called the local banks and one bank quoted a 5.5% interest rate and closing cost would be around \$1,000.00. One bank said they will not benefit from a tax free loan, and one of the banks has not responded to our request. The group discussed and compared the two quotes and the difference in the paybacks for the loan amount. Council suggested that Mandy try to get the local bank to reduce the interest rate. Alderman Retterbush suggested they shop around banks in Valdosta before making a decision. Randy Lane told Alderman Retterbush that the reason we asked the local banks is to try and keep the City's business local. Alderman Retterbush wanted to go on the record and say he also wants to keep the City's business local.

5. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore told the group he is working on the CDBG for the lift station at the Airport subdivision. He asked Statewide Engineering to sketch out how much of the property is needed for the lift station. Mitchell also spoke with the owner of the property and he has asked that the City let him know how much of the property is needed and make him an offer. On the original plat a park area was designated in the far East side of the subdivision, so the owner of the property asked that the Council consider putting in a park or see if there is any grants out there for a park in that area. Mitchell told the group during the removal of the beavers they discovered other areas that needed the beavers removed, and we have all the signatures accept for one on the necessary forms which allows permission for us to be on their property. John Reynolds is working on getting that form signed. Mitchell also asked the Council for some guidance on

closing an ally. The alley is located on the Northeast corner of the Square. He said the property owner on each side of this alley has contacted him to request that the ally be closed. If the City is so inclined to abandon this property then it becomes a part of the adjoining land owner's property. John Reynolds told Mitchell and the Council the alley cannot be closed because it contains utilities, water, sewer, and gas. Mitchell said so if the City was so inclined to quick claim the alley over to the property owners then they could not build over the alleyway and would have to sign over an easement to the City so that we could gain access to the utilities. Mitchell told the Council they are still working on the Georgia Power line modification. He also updated the group on TTL. He said TTL made a recommendation and they still have not heard anything back from EPD. Does the Council want TTL to contact EPD or wait? Council said we can wait. Mitchell asked Dawn Morrison if the Tree Board members were approved by Council. Dawn Morrison said not yet. Dawn pick a few people who she thought would be interested in serving on the Tree board. She wanted to point out this board only meets once a year on Arbor Day. The two ladies' that were asked to serve on the Tree Board were Margie Tygart and Marge Morris. These two lady's do not live within the City's limits and the Ordinance states the board members must reside within the City limits so the Ordinance may need to be tweaked.

6. Department Head's Report- Buck Warren the City Fire Chief said he serves on the Board of directors for the 911 and Lamar the 911 center director told us of his concerns of moving the 911 center to Crisp County. No figures have been presented yet but when or if this move is presented the 911 Board wanted the Council to be aware and help keep the 911 center here in Berrien County. Alderman Stalnaker told the group the center is used for more than just answering emergency calls they also dispatch for the Police office's, the Sheriff office, Ambulance Service, and Fire department, not to mention the Courts use them to pull criminal histories on a daily bases. Chief Warren asked the Council to write a letter to the Commissioners stating they don't want the 911 center to move. Mayor Harper said he will make sure a letter is constructed and he will sign it on behalf of the City Council.

Dawn Morrison wanted to answer some questions and concerns the Council had during a work session conducted in January. She first wanted to start by saying she available anytime if the Council has any questions all they have to do is call. She told the group she was unable to attend the work session in January, so she asked Krissy Staley from the Chamber to attend the meeting to answer any questions the Council had about holding the Relay for Life walk downtown. During this meeting the Council had some concerns about Better Hometown's

finances, and compared the finances with the Chamber's finances. The Chamber's budget does not compare to Better Hometowns budget. The Chamber receives \$45,000.00 per year and \$100.00 from each of their two hundred and twenty five members each year. The Chamber can afford to purchase their supplies, postage because they have the funds. Better Hometown purchases some of their supplies and uses a very small amount of the City Halls office supplies. The Chamber gets the credit for all their grants they receive and only the Chamber gets the credit. Better Hometown gives the credit for grants to the City of Nashville/Better Hometown. Alderman Richbourg asked Dawn if Better Hometown needs more money to purchase the supplies needed. Dawn said no the only supplies she gets from the City are paper and postage and thanks to the internet both of these have been cut tremendously. This year Better Hometown and the City have received a grant for the downtown for \$162,000.00 which is five times my salary. Better Hometown also applied for another \$100,000.00 grant, and if it is received this will equal eight times her salary. So what the City pays her they get back five times over in grant money. Dawn told the group she works more than twenty hours a week and in order to make everything simple she would like to one day become a full time employee of the City. The group had some more discussion about the differences between Better Hometown and the Chamber. They also discussed the possibility of letting Dawn become a fulltime employee and hire someone else to be the part time, Better Hometown director. They also discussed how to oversee the money given to the Better Hometown since it is an under the City's umbrella.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Margie Tygart told the story of how Better Hometown began and stated Dawn and Krissy do a wonderful job.

Bobbie Roberts had a complaint for Chief Clayton. She had called the 911 service late last Saturday night to complain about her very noisy neighbors. She called the 911 service several times, and the noise would stop for no more than a few minutes or long enough for the officer to pass by and not hear the party. This process continued throughout the night. Chief Clayton told her he will look into it.

Randy Lane reminded the group about the Wiregrass grand opening on Tuesday at 9:00am.

Alderman Retterbush complemented all the City employees that helped work on the new parking lot.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. Alderman Retterbush 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