

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JULY 28, 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, Aldermen Antonio Carter, Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Billy Retterbush, Walter Steward, Alderwoman Mellisa Watson, and Mayor Travis Harper.

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Tina Ward, Randy Lane, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, LT Ronald Knowles and Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Allen Davis, Brian Shaw, Gayle Bailey, Mr. and Mrs. Skeeter Parker and Brenda Thomas.

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS- Alderman Retterbush made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper asked the Council to strike item number five from the formal agenda and add City Park Ordinance. Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the changes and the addition. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Resolution adopting the July 14th Executive Session-** Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the Resolution for the July 14th Executive Session. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
2. **Adoption of the FY 2015 Budget-** Mandy Luke stated there are a few unanswered questions about the Budget. It was made available for the public review on July 9th through July 16th. The Public Hearing was held on July 17th at 5:30 pm. The Council needs to decide which of the three options for employee raises they will choose. Two other areas need to be covered tonight before the Council adopts the budget as well. In the Police department the promotion of an officer to Sargent and adding an additional Police Officer. Also, the Fire Chief has requested the City pay for the Fireman's pension. Alderwoman Watson made the motion to go with the 6% raises based on performance evaluations. Alderman Carter seconded the motion. Alderman Stalnaker added that motion be to go with the 6% and possible 9% contingent on the LOST. Alderwoman Watson agreed with the addition to the motion. The motion passed five to one with Alderman Gaither voting against on the motion. Alderman Stalnaker made a motion to go forward with the promotion of a police officer to Sargent and adding an additional police officer to the department. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Stalnaker explained to the group what the Fire pension fund is and how it is used to keep certified fireman employed with the fire department. The total amount needed each year to pay the fire pension is \$6,000.00. Mandy recommended the Council approve the payment of the fire pension fund. Alderman Stalnaker made the

motion to pay the yearly amount for the fire pension. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Stalnaker stated for the record he is retired from the fire department and will not benefit from this decision. Mandy asked the group to also adopt the SPLOST budget along with the FY2015 Budget. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to adopt the FY2015 Budget Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **Cemetery Mowers-** Alderman Stalnaker told the group the cemetery mowers motor are in need of repairs. The cost to fix the mowers would cost \$1,600.00. To replace the motor in both the cost would be around \$2,600.00 to \$4,600.00. He told the group that he ask Peter Schultz to get some bids on new mowers since these are always in need of repair. Peter got three bids the first from Kubota (Nashville Tractor) for \$11,000.00, Gravely (Powerhouse Outdoor Valdosta) for \$12,959.20, and Exmark (Powerhouse Outdoor Valdosta) for \$13,599.20. The Council discussed this matter further. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to purchase two new mowers from Nashville Tractor for \$11,000.00. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
4. **Pipeline Safety Classes-** Peter Schultz told the group he attended GMA training session a few weeks ago and the Georgia Fire Marshall along with (PHMSA) created a course of training through Georgia Pipeline Emergency Responders Initiative which was created by a coalition of Georgia Pipeline Operators, Pipeline Safety Regulators and Emergency Responders. The initiative will significantly improve the ability of Georgia emergency responders to manage pipeline emergencies through improved training, cooperation and communication with pipeline operators. GPERI is endorsed and supported by representatives from the pipeline industry, regulatory agencies, local governments and emergency responder organization. It is a very powerful tool in enhancing public awareness program under API RP 1162. They are asking for a three year commitment on the training which will cost \$825.00. They will send someone to train one person from the fire department who will do the training. This person will train the rest of the fire department. Alderwoman Watson made the motion to allow the training. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.
5. **City Park Ordinance-** Lieutenant Ronald Knowles and Randy Lane presented a request from Chief Edwards on the City Park Ordinance. There currently is no provision restricting the hours of general public presence in any given City Park. Therefore the City and its police department have no legal instrument to prevent loitering in the parks during the hours of darkness; the time when historically the majority of park damage and other illegal activity takes place. The request is to make the following additions to the City Ordinance chapter 19 under parks and recreation: Sec. 19-8 Loitering: The public parks shall be open to the public daily from sunrise to sunset. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons other than City personnel conducting City business therein to occupy or be present in such parks during any other hours except as provided in Sec. 19-2. Any section or part of a park, or an entire park, may be declared closed to the public by the director of public works or designee at any time and for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regular or stated intervals. Chief Edwards also suggested a fine/bond schedule be amended to add a base fine of \$50.00 with the add-on the total would be \$75.00 for the first offense, \$110.00 for the second offense with the add-on the total would be \$150.00, and \$250.00 for the third offense and with the add-on the total would be \$325.00. After some discussion Alderman Retterbush made the motion to move forward with the changes and adoption of the Ordinance. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mitchell told the group this will constitute the first reading of the Ordinance.

REPORTS

6. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report-** Mandy Luke handed the Council a hand out on the City's bank balances.

7. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore presented the Council with a Resolution selecting and awarding Watkins & Associates as the project engineer for the gas line extension from Nashville to Alapaha to be funded by EDA Investment. Kimberly Hobbs had indicated the Resolution needs to be adopted so it can be submitted with the EDA grant. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously. Mitchell also told the group he is still receiving information from the County. We are still waiting on the three analysis promised by the County. Once received they will be sent to our experts. Mitchell said he will keep Council apprised.

8. Department Head's- Randy Lane told the group that Dawn Morrison has a private individual interested in renting the Down Town Center. The individual has offered to pay \$300.00 a month in rent. They will also cover the utilities and the power bill for the center. Dawn has asked that the Council grant this because the Down Town Center is barely breaking even right now and would really like the Council's blessing on this request before she presents it to DDA. Alderman Retterbush asked Mitchell Moore if he could present this to DDA and make sure we have a clear lease. Alderman Stalnaker made a motion move forward with the request subject to DDA approval. Alderman Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Skeeter Parker asked the Council about the status on to property located on Azalea Way. Mayor Harper said that Paul Stagner who is not present was handling the complaint. Randy Lane said Paul told him that the bank has the property under foreclosure but will not discuss the matter with him. He also stated that they have not been able to get in touch with the owner of the property. Alderman Stalnaker suggested they allow Paul Stagner get a certified letter from the court to notify and proceed. Skeeter Parker also thanked the group for putting the Fire pension in this year's budget. Alderman Retterbush thanked the Historic Preservation Commission and all that they do for the City.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Stalnaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40p.m. Alderman Gaither 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 Walter Steward

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk