

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JULY 30, 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, Antonio Carter, Michael Richbourg, Scott Stalnaker, and Mayor Travis Harper.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Cathy Helms, Randall Milton, and Walt Stewart.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, WORK SESSIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Mitchell Moore wanted to correct and spelling error on the July 18th Work Session. The word “commit” four lines up from the bottom should be “comment”. Alderman Carter made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meetings with the correction. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper asked the group to swap item number three with item number one. Alderman Richbourg 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. Announcement from Cathy Helms- Cathy Helms announced her candidacy for District Attorney in the upcoming election. She gave the group a brief synopsis on her last eight years in which she served as the District Attorney for the Alapaha Judicial Circuit. She told the group for the last eight years we have made significant progress in fighting criminal activity in Atkinson, Berrien, Clinch, Cook and Lanier Counties. She told the group about her experience and record. Mrs. Helms ask the group for their support and vote in the Republican Primary.

2. Urban Redevelopment Plan- Crissy Staley from Berrien County Chamber of Commerce handed the group a packet on the Commercial Urban Redevelopment Plan. (See attached). The main goal for the plan is to establish designated Urban Redevelopment areas within the incorporated boundaries. Crissy pointed out the map on page 23 of the handout. The tan areas marked on the map are the proposed Urban Redevelopment Areas. These areas are Davis Street, Industrial Park, and the downtown area. Crissy pointed out the City is focusing on residential and commercial property with the designated proposed areas. On page 15 of the handout, the City has the ability to wave property taxes in an Enterprise Zone. Enterprise Zones will enable the community to capitalize on potential incentives for businesses locating or expanding within these areas. With an Enterprise Zone designation, the City of Nashville is allowed to waive or reduce local regulatory fees within the Enterprise Zone area, such as occupation taxes, license fees, and building inspection and/or permitting fees for qualifying businesses. Crissy suggested the downtown area be designated as the Enterprise Zone area which will be a small area in which to extend these incentives for businesses locating or expanding within these areas. The next step for the City is to apply for the Opportunity Zone designation with the Department of Community Affairs. The City of Nashville will also create an incentive package for prospective new businesses. Basically, this would be in the form of a printed brochure detailing the incentives available to new businesses that locate within the Urban Redevelopment Area, Enterprise Zone, and Opportunity Zone. Finally the City Council will evaluate local codes to determine if any revisions or new codes are necessary in order to assist or benefit redevelopment efforts. After completion of Phase I activities, the Nashville City and County acting as the Urban Redevelopment Council should focus on preparing a list of properties that are to be redeveloped. The targeted properties will encompass empty, unknown lots, or lots containing vacant or dilapidated structures, and are those identified as adversely affecting the tax base and being uninhabitable, unsafe, and unworthy of rehabilitation. Alderman Richbourg suggested the Council designated the Enterprise Zone tonight.

Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve a Public Hearing and to designate the Enterprise Zone as the downtown area. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Harper told the group the Public Hearing will be set for August 13th, 2012 at 5:30p.m.

3. Resolution approving Executive Session- Mitchell Moore told the group according to the new law on Open meetings the Council must adopt a Resolution on the Executive Session which is to be filed with the official minutes and the affidavit. Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the Resolution on the Executive Session. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Adoption of the FY 2013 Budget- Mandy Luke went over a few of the changes in the proposed budget (see attached). On the front page under the General fund the amount is \$2,927,395.00 and should read \$2,937,195.00. She said we had a 5% increase in our health insurance which was not included in the budget. There was no pay increase for any employee except the ones on probation and the few who have been promoted. Also included are the full salaries for Council. This was the percentage Council chose to forfeit a few years ago in order to help the City save money. The other big change in the general fund is combining the funds from Better Hometown and Economical Development. Mandy also pointed out the contingency fund is very small compared to the previous year and that we have no clue as to what will happen with the LOST negotiations. Once the decision is made on LOST we will need to amend the budget to reflect the change. The only other change is in the Water and Sewer fund. We were told today the new treatment plant is suppose to go on line three months early but this budget includes six more months of depreciation on that property and its structure, as well as six months of estimated operating cost. Council needs to adopt the Resolution for the FY 2013 budget. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the Resolution for the FY 2013 Budget. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

5. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke handed the group a summary copy of last year's audit report. Mayor Harper pointed out the \$300,000.00 increase in fund balances and said that is an example of good money management. He thanked the Mandy and the department heads for their money management and making sure the City stays within budget.

6. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell told the group he has heard from TTL and EPD has granted a "No further action" on the wells. He said to close out the project the cost will be less than \$6,000.00. TTL will close the well and issue the closure report before the 31st of August. Mitchell also updated the group on the 2011 CDBG phase two of the lift station at the airport. He informed the group that he just got the acquisition packages last week. The owner had some questions about how long a temporary consent easement would be in place but in talking to the Engineer we have some time and since the owner has come to terms we can get the paperwork signed and move forward. Although this is phase two the Engineer wants to acquire that property before they start work on phase one.

7. Department Head's Report- John Reynolds was asked by Mr. Giddens if the Council was going to help with the cost to rerun a new sewer line on his property located on Peoples Street. The new line needs to be run from his house to the neighbors. Mayor Harper asked John if this is the fault of the City. John said no the City had nothing to do with this problem Mr. Giddens is having with his sewer line. Council agreed that the problem is Mr. Giddens and the City cannot work on private property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Mitchell asked about the Cemetery Contract. Mayor Harper told the group once this last contract is up we should go back to the old contract which states the cemeteries should be cut on a two week rotation. Mayor Harper said this should solve some of the problems as to when the grass gets cut. Mitchell suggested the group think about raising the price per lot because compared to other prices we are the cheapest.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 pm. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Michael Richbourg

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk