

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
AUGUST 25, 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, Randy Lane, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Paul Stagner Chief Edwards and Mitchell Moore.

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- Need to add an executive session. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the addition. Alderwoman Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Affidavit & Resolution for the July 21, 2014 Executive Session** – Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to adopt and approve the affidavit and resolution for the July 21, 2014 executive session. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
2. **Affidavit & Resolution for the August 11, 2014 Executive Session** – Alderman Retterbush made the motion to adopt and approve the affidavit and resolution for the August 11, 2014 executive session. Alderwoman Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Ratify the Approved Training for Alderman Carter** – The City Manager polled the city council on Wednesday, August 13, 2014 concerning the request of Alderman Carter wanting to attend training in Valdosta, Georgia on August 22nd and August 23rd. Everyone

agreed to the training except didn't get a response from Alderman Steward. This needs to be ratified in an open meeting. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to ratify the training for Alderman Carter. Alderwoman Carter seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Okefenokee Occasion** – Mayor Harper explained to the city council that we have been participating in this event for years and we received an invoice for the 2015 Okefenokee Occasion that is due on October 15, 2014. In the past our portion has been \$900 with the other cities paying \$300 a piece for this event. The \$1,500 allows us to have 10 participants attend the event. The Chamber/Economic Development Authority will be supplying the gift that we usually take up there to hand out. Alderman Retterbush said he would like to comment that this amount is not the only amount spent for the event. You also will have mileage, per diem for meals, and also the hotel rooms for the people attending. He has asked the City Manager for a figure from last year and she said it was around \$2,000 to \$2,500 total to attend the event. It is based on how many attend from the City of Nashville. Alderman Retterbush stated that he didn't think the city should spend this money socializing when we have plenty of representation from Mrs. Penny Houston. Alderman Stalnaker voiced his opinion for the city to participate in this event. He thought it was well worth the money to participate. Alderman Gaither voiced his opinion against attending this event. He stated that we need to be more conservative. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve to pay this invoice and participate in the event. Alderman Carter seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken. Alderwoman Carter – yes, Alderman Retterbush – no, Alderman Carter – yes, Alderman Gaither – no, Alderman Stalnaker – yes. Motion passes three to two. Alderman Steward had not yet arrived at the meeting.

REPORTS

5. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report**- No report.
6. **City Attorney's Report** – City Attorney report will be given during the executive session.
7. **Department Head's** – Paul Stagner asked the City Council permission to apply for USDA grant funds to purchase a Ford F-150 truck for himself for the Code Enforcement Department. He stated that the grant would pay for 75% of the cost of the vehicle and the city would only have to pay 25% of the vehicle cost which would be around \$6,000 for a new truck. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion for him to proceed with the USDA grant. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The truck will be purchased locally from Mike Burch Ford because that was the lowest bid received.

Alderman Retterbush asked about the two properties in Meadowbrook and on the Adel Highway that we have been having problems with getting them to be cleaned up. Paul

Stagner stated that the property on Azalea Way has been turned back over to the property owner. Paul has not been able to get in touch with the owner and Bank of America would not give him any information on the owner or the address to mail a letter. Bank of America verbally told him they turned it back over to the owner but wouldn't send him anything in writing stating that. Tax office shows that the Bank of America is still the lien holder of the property. Bank of America now says that they do not have the property on the Adel Highway. Mitchell Moore stated that he will do a limited title search and asked Paul to give him the information. Mayor Harper stated that he knows the owner of the property in Meadowbrook and he will try to get in touch with him. Paul Stagner discussed the steps to go through in order to take over the property. Alderman Gaither made a motion to go ahead and cut the lawn and shrubs in front at both properties. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Assistant City Manager, Randy Lane, stated that we have two vehicles that are in really bad shape and needs to be replaced. The one that Brandon Rice drives which is a 1997 year model and also the one that Jody Kelley drives. He has received two bids for brand new vehicles to replace these two. The bids received for a F250 4X2 V8 with work body for the Water/Sewer Department are from Mike Burch Ford - \$24,090.00, Allan Vigil Ford in Morrow - \$24,129.00, and Speedway Ford in Griffin - \$24,047.69. The bids received for the Animal Control Department for a Ford F-150 4X2 V6 basic work body are from Mike Burch Ford - \$17,188.00, Allan Vigil Ford in Morrow - \$16,036, and Speedway Ford in Griffin - \$17,956.69. The two together would be about \$41,278 if we went with the local dealer which is Mike Burch Ford and it will take six to eight weeks to get the vehicles. Alderman Carter made a motion to go with the bids from the local business which is Mike Burch Ford. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cindy Watson asked about the sign she has on the vacant property across from Rite Aid. She wanted to know why is it that she can't have it there now after it has been there for a long time. Mayor Harper and Alderman Stalnaker stated their opinions about they didn't see what was wrong with the sign and they thought it was grandfathered in when the ordinances were passed. Alderman Retterbush spoke stating that we are just trying to make our downtown look nice and we were not trying to harass the local businesses. Bryan Shaw spoke about the situation and what he has faced since the ordinances were adopted. Mayor Harper stated that we didn't have any problems until this historical district was adopted. Bryan Shaw said we cannot grandfather an illegal sign. Alderwoman asked about trying to have nicer looking signs but she was met with opposition on this idea also from the historic preservation commission. The sign ordinance was written in 1972. Cindy Watson said she was willing to compromise. Paul Stagner said that the sign was in violation of the municipal code signage, historical preservation commission, and DOT standards. The sign as it is now is a letter board which is in violation. Bryan Shaw said they are required to uphold the ordinance. Alderwoman Watson stated that

Bryan Shaw said that he was not going to be policing the properties. Bryan Shaw stated everything that he has to enforce and abide by and the numerous hours he puts in and letters he writes and he does it on a volunteer basis. Alderwoman Watson stated that she would never be for anything that hurts a business that is just trying to advertise and survive right now. Alderman Carter stated that he would like to have a work session on this matter. Bryan Shaw stated that there is a permit for a temporary sign for an event. It is good for two weeks prior to the event. The sign cannot be a letter board sign. It must be a yard type sign. Bryan Shaw stated that he has worked with the guys for the wrestling sign for this year. Bryan Shaw said they have been trying to work with anyone who calls them. Alderman Gaither stated that we need to work with the businesses. Mayor Harper said that we need to be pro-business. We had no problems before this ordinance. Alderman Retterbush said we are supposed to uphold the city ordinances. Alderwoman Watson asked about altering the city ordinance. Bryan Shaw stated that unless we abide by the ordinance then we are not going to be eligible for historic grants. The boundaries are the same as it has always been for years. It has not changed. Paul Stagner and Bryan Shaw then spoke about the process they go through to send out the two letters and then if no compliance it will then go to Code Enforcement to enforce. If the city does not enforce the ordinance and guidance then the City of Nashville cannot get the Certified Local Government status. Mayor Harper stated to set a work session date of September 3, 2014, at 6:00 to discuss this and the problems with the Blue Swan.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Alderwoman Watson asked about an update on the Chaparral project which is almost ready to bid. Then she asked about the Gas Line project which should go to bid in January. Then she asked about the Taste of the Farm Meat Market. She asked if they are still in compliance with what they stood in front of the city council and stated they were going to do. Alderman Steward said he has received a complaint about the smell coming from their dumpster. Alderwoman Watson and Alderman Retterbush said they would like for someone to check to make sure he is doing what he stood in front of the city council and stated he would do concerning his business.

Alderman Retterbush asked about the re-bid process on Cherry Drive. Randy Lane stated that Peter Shultz is currently waiting on bids. Mayor Harper asked how long the road has been closed down and asked for someone to find out and let him know the date. Mitchell Moore asked if we were going to solicit bids from the previous company. Mitchell Moore stated that there was about \$5,000 worth of work done. He doesn't want to send them \$5,000 if there hasn't been that much work done. They put the value of the services at \$5,000.

Alderman Stalnaker handed out performance evaluations to be completed for the City Manager. Just complete and turn in before you leave.

At 7:05 p.m. a motion was made by Alderman Gaither to go into executive session. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:05 P.M. – 8:05 P.M.

RESUME REGULAR MEETING

At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Alderwoman Watson to come out of executive session. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion. All agreed to the motion.

Alderman Stalnaker stated that Assistant City Manager, Randy Lane, stepped out but he wanted to get everyone's input on changing his hours to full time since we are so shorthanded right now. We have found the money in the budget from an additional officer position that has been in the budget for years that we have not filled. This would cover the difference in his salary going from part-time to full time. Alderman Gaither spoke that he is not for having a full time Assistant City Manager but was in favor of us having a full time City Clerk. City Manager, Mandy Luke, stated that we have to have a City Clerk. Alderman Retterbush also stated that he was against him being changed to full time because we don't know what is going to happen with LOST. Mayor Harper stated that Randy Lane works three days a week but answers calls five days a week. City Manager, Mandy Luke, stated that Randy Lane told her that if LOST didn't come out in our favor where we could afford him full time and we had to start cutting the budget that he would go back to part time or just leave. He stated he would not leave us in a situation like that. He just wants to stay here and help me because we have so many projects going on now and upcoming projects that I just don't have time to devote to them. Alderman Retterbush stated that he thought the ladies up front needed more responsibilities added onto their current work load. Alderman Carter and Alderwoman Watson both stated that they didn't see where we needed a full time Assistant City Manager. Mayor Harper then stated no that he thought we needed a full time City Manager and move Mandy Luke back down to just Financial Director so she can just handle the finances and have someone full time that can go to all the meetings. Current City Manager, Mandy Luke stated that then you will have to pay that person more than me and the General Fund cannot handle that. Mayor Harper then stated that if we could find someone that didn't require that much income and Randy Lane would be that person. Alderman Retterbush stated that he had a lot of respect for Mandy and he thought she has done a great job and he would like to know her opinion of whether or not she would want to step down to be just the Financial Director or not. He said because after all she has done for us and she didn't want to step down then that would be like a slap in the face to her. She has been doing this for years, doing two jobs. Mayor Harper stated that Mandy works forty hours or more here during the week then takes stuff home and works some there too. Mandy Luke stated that she has been doing two jobs for years now and even takes on additional jobs if someone leaves, like for example the City Clerk job. I did it before and I am having to do it now. I'm doing three jobs right now and you never hear me complain about it. Never hear me complain about having to step up and take on something else when no one else will or can. They all agreed that Randy Lane does an excellent job but several just don't see making that position full time right now. Alderman Retterbush and Gaither both said we just agreed to employee raises and they just don't see changing that position to full time right now. Alderman Stalnaker stated that he doesn't want to hurt Mandy that's why he said a full time Assistant City Manager. Randy is willing to help right now and he is experienced why not let him be full time because we found the money then after we find out about LOST or these projects dwindle down then we can re-evaluate. Alderman Retterbush and Gaither both said that their mind was made up and

they didn't want to have a full time Assistant City Manager right now. Alderman Retterbush stated that some of the other employees are just going to have to step up and help Mandy. Mayor Harper stated that she is in charge of the hiring and firing so if she wants to make it a full time position then do it. Alderman Gaither stated that he thought she should consider their feelings about it and Mayor Harper stated that she always does. Mitchell Moore stated that the ladies up front cannot do what Randy does and you can't expect Mandy to do it all. There is not enough hours in the day for her to do that. Alderman Stalnaker stated that in order to be 100% efficient you have to have 100% of the time to dedicate to it and you can't when you are multitasking fifteen different ways. She needs the help so she can be more efficient in her job. Mitchell Moore stated that it takes time to generate work and keep people occupied. Alderman Steward stated that if we keep abusing her then some other city is going to offer her a job and we are going to be sitting here thinking what are we going to do now. Mayor Harper stated that the City of Tifton was looking for a Finance Director and he thought Mandy might go there and could be making more than she is making here doing two jobs. Alderman Gaither stated anyone can be replaced. The comment was made that you couldn't find anyone to do the two jobs and pay them what she is making now. Alderwoman Watson then stated to Mandy that she knows what she needs and if she needs him full time then make him full time. Alderman Stalnaker stated but he wants her to feel like she has the blessing of the council. Alderman Retterbush stated that it is nothing against Randy it is just about the money right now.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Stalnaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Alderman Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Walter Steward

ATTEST:

Brenda Swain, Deputy Clerk