

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
AUGUST 27, 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, Billy Retterbush, Michael Richbourg, Scott Stalnaker, and Mayor Travis Harper.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Mellisa Watson, John Black, Brenda Thomas, Randal Milton, Margie Tygart, and Pearleen Daniels.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES, WORK SESSION AND PUBLIC HEARING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meetings. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper asked the group to remove the swearing in of the new elected official. Due to an illness in Mellisa Watson family she wanted to wait until the next meeting to be sworn in. Mayor Harper wanted to add a couple of items to the formal Agenda. Item number four, USDA Farmers Market bid opening, and item number five; Change over the Better Hometown employee to City employee. Mitchell Moore wanted to add a brief Executive Session and take off item three from the formal agenda. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2nd Reading of the Ordinance for the Urban Redevelopment Plan- An Ordinance Providing for, Defining, Establishing, Describing, Designating and adopting the City of Nashville Commercial Enterprise Zone Area. Mitchell Moore informed the group the only other thing other thing still open as far as the Resolution which was adopted in 2009 and modified in 2010 is the map which is color coded and much more defined. They had hoped to attach this to the Ordinance, but what we can do is attach this to a Resolution for Redevelopment Zoning and attach the map as exhibit "A". He said this will constitute the second reading of this Ordinance and once adopted it will be published in the local paper. Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the Ordinance for the Urban Redevelopment Plan. The motion was seconded by Alderman Retterbush and the motion carried unanimously.

2. 2nd Reading of the Ordinance for the City of Nashville, by Amending Article II. Sewer Use "Grease Trap" Ordinance- Mitchell Moore told the group this is an Ordinance to amend the code of Ordinances for the City of Nashville by amending article II, sewer use section 29-43, definitions deleting section 29-67, interceptors and adopting sections 29-74 through 29-83 to address commercial waste handling. Mitchell told the group this will constitute the second reading of this Ordinance and once adopted it will be published in the local paper. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Radio Read Meters- Mayor Harper told the group he has been working with John and some Engineers on replacing the City's water meters. He gave the group a copy of some water test recently completed as well as a letter from Chris Poje from G. Ben Turnipseed Engineers. He pointed out the test reflect the amount of revenues will increase by \$106,000.00 which means according to these test we are losing \$106,000.00 each year due to lost water. The City has never put the new meters out for bids and due to the water estimates found on how much the City is losing the Mayor asked the Council to authorize putting the water meters out for bids. Mayor Harper said we have looked at a couple of meters and the one that John and Brandon feel the most comfortable with is the Master which is what they use to replace water meters with now. The other they are looking at the Muller water meter. Mayor Harper asked the Council to allow bids to go out on these two types of meters, with or without installation so we can see what the numbers are so we can see if we can afford to do this project. Also if Council allows the bidding process on these two types of meters then Chris Poje will come to our September

10th meeting to give an update on, meter test, and what the City's payments would be. Mayor Harper also reminded the group about the information he was given at the Savannah meeting. GEFA has come down on its interest rate to .82% and we will still have the 20% forgiveness grant. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to put the meters out for bids to see what our cost will be to replace the City meters with radio read meters. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion. Alderman Retterbush asked the Mayor to hold a work session before making any decision. Mayor Harper said a work session can be held but for now we would like to put the meters out for bids so that we can have some idea of the cost involved. Mayor Harper asked for a roll call vote. Aldermen Retterbush, Carter, and Gaither voted no on putting the meters out for bids. Aldermen Stalnaker and Richbourg voted yes but the motion died due to a lack of the majority vote.

4. USDA Farmers Market Bid Opening- Randy Lane told the group the bids for the Farmers Market were opened three weeks ago and there was a problem with one of the bids so State wide took it back and now the lowest bidder for the project is James Warren and Associates. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the lowest bidder, James Warren and Associates. Alderman Richbourg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Change over Better Hometown Employee to City Employee- Mayor Harper told the group the change over from Better Hometown director to the City's Economic Development department head was put on hold until we finished the LOST negotiations. Dawn Morrison who will fill this position has informed us that she is willing to move over without the benefits of a City department head. Moving her over now will help her to get acquainted with the City's procedures. Also the Better Hometown Board will no longer be a Governing Board but an Advisory Board. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to change over Dawn Morrison from Better Hometown employee to a City employee. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

6. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke told the group she received Mitchell Moore's bill for \$5,080.00 attorney fees. Since the bill is over her limit, she needs Councils approval before it is paid. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the bill for Mitchell's attorney's fees. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously.

7. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore told the group during the LOST negotiations a service that benefits the County and is paid for by the City is the new Gas line in the Northern part of Berrien County. He said this qualifies as a service for the County that is paid by the City and should be considered in those negotiations. Mitchell also updated the group the 2011 CDBG. The closing for the acquisition of land where the new lift station will be is set for tomorrow.

10. Department Head's Report- Dawn Morrison told the group she was discussing the LOST negotiations with another Better Hometown director and she advised me to compare our community with another similar community that does not have a Better Hometown. Dawn said she compared our City with Reedsville Georgia. Reedsville has a population of 4954 and their LOST each year is \$210,000.00. Nashville's LOST each year is \$504,000.00. This is credited to our Better Hometown's developing the downtown area. This information can help prove that Nashville is the hub of the County. Dawn said she in January 1999 before Better Hometown was established the City's LOST was \$32,000.00 and in January 2012 after Better Hometown's establishment the LOST amount was \$47,000.00, this is a \$15,000.00 increase in LOST funds due to the Better Hometown Community.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Margie Tygart wanted to complain about the upkeep of the cemeteries and the entrances. She said she has also received several complaints about the rose bushes located at one of the cemeteries that need to be trimmed. Mellisa Watson confirmed Mrs. Tygart's complaints and said she has received several about the cemeteries and the parks especially about Beetree Park. Randy told Mellisa that the City is receiving a grant for Beetree Park and it is in the planning stage right now. Mayor Harper asked if the contract is up with Garner lawn care, the City's lawn maintenance person. Mayor Harper asked Randy Lane to send Mr. Garner a letter and give him a thirty day notice because he is obviously not fulfilling his obligations. Mayor Harper asked the Council to make a motion to give Mr. Garner a thirty day notice or whatever time is in the contract, and to put the cemetery lawn care out for bids again. Alderman Carter made the motion to give Mr. Garner a thirty day notice or whatever notice the contract calls for, and advertise for bids on the lawn care for the City's cemeteries. Alderman Richbourg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Richbourg suggested in the interim we need to get someone to clean up the cemetery entrances, whether it is prisoners or City employees.

Pearlene Daniels asked Dawn Morrison about the time line for Beetree Park. Dawn said we should be receiving the official word in September and then we can move forward from there.

Randall Milton told the group the City's gateway on the Alapaha highway needs to be cleaned up.

Alderman Richbourg asked Mandy and Randy to give an update on the LOST negotiator. Randy said he has finish faze one which is tax and equity's. Randy presented him with a copy of the County's budget today and we should have something on it by next week. Alderman Retterbush stated that the Berrien Press printed that the City agreed on the LOST and we did not. He asked Mandy to put something in the paper stating that the City of Nashville did not agree with the County on LOST.

Mayor Harper stated that Muller is one of the brands of water meters we were looking at getting if we ever put them out for bids. This company wants to send John Reynolds and Brandon Rice at no cost to the City to North Carolina for training on these meters for a few days. The only thing they will need to do is use comp or vacation time for their days in training since this is not mandatory training. John and Brandon had training on the Master meters which is what the City is using now last year. Since this is not a mandatory class the Council must approve. The group had some discussion over whether the training was necessary. They also discussed the meters the water department uses now which is the Master meters verses the Muller meters. Mayor Harper stated again the flight, accommodations, and the training will be paid for by the company. John stated the training will not held until the 25th of September. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve the training on the Muller meters provided John and Brandon use their comp time to go to the training class. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion. Aldermen Retterbush, Carter and Gaither voted no on the matter. The motion failed due to the majority of no votes.

Mitchell told the group he has a letter of resignation signed by the existing members of the Historic Preservation Commission has just been presented to the Council (see attached). Mitchell said Mr. Bryan Shaw has indicated a willingness to serve as chairman on the new commission. He asked that Council nominate Mr. Bryan Shaw to serve on the new commission for the Historic Preservation Commission. The motion was seconded by Alderman Richbourg and the motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Richbourg made the motion to go into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried

unanimously. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:54 p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm. Alderman Richbourg 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 Michael Richbourg

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk