

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
SEPTEMBER 10, 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, Alderwoman Mellisa Watson and Mayor Travis Harper.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Carter Watson, Bobby Watson, Donna Watson, Michelle Watson, Allen Davis, John Black, Brenda Thomas, Randal Milton, Clarence Luke, Walt Turner, Donna Close and Pearleen Daniels.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES, AND EXECUTIVE SESSION FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meetings. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA-** Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the formal agenda. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

**SWEARING IN OF ALDERWOMAN MELLISA WATSON-** Mitchell Moore swore in Mellisa Watson as Council Member for post one for the City of Nashville.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **1. Proclamation for Nation Adult Education and Family Literacy Week-**

Mayor Harper told the group that last week Mrs. Janet Studstill, Chairman of the Berrien County CLCP Board came by the Council Chambers during our Work Session on water meters and asked me to sign the Proclamation proclaiming September 10-16 as National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week. A picture of the signing will be in the Berrien Press.

**2. Resolution for the Executive Session held on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2012-** Mayor Harper told the group according to the new Statue the Council must approve the Resolution for the Executive Session. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the Resolution for the Executive Session held on August 27<sup>th</sup> 2012. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

**3. Ratify the Authorization to run an ad for two part time grounds keepers for the City's Cemeteries-** Randy Lane told the group the Council was poled on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in reference to running an ad to hire two part time employees for the position of grounds keepers for the City's cemeteries. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to ratify the decision to advertise for two part time employees for the position of grounds keepers for the City's cemeteries. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Deep South Agreement-** Mandy Luke told the group the City received an agreement from Deep South Regional Municipal Solid Waste Management Authority. The board of directors of the Authority met in regular session on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and approved the City's share of semi-annual royalty payment in the amount of \$6,090.90. Council needs to approve and sign the agreement. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to approve and sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

**5. Change or Cancel the Council Meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012-** Mandy Luke told the group the Council meeting scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012 will fall on one of the City's Holidays, Columbus Day. City Hall will be closed this day and Council needs to decide if they want to cancel or reschedule the Council meeting. Alderman Richburg told the group due to the ongoing LOST negotiations the meeting needs to be rescheduled for the following Tuesday night. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to reschedule the Council meeting for Tuesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

**6. Beer and Wine Application for 5 Points-** Mayor Harper told the group Sangitaben Shailesh Dave applied for a beer and wine license for 5 Points convenience store located at 401 South Davis Street. All fees have been paid and a criminal history was completed with no record found. Alderman Gaither made the motion to approve the beer and wine license for 5 points. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

**7. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report-** None

**8. City Attorney's Report-** Mitchell Moore updated the group on changing the Better Home Town's director Dawn Morrison to a City employee. He said he looked for the bylaws and was unable to find anything but did get a copy of the 501C3 Corporation form. He wanted to go through the proper procedures per the Secretary of State before changing anything. Also Better Hometown has a Board and the City wants to change this Board to an advisory Board only. He will continue to follow up on this item. Mitchell also updated the group on the Historic Preservation Ordinance. The board originally called for seven members but we can have as little as three members which are what they are proposing to go to here, and Mr. Shaw has three people willing to serve on this board, but at this point we have not been presented with the names of those individuals.

**9. Department Head's Report-** Randy Lane said we have received several complaints about people soliciting aggressively for different functions at the City's red lights. He said after some investigation he found an Ordinance which he presented to the group from The City of Valdosta on Solicitations without permits. He asked the group to read over the Ordinance so we can put something together to do something about this type of solicitation. Chief Clayton said he has received several complaints about this matter. He suggested some restrictions be in place. The Council may want to add a day and time to the Ordinance "no soliciting between the hours of 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Friday's." He said this is the day and time he gets the most complaints. Mitchell Moore asked the Council for some guidance on the matter. He needs to know if they want to shut down the solicitation all together or just regulate the hours and days. Mayor Harper suggested Randy Lane and Mitchell get a list together and have a work session on the matter. Walt Turner told the group this is a growing problem with our town and the Ordinance from the adjoining City may or may not address this problem appropriately. He urged the Council to handle this procedure with care.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL**

Donna Close who lives on South Bartow told the group of a vacant lot next to her residence that has not been mowed in some time. The property has been let go and something needs to be done about it. Henry Yawn told Ms. Close that the property owner has been contacted and given 10 days to do something about the problem. He will be here to cut the grass before his 10 days are over. Walt Turner and Dot Close complained about the way the dirt road is graded on Tally Ally and Johnson. Ms. Close explained that when it rains the water ends up in her backyard. Tommy Davis explained to the Council that is a City maintained road but there is no other way to grade the road, because the City does not own a motor grader or a box blade. Mayor Harper told Ms. Close we will get with Tommy on a solution to this problem. Allen Davis told the group his Mom lives on Tally Ally and will not mind if the City needs to grade the road differently, or do anything to the road to fix the problem.

Brenda Thomas told the group she rented the Community Center for Parents in Action on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012. She rented the center for two hours and from 7 to 9 in the evening. She received a letter from April Copland stating that she had rented to Community Center for more than two hours and was being charged for the whole day. Brenda Thomas argued that she and some of the lady's for the group entered the center earlier that morning to put a few table cloths on some of the tables which took all of thirty minutes, but the Community Center cannot be rented for a half an hour, and she was charged for the whole day. She also stated the deposit of \$60.00 was never returned and they added \$80.00 more to her bill. Mayor Harper asked Ms. Thomas if anyone else had the center rented for that day. Ms. Thomas said no, she did not believe anyone had the center rented for anytime that day except them. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to charge for the two hours that the Community Center was originally rented, and to refund Ms. Thomas her deposit. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Stalnaker, Retterbush and Randy Lane told Ms. Thomas that the reason they charged for the whole day is because the City has problems with some people renting the center for a few hours at night but they come in and set everything up earlier that day. This causes problems for the people who may have it rented earlier in the day. So as a rule if you need the Community Center in the future add in the time you need to set up plus take everything down and clean up.

Mayor Harper told the group he received a letter from the company that leases out the rail road in Nashville, commending two of our Police Officers, James Smith

and Mike Pitts. They wrote they would like to commend the two officers that responded to an incident that occurred in our Nashville depot. These two Officers went above and beyond the call of duty. Mayor Harper also wanted to announce the City of Nashville was awarded \$461,868.00 in CDBG funds for help with some of the sewer rehabilitation we are doing between Marion, East Washington, and McPherson. We will be receiving these funds in Peachtree City on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Also the City was awarded \$70,000.00 to \$80,000.00 for a RDF project that Dawn Morrison has been working on for West Marion. He stated this will be a total of \$550,000.00 in grant money the City will receive from the Department of Community Affairs.

Alderman Retterbush told the group he received a complaint about the grass not being cut at West View Cemetery.

Walt Turner wanted to thank Mandy Luke for putting the City Code and Ordinances on the City's web site.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Alderman Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Travis Harper

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Alderman Eric Gaither

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Alderman Mellisa Watson

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Alderman Antonio Carter

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Alderman Billy Retterbush

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Alderman Scott Stalnaker

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Alderman Michael Richbourg

**ATTEST**

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Tina Ward, City Clerk