

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
SEPTEMBER 23, 2013
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Henry Yawn

PLEDGE: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro-Tem Retterbush

WELCOME: Mayor Pro-Tem Retterbush

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Mayor Pro-Tem Billy Retterbush, Aldermen Antonio Carter, Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Michael Richbourg, and Mayor Travis Harper arrived late.

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Randy Lane, Tina Ward, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Acting Interim Chief Major Chuck Edwards, Paul Stagner, Mitchell Moore, and Henry Yawn.

OTHERS PRESENT: Kyle Pearson, Pearlene Daniels, Mark Gaither, John Black, Allen Davis and Bill Elliot.

ADOPTION OF WORK SESSION- Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the last Work Session. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES- Mitchell Moore asked if the Council had some specific discussion over which department would receive the new mower that was proposed at the last Council meeting. Alderman Stalnaker answered the discussion was over allowing a new employee to run the new lawn mower. In theory the Council thought the older mower should go to the new employee in order to give that person more experience before operating the new mower. He added the new mower will be purchased for the parks and cemetery department. The department head can sort out which one gets the new mower. Alderman Carter made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Pro-Tem Retterbush asked the Council to add an item to the formal agenda. Item four needs to be Request for Disk Golf. Alderman Gaither made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the addition. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Risk Management Policy- Mayor Pro-Tem Retterbush told the Council that at the last Council Meeting Mandy handed out the Risk Management Policy for the Council to review. The City auditors have strongly suggested that the City have this policy in place. The purpose of this policy is to state Nashville City's Council recognizes that risk management approach to its operation. Also, that the Council recognizes that risk is inherent in all of its activities and that effective management of risk is necessary in order to protect its employees, assets, liabilities and community against potential losses. Mitchell Moore told Mandy he had reviewed the policy and sees nothing wrong with it but would like to know about the Management Team which is chaired by the City Manager. Will anyone else be on that management team? Mandy suggested a couple of the Council members and a few of the department supervisors will be appointed to the Management Team. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the Risk Management Policy. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem asked the Council to adopt the connected policy which is Fraud Prevention and Control Policy. This policy will have the same board as the Risk Management's Policy. Alderman Carter made the motion to adopt the Fraud Prevention and Control Policy. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Bid Opening for the Beetree Park Project- Randy Lane told the group that Dawn Morrison, Steven Rakestraw and himself opened the bids for the reconstruction of Beetree Park. We had two contractors to place bids on the project. Classic Homes by Weaver, Inc. bid is \$55,362.50. Newbern Construction bid is \$79,037.19. Rakestraw and Associates recommendation was that we award the proposed project to the lower bidder which is Classic Homes by Weaver, Inc. out of Valdosta. Randy Lane told the group one of the project deductions is to remove the restrooms located in the park. This removal will save around five thousand if they are removed. He asked Ms. Pearlene Daniels to be present so she could give the Council the neighborhood's input on the removal of the restrooms in the park. Pearlene Daniels told the group the restrooms are not used so we would like to see them removed and a pavilion or some type of shelter put in place of the restrooms. Mayor Harper agreed with Ms. Daniels and said the City has had problems with all the bathrooms that are located in the parks so removing this facility and putting the money toward something else is a good idea. Alderman Stalnaker asked Mitchell Moore to check and see if legally the City can shut down the bathroom. He stated if the park has certain activities and it is a City owned park then by law a bathroom must be provided. Mayor Harper stated the City has several parks that do not have bathrooms. Pearlene Daniels told the group if events are held in the park then we can get portable potties. Alderman Carter made the motion to go with the lowest bidder, Classic Homes by Weaver at \$55,362.50 pending what Mitchell Moore's findings are on the removal of the bathrooms in the park. Alderman Richbourg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Tree Removal in Memorial Park- Randy Lane told the group a tree branch from one of the pecan trees located in Memorial Park fell on a parked automobile recently and did some damage to the vehicle. He said our insurance company was contacted to see if the damages

which estimated around five to six hundred dollars would be covered. According to our agent the insurance will only cover the damage if the tree or tree limb was dead. If the tree or the tree limbs are alive they insurance will not cover the damages. Randy said he went to the park to examine the pecan trees and most of them have been damaged by the weather. He asked the Council to allow the City to remove the trees located in the park. Alderman Stalnaker suggested they get some quotes from a tree surgeon on cutting back the trees so we can preserve them. The rest of the Council agreed.

4. Request for Disk Golf- Alderman Gaither told the group his brother Mark Gaither is requesting to hold a disk golf tournament on December 14th, 2013. Mark Gaither elaborated on the event. They want to set up some temporary baskets and hold a disk golf tournament in hopes to introduce this course to the community. Forty to sixty people will participate in the event. This event will raise money also so that we may have a course for disk golf in the near future. Alderman Gaither added if liability is an issue each of the players in the event will sign a waiver. Mayor Harper stated the event should be covered under the City's parks and recreation liability insurance. Mark suggested they rent the course from the City in order for it to be covered by the City liability. Mayor Harper asked Mark to provide the Council with the layout of the course. Mark gave the group a verbal description of the course and stated they would be responsible for getting the course in shape by picking up any limbs or trash and mowing if needed. He also told the group he has a petition which one hundred people has signed stating they will participate in the tournament. Mitchell Moore stated the tournament will not be affiliated with the City at all except the event will take place on City property. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to allow the Disk Golf Tournament pending what Mitchell Moore finds out on the City's liability insurance. The motion was seconded by Alderman Retterbush and the motion carried unanimously. Randy Lane asked Mark Gaither to check with the County about the tournament when an exact date is set.

REPORTS

5. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report- Mandy told the group that she was contacted by Linda Cornelius about getting the Community Center again this year on Thanksgiving day to provide free meals to needy people on Thanksgiving. The Council agreed to allow Ms. Cornelius to have the Community Center on Thanksgiving Day to provide meals for the needy. Mandy also asked the Council about the Okefenokee Occasion. The date has been set for this event on January 14th, 2014. The cost is still \$1600.00 and last year the City paid the total and billed the other cities \$300.00 each. Once the other City's reimburse us, the City of Nashville's total will be \$600.00 which is our amount and the County's amount. Mayor Harper said the County has not wanted to participate in this event in the last couple of years so the City of Nashville has paid their portion. Mayor Harper told the group ten people plus a host can attend the event. Alderman Retterbush stated he would like to allow other people who have not attended this event get the opportunity to attend. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve the payment of the registration fee of \$1600.00 for the Okefenokee Occasion. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously.

6. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore told the group that Clarice Roberts located the Cities easements and right- of- ways. Clarice indicated she was probably 99% completed and she actually tried to pull and copy any deeds completed by Mr. Belcher along with some of the other older attorneys for who sometimes did warranty deeds into developers which sometimes conveyed street right-of-ways. Some of the deeds she saw and pulled were not listed as right-of-ways but rather warranty deeds so she made an extraordinary effort when she saw a deed into developer that she would pull the actual deed, read it and make a copy. Mitchell said he will make both files available to Henry Yawn for duplication, but would like copies for his files as well. Clarice's total of copies was 373. Mitchell also told the group he is working on a contract for the Solar Panels and is waiting to hear from Mr. Bill Elliot who is over this project. Mitchell said he still has not found the deed on the property but tracked down when the property was established, in 1950, and listed as City property. He checked with EPD in reference to problems with the site, and according to EPD the property has been de-listed and no further action required. Mitchell will ask for some type of release form from EPD before proceeding with the project. Mitchell also updated the group on property development. Paul Stagner was contacted by Mr. Guy Terry who is the attorney for Mr. Hart who is the owner of the eighteen units which use to be managed by BBR Property Management. BBR Property Management no longer manages said property. Mr. Terry has shown an interest in getting the property turned over to the City. Previously Mr. Crow who is with the Bank of the Ozarks contacted him and they have not and will not foreclose on the said property. They indicated they would cooperate with the City, so he will see if they have taken a judgment against the owner then they will need to release us so we can get that. The reason Mitchell is bring this issue before the Council is due to the initiative the Council has been looking at and he knows this property is a big part of that initiative. Mitchell also updated the group on the gas line for DuPont Pine Products. They need a price because last week they observed a second generation boiler system. This system uses the green fuel which is the refuse or waste products to run the boiler. Installation of the system is approximately one million dollars and six months in operation. They are looking at this option so they need a cost or a price of what the gas is going to cost to compare the two. Alderman Richbourg asked Mitchell if they are backing out of the project we are working on. Mitchell replied they have always said they are looking at all options. Alderman Richbourg stated he understood that our gas line was their only option. Mitchell said the natural gas is a better option than the propane gas they are using. The broiler option may have been in the back ground. Alderman Richbourg suggested the City should not commit themselves any longer to this project. Mayor Harper commented that the City will not know the actual price of the gas until after the line is installed and the company starts their usage. Mitchell said they want to know what our premium on natural gas going to be after the installation. He also stated we have an obligation to give a price on the gas because we are a monopoly. However we are not under an obligation to spend a bunch of money. Alderman Richbourg stated we have already spent time and money on this project. Randy Lane stated ASA Engineering has completed their survey but the City has not received the bill. Mitchell said before we do anything further we will have to have an ironclad contract. Mayor Harper suggested the City quote the commercial cost of natural gas to DuPont Pine Products. Council discussed the issue further and agreed no more time and money be spent on this project. Mayor Harper asked Peter to figure and give the company the cost of the gas on normal distribution along with the allocation.

7. Department Head's Report- Major Edwards spoke to the Council in reference to the current Police department fleet. Virtually every study on the life span of police cars recommends rotation after 75,000 miles. We currently have nine police officers and will have ten once Larry Marshall completes his field training starts patrol in January. This will give the police department two officers on day shift and three officers on night shift. For those ten officers we have nine operational cars with no spare when one goes down for maintenance. Currently we have four 2010 Dodge Chargers and six Crown Victoria's. The six Crown Victoria's all have high mileage. Major Edwards handed the Council a copy of the survey of the current police vehicles he put together. He pointed out vehicles are in need of being replaced. (See Below)

VEH #		OFFICER	YEAR	MAKE/MODEL COLOR - CONFIG	MILEAGE (1 Sep)	
2138		CALLAGHAN	2010	Dodge Charger * White- New Blue/Black Decals	33,000	SAME
2139		YOUNGBLOOD	2010	Dodge Charger * White- New Blue/Black Decals	26,200	SAME
2140		EATON	2010	Dodge Charger * White- New Blue/Black Decals	53,200	SAME
2141		KNOWLES	2010	Dodge Charger * Slicktop White- New Blue/Black Decals	33,000	TAHOE
2687		PURVIS	2006	Ford CV * White - Green Decals	139,500	TAHOE
2448		REGISTER	2005	Ford CV * Slicktop White - Green Decals	99,800	TAHOE
2449		JERNIGAN	2005	Ford CV * White - Green Decals	80,000	TAHOE
2450		SINGLETARY Driver's door	2005	Ford CV * White - Green Decals	113,500	CHARGER
6336		SINGLETARY Temp	2004	Ford CV * Blue - Old Silver Decals	116,400	
1846		WILLIAMS	2003	Ford CV * White - Green Decals	136,400	REGISTER'S 2005
		MARSHALL	no car assigned, starts patrol January			JERNIGAN'S 2005
No Spare Patrol Vehicles unless keep 1846, 2687, poss replace door 2450						
3221		CHIEF	2009	Ford F150 P/U Black	79,000	
5715		EDWARDS	2004	Ford CV Pewter	130,000	

8273		FRANKLIN	2004	Dodge Ram 1500 P/U Black	72,500
9266		BUSBIN	2004	Ford Explorer Med Blue	100,200
3824		JODY ANIMAL CONTROL	1997	Ford Ranger P/U Dark Blue	
1183		DEADLINED Front end \$700,	1999	Ford Ranger P/U White - Animal Control	162,000
1760		DEADLINED - SCRAP BLOWN MOTOR	2003	Ford CV * White - Green Decals	
6337		DEADLINED - SCRAP BLOWN MOTOR	2004	Ford CV * Blue - Old Silver Decals	
8056		DEADLINED - SCRAP BLOWN MOTOR	2003	Ford CV * White - Green Decals	

* Denotes Police Interceptor Built Vehicle

Major Edwards researched the current police vehicle market and should the Council approve the purchase of at least four vehicles, then his recommendation is to purchase Chevrolet Tahoe Police utility vehicles rather than sedans. The reason for this is they are much more versatile than sedans, the cost difference is around two thousand more, the gas mileage is comparable within a mile per gallon of the Chargers we currently have, they also have a five year power trained warranty with a two year free oil change service as opposed to the three year power trained warranty with no free oil change service we currently have now on the chargers. Major Edward also told the Council the current Ford sedans that are on the market and the Ford chargers the Police department currently has are not designed for large police officers. He conducted a test with one of the larger officers. They drove down to the Ford dealership and with the officers duty belt on the officer could barely squeeze into the new Ford sedan. The Chevrolet Tahoe's have plenty of room for the officer and his equipment. He added because of the versatility of the Tahoe's they can be rotated to other departments when the time comes to take them out of police service. The cost of four Tahoe's including all the associated police equipment is \$125,000.00 to \$153,000.00 depending on the make and year model. Major Edwards told the group he has been working with USDA on a low interest loan package which he hopes to have finalized this week. The application is in a generic stage requesting \$152,000.00 in order to get the USDA approval. However if we are approved for this package then it will be submitted to Randy Lane so he can bring it before Council for approval. Mayor Harper asked Major Edward if the 50/50 grant is still available. Major Edwards said according to the last conversation he had with the USDA representative the 50/50 grant is no longer available because no funds have been allocated for it at this time, the application we are completing will be for a low interest loan. Should the funds become available again for the 50/50 then we can apply. Alderman Richbourg stated the department is asking for four vehicles

but they really need six so why don't we go ahead and get six. Major Edward stated in the future if the leadership allows, he would like to get a preventative service plan and a vehicle rotation purchase plan started so that we are not faced with this dilemma again. Alderman Carter asked Major Edwards if he has looked at the lease program. Major Edwards said he has dealt with a lease program when he was employed with another City. The lease program was for three years and at the end of the three years we had the option to purchase the vehicle at fair market value and therein lay the problem. Alderman Retterbush asked Mandy if the City has any money set aside for police vehicles. Mandy said we always use SPLOST dollars and right now we only have one payment of \$11,000.00 left to pay on the Dodge Chargers we purchased in 2010. Alderman Stalnaker suggested the Police department look into purchasing refurbished Crown Victoria's since although these cars are not being made anymore we should be able to find some in good shape at a discounted price. Randy Lane concurred and said they did find some refurbish Crown Victoria's for about thirteen to fifteen thousand per car. The group discussed the purchasing and the rotation of the Police cars further. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to allow the purchase of six patrol cars and apply for the USDA grant. He added the type of cars purchased can be worked out between the Major, the Assistant City Manager, and the City Manager. Alderman Richbourg asked Major Edward how much interest USDA will charge if we are approved. Major Edwards replied around 3%. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion but added we should not limit the amount of patrol cars purchased to six. If the Major can find more than six and the money is there then he should be allowed to purchase as many as the can so he can rebuilt the patrol fleet. Alderman Stalnaker said he would hope the Police department can get at least three Crown Victoria's and four Tahoe's. The motion carried unanimously.

Randy Lane told the group that Wiregrass Educational Center contacted him last week and they want to expand to the front of the building. They are presently located in the back portion of the Downtown Center also known as the old Badcock building. Randy also told the group two State agencies have contacted him about relocating there offices in the old Badcock building. He stated based on the estimated cost given from the first renovations, of thirty dollars a square foot plus an elevator, the estimated total will be approximately four hundred thousand. Randy handed the Council a hand out from the Department of Community Affairs. The first program is called Downtown Development Revolving Fund and it will assist cities in their efforts to revitalize and enhance downtown areas by providing below market rate financing to fund capital projects in core historic downtown areas. The maximum amount loaned is \$250,000.00 per project and applications are accepted throughout the year as loan funds are available to the department. The second part of the handout describes the One Georgia Equity Fund which provides financial assistance to eligible rural communities to help build capacity and the necessary infrastructure for economic development. The maximum award for this loan is one million dollars with three percent interest. Alderman Stalnaker stated he is against applying for the loans for the renovations and renting the building because he does not believe the City should be in the rental business when they are taking business from someone who is already in the rental business. Also the city is in a financial strain right now so we should not put the City in a bigger financial strain. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to allow Randy to pursue applications for renovations and continue moving forward on this project as long as the City can get a ten year commitment from the State offices that want to relocate to the old Badcock

building. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried four to one with Alderman Stalnaker voting no. Mayor Harper wanted the record to reflect he is in favor of this project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Mayor Harper introduced Bill Elliot. Mr. Elliot is heading up the solar panel project. Mr. Elliot thanked the Council for the opportunity to do this project and if anyone would like to see a finished project then come to Homerville because tomorrow Georgia Power will let us hook up and provide the power for Homerville. He also told the group that the Public Service Commission who is over the solar energy project picked Nashville out of nine hundred businesses that applied.

Kyle Pearson thanked the Council and everyone who is involved with the renovation to Beetree Park. He suggested that the Council reapply for the grant every year so the park can continue to receive improvements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15p.m. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Michael Richbourg

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk