

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
MAY 23, 2011**

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 Mayor Travis Harper, Aldermen Eric Gaither, Dick Perryman, Antonio Carter, Billy Retterbush, Scott Stalnaker and Michael Richbourg.

STAFF PRESENT: Tina Ward, Randy Lane, Mandy Luke, Tommy Davis, Steve Adams, Buck Warren, Henry Yawn, Chief Clayton and City Attorney Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Allen Davis, Randall Melton, Margie Tygart, Frank Watts, Brenda Smith, and Elaine Grice.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adopt the Minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Carter and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper asked the group to add as item number five, The American Red Cross, and as item number six, The Fire Department request for new equipment. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to accept the formal agenda with the changes. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) request- Elaine Grice told the group CASA which is a trained community volunteer who is appointed by a judge to advocate for the best interest of an abused, neglected or abandoned child in

juvenile court proceedings. This branch covers the Alapaha Judicial Circuited. The CASA volunteer gathers information about the child's situation attends court proceedings and makes a recommendation to the judge so that the judge has the information to make a decision about the child's future. The CASA volunteer advocates for the safety, permanency and well being of the child. Elaine told the group CASA is sponsored by Berrien County Collaborative and funded by grants and receives funds from the 5% of victim's assistance program. Due to the shortage of funding from grants, CASA is requesting a \$2,500.00 donation from the County's and each City throughout the Alapaha Judicial Circuit in order to keep their program going. After some discussion about CASA and the good things the program provides for these children Alderman Perryman made a motion to include the \$2,500.00 for CASA in the next fiscal year's budget. The motion was seconded the Alderman Richbourg and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Renewal of Prison Work Detail- Mandy Luke told the group the City has received the prison work detail agreement. The agreement will take effect as of July 1st, 2011. The cost for this year is the same as last year \$39,500.00. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to enter into the agreement for work detail. The motion was seconded by Alderman Perryman and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Proposal for GIS Services- Mayor Harper told the group the Water/Sewer and Gas Superintendent are requesting the meters, fire hydrants, water and sewer lines as well as gas lines be plotted using GIS. The City has been in dire need of a service like this one for a long time. During a meeting with one of the representatives of GIS and several department heads as well as myself, we were given the advantages of having this service and the cost involved. It will help other employees in years to come as well. The South Georgia Rural Commission has presented a package for this mapping at the cost of \$12,200.00. The primary purpose of this project is to develop data and technology that will build a comprehensive map of City utilities and provide a tool for City utility staff to maintain GIS layers representing City utilities. The initial field surveys performed by SGRC staff will capture all above-ground utility feature locations within public right of ways. Since there is much more to a utility system than just what is seen above ground, there is the need for a tool to capture what is on drawings and the minds of those most experienced with those unseen components of the City's utility. To fill that need they will construct a web based data entry tool for the City. This web-based data entry tools for City staff will allow them to enter characteristics (attributes) of utility features, draw in new features such as water, sewer, gas or storm water pipes, and modify them when necessary. The use of City staff to help construct the City's own database with this web-based map will help

to reduce overall costs, ensure accuracy and add the convenience for City staff to work at their own pace to build a comprehensive utility map for the City. Mayor Harper told the group the program will take around nine months complete at which time the charge for upkeep and host the website will be \$1,000.00 per month. Alderman Stalnaker asked if we could bid this out. Mayor Harper said this company is the only company that offers this type of service at the lowest cost. Steve Adams added at the end of the twelve months if we do not want them to host the web-site they will down load the program on to our computers and the upkeep will be up to the City to maintain. After some more discussion Alderman Retterbush made the motion to go with GIS Services. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Proposal Penn Credit Corp. Collection- Mandy Luke told the group the City presently does not have a contract with any company to handle the City's delinquent taxes or utility bills. The last company the City contracted with was The Credit Bureau out of Tifton. GMA has also handled collections for the City but did not have a company to contract with the last time the City needed help in collections. GMA has since contracted with Penn Credit Corp. and with the \$194,242.66 outstanding delinquent taxes and utility bills I recommend the City allow Penn Credit Corp. to handle our collections. The percentage for collecting these delinquencies with Penn Credit is 16.5% as opposed to The Credit Bureau which is 25%. Alderman Perryman asked Mandy what is the procedure now in collecting delinquent utility bills and property taxes. Mandy told the group in the past if a utility bill was 90 days past due the delinquency was turned over to The Credit Bureau to collect and they sent out letters made the phone calls to the customers. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to contract the delinquencies with Penn Credit Corp. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Red Cross- No representative was present at the meeting.

6. Fire Department Equipment request- Randy Lane told the group the Fire department is in need of some new equipment. The Jaws of Life they presently have, was purchased in the late seventy's and needs to be replaced. Steve Adams was asked to get three bids on this equipment. One bid from MES Carolinas for \$26,622.50 This Company is the one Fire Chief Buck Warren recommends because their equipment is compatible with the Hurst equipment, which the Fire department presently has on hand. The second bid came from Rescue Systems Unlimited LLC, for \$33,724.00. This company is not compatible with the Hurst equipment and the third bid is from Georgia Fire and Rescue Supply for

\$23,397.24, which is the lowest bid but the equipment is not compatible with the Hurst equipment. Mandy Luke told the group the money for this new equipment can be purchased through SPLOST. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to purchase the new equipment from MES Carolinas. Alderman Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried five to one with Alderman Stalnaker abstaining from voting because he is a Fireman with the City of Nashville.

REPORTS

7. City Manager's/ Finance Director's Report- Mandy told the group we have received the Notice to Proceed for our T-Project. Mayor Harper asked Mandy if the City has \$2,300.00 in the City's Tourism fund. She said yes but we have pulled some of those funds out to reimburse Better Hometown for some of the economic development purchases such as advertising for some of the events they hosted.

8. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore updated the group on the excavation of the wells. He said they have a meeting on the 25th of June with TTL on the project.

Mitchell also told the group Buck Warren and Steve Adams contacted him in reference to working on some type of release form for one of the Churches "Church of Ladder Day Saints" to allow them to paint the fire hydrants around the City. He commended them on the work already done, and said he is working on and will contact them with the release form for this volunteer project.

Mitchell further updated the group on the adoption of the resolution not to participate in the condemnation but allow the County to proceed. He said no resolution will be necessary. The City is not the condemning party we are just giving our consent because it is under the City's jurisdiction.

Mayor Harper told Mitchell he spoke with Tom Thomas about the Gas Project's right of way agreement and everything is in order. Mitchell said yes but he wants to draw up an agreement with the County stating that the County will incur no expenses from this project. They City of Nashville will pay for all expenses. He further stated that the City will have a memorandum of understanding with the City of Tifton. Mitchell also stated when the City is ready Mandy Luke will be the authorized signer.

8. Department heads Report- Buck Warren and Steve Adams thanked Council for the approval of the new equipment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Margie Tygart wanted to tell the group about the weed surrounding the flag pole at Memorial Cemetery. She asked if someone could clean them up.

Mayor Harper commented to the group the City has received several complements on how well the cemeteries are kept since the new lawn service has taken over.

Mr. Watts told the Mayor the trash cans need to be emptied at the cemetery off of Prescott Avenue.

Mayor Harper also wanted the Council to be aware of the letter sent to him by a 4H club asking the City to donate some money to their team. According to the City Manager Mandy Luke the City does not donate to any of the School clubs because there is too many and the City does not have the funds. She commented this has always been the City's stance on School club donations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00p.m. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Dick Perryman

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Michael Richbourg

ATTEST

Tina Ward, City Clerk