

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JUNE 27, 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, 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, James Smith III, Dawn Morrison, and City Attorney Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel and Lisa Hancock, Aleck Merritt, Mary Howard Clayton, Allen Davis, Randall Melton, Margie Tygart, Frank Watts.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Alderman Perryman wanted to be added as present at the May 23rd meeting. The May 23rd, 2011 minutes did not have Alderman Perryman listed in the roll call. Richbourg made a motion to adopt the Minutes from the previous meeting with the change. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper asked the group to delete item number two, "Proposal for Probation services"; Chief Clayton will bring this item up in his report at the end of the meeting. Mayor Harper also ask the Council to add as item number three, Special Exception and Variance request from Aleck Merritt. 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. Appoint a New Library Board Representative for the City of Nashville- Mayor Harper told the group Ms. Mary Howard Clayton from the Carrie Dorsey Memorial Library called to inform the Council a new board member needs to be appointed to the Library board since Mrs. Sue Whidden is stepping down after eleven years of service Mrs. Linda Yawn was asked to serve on the board as her replacement. Mayor Harper also asked the Council to reappoint Ms. Gail Benjamin as one of the two representatives on the Library board. Once they are appointed their term will start June 30th, 2011 and end June 30th, 2014. Alderman Perryman made the motion to appoint Mrs. Linda Yawn to the Library board and to reappoint Ms. Gail Benjamin. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Beer Application from Ankitaben Kirtikumar Patel- Mayor Harper told the Council Mr. Ankitaben Kirtikumar Patel with Jay Gayatri Krupa, Inc. owner of Lucky Corner is requesting a beer license to sell beer. All fees have been paid, and a background check was completed with no records found. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to grant the beer license to Lucky Corner. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Special Exception and Variance Request- Randy Lane told the group Aleck Merritt is requesting a variance be made on setbacks on Griner Street and Anderson Street from fifty five feet from center line of the street to forty feet from center line of the street. These are vacant lots facing Hull Avenue at 500 Hull Avenue and 512 Hull Avenue. This variance is requested for construction of duplex apartment buildings. Mr. Merritt has presented this request before the Planning Commission and has not received an answer due to, either no meeting or the lack of a quorum at the last meeting. According to our Ordinance 13-3 the Planning Commission has thirty days in which to act on any variance request and after the thirty days the request is granted or recommended for approval if no action has been taken by the Planning Commission. Mayor Harper told Mr. Merritt the Council cannot make a motion on the variance until it has been advertized for two weeks and a Public hearing is completed. Mayor Harper set the Public hearing for July 25th, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. before the 6:00 p.m. Council meeting.

REPORTS

4. City Manager's/ Finance Director's Report- Mandy Luke told the group she is still working on the FY 2012 budget. The budget will be advertised in the local paper on July 5th, stating it will be available for public review through July 11th at which time we will have a Public hearing at 5:30p.m., before the Council meeting. The Budget needs to be adopted the last meeting in July. She also gave an update on the request made by Council at the Budget workshop, in reference to the water rates and the new Waste Water Treatment Plant. She said according to our records the debt service fee was set in December 2009 and instead of raising the water and sewer rates the full amount, we requested the fee be cut in half and raise the rates again if needed. According to John Hunkele with Coastal Engineering the Waste Water Treatment Plant will take two years to build and we must have \$372,000 set aside at all times for the loan. We have completed this task and the City can hold off on raising the rates again until 2015 or 2016. Mandy suggested if the rates are to be raised again the Council might want to think about raising them in small minimal increases, instead of waiting and raising the rates the full amount at one time. Mayor Harper commented the water and sewer rates were only raised half of what was needed to get the loan through GEFA for the Waste Water Treatment Plant due to Mandy Luke's good financial work and ability to "crunch the numbers".

5. City Attorney's Report- Mitchell Moore updated the group on the excavation of the wells. The Excavation has been completed and we should receive a report from TTL within thirty to sixty days. He also updated the group on the Gas Line Project, Tifton's attorney, Greg Sowell is rewriting their proposal and we should receive it by tomorrow. Also, he spoke to Tom Thomas about the right of way agreement and it has been submitted to the county. The start date for the Gas Line Project is set for July 5th, 2011.

6. Department heads Report- Randy Lane told the group they moved 598 tons of dirt for TTL. Randy also reminded the group about the 4th of July festivities, which will be held on July 2, 2011 at Memorial Park off the Adel Hwy. He said activities start at 10:00a.m., and Fireworks will begin at 9:00p.m.

Chief Clayton told the group he would like to submit a proposal for the City's probation services since the company we are presently contracted with is leaving. He recommended Daniel and Lisa Hancock with, A & D Probation. Alderman Richbourg made a motion to allow A & D Probation to take over the City's probation services. The motion was seconded by Alderman Retterbush and the motion carried unanimously.

Chief Clayton also introduced the new officer, James Smith to the Council.

Mitchell Moore wanted to mention to the Council about "The Land Bank program or concept". The purpose of this concept is if a City has a bunch of dilapidated structures which taxes are accumulated and the property can't be sold because the taxes are more than what the property is worth and through a judicial proceeding sell the properties so they can be renovated. Mitchell said Mandy has done an excellent job of collecting the City's property taxes and we have very few delinquencies, so this concept may not be for the City. Mitchell added he would like to take a count of all dilapidated properties within the City and ask the City Code Enforcer, Henry Yawn if he could look into taking an inventory these properties. Mayor Harper told Mitchell the City has been researching the pros and cons of the Land Bank usage with community housing program that we are a member of now.

Dawn Morrison updated the group on the projects and events happening with Better Hometown and the Chamber of Commerce. She said the building down town was sold and hopefully we will get a business in that building shortly. Also, Kim Hobbs is working on the grant for the Hogan project. We also received the grant for the Farmers Market and we are still working on that project. Dawn also told the group the Fall Festival is scheduled for September 24th. She added the Chamber, Better Hometown and all the City's in the County are working on a new project, a County line to County line yard sale.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Daniel Hancock thanked the Council for the allowing his company A & D Probation, to take over probation services for the City.

Alderman Richbourg told the group he was glad to be back and ask Mayor Harper to inform the group about the reduction in jail cost. Mayor Harper told the group the Sheriff and Alderman Carter contacted him last week and informed him the jail cost for the City of Nashville will now be \$25.00 per day instead of \$40.00 per day. He said this will save twenty five to thirty percent on the City's jail cost and will help out the Police department's budget. Mayor Harper said he called the Sheriff and thanked him for the reduction in jail cost.

Mayor Harper also wanted to note at the Budget workshop last week, Mandy Luke gave each of the Council a copy of the proposed employee salary increases for the upcoming year, since no increases have been received in the last three years. She asked each member of Council not to present these copies to the public because it is a work in progress and nothing has been adopted. Mayor Harper continued the employees' salaries are however public records but individuals requesting any personnel information must fill out an open records request with the City. He stressed to Council not to give out any information on this spreadsheet because it is again a work in progress and does not need to be misunderstood or misread. Once

the Budget is adopted any individual can fill out an open records request with the City and receive the correct information.

Mayor Harper also wanted to thank Ben Warren and Rob Hawkins along with the County Road department for their help in the excavation and removal of dirt for the TTL project. They supplied all the equipment for the excavation and removal of dirt which saved the City several dollars.

Alderman Perryman welcomed Alderman Richbourg back. He told Dawn Morrison he was excited about the Farmers Market and told the Chief and Daniel Hancock how happy he was that the probation was going to be handled locally by A & D Probation.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:37p.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