

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
NOVEMBER 15, 2011**

INVOCATION: Mayor 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 Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Dick Perryman, and Michael Richbourg.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Drake and friends, and Tim Tanner.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Alderman Perryman made the motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper ask the Council to strike item number three from the agenda and add a discussion on the CDBG Grant for next year. Mitchell Moore requested a brief Executive Session. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Alderman Perryman, and the motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. 2nd Reading of the Tree Ordinance- Mitchell Moore informed the Council this will constitute the second reading of the Tree Ordinance. Once the motion to adopt has been granted the Ordinance will be published in our local paper. He pointed out under Section 5 they must establish a Tree Board for the City of Nashville. The Board must consist of six members all of which must reside within the City limits. Mitchell also gave a brief description over what is covered in the Tree Ordinance. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to adopt the Tree Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Alderman Perryman, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Nashville Alternative Center- Mayor Harper told the group a few years ago the Nashville Alternative Center was basically closed down due to State budget cuts. The City and other organizations donated some money to keep the Center opened. Although it is unsure of the amounts the City donated, the portion was around \$6,000.00 to \$10,000.00. The Alternative Center has been faced with more

State budget cuts and would like to know if the City will donated some money to help the Center. He also handed out a list of monthly utility expenses needed run the Center, which was given to Randy Lane from Mrs. Jane Singletary, Supervisor for the Alternative Center. Mayor Harper told the group this Center serves 20 people with Developmental Disabilities, any donation will be appreciated. The group had some discussion about one of the things the center does to raise money, which is to refurbish used or old furniture. Alderman Richbourg wanted to see if the City could raise the amount of the donation the City gave last time to help out with the utility expenses. Mayor Harper wanted the Council to note the reason the City is doing better and did not fall short this year is because last year we did not donate as much money as we have in the past. Alderman Perryman stated the Alternative Center provides a very valuable service for people that have needs beyond anything the City could provide. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to donate \$5,000.00 to the Alternative Center and revisit the donation every six months. The motion was seconded by Alderman Richbourg, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Yard Sales- Mayor Harper wanted the Council to revisit the yard sale Ordinance. The Ordinance in place now limits the number of yard sales a person can hold per year to two, and charges a \$5.00 permit fee. Mayor Harper wants the Council to look at the Ordinance again and raise the limited number of times an individual can hold a yard sale, but determine and list exactly what constitutes a yard sale and if the items for sale are yard sale material. He explained if someone purchases items for resale, and sells them in a yard sale then these items should not be considered yard sale items. No permits should be given to people who do not have written permission from the property owner to hold a yard sale on their property. Mitchell Moore asked the Mayor what exactly needs to change in the Ordinance. Do we need to restrain or regulate. After some more discussion the group decided to discuss this item in a work session.

4. Urban Redevelopment Plan- Mitchell Moore told the group when the City of Nashville joined the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing approximately six months ago one of the stipulations was to create an Urban Redevelopment Plan for the City. This will enable the City to deal with property owners that fail to keep their property up to code. He also presented the Council with a Resolution which identifies these areas. Mayor Harper told the group the City was also granted some money to get this plan together by the Regional Commission. Per Todd Miller from the Regional Commission we should put money aside to match this project but he did not think the project would cost more than the grant so any match would not be a large amount. Mayor Harper said the Council needs to adopt the Resolution which describes the boundaries of redevelopment areas within the City of Nashville. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Radar for Georgia State Patrol- Randy Lane told the group SFC Stan Stalnaker from G.S.P. Post 13, Tifton is requesting that the City of Nashville them one Stalker Radar for a Trooper assigned to Berrien County. The amount of citations the G.S.P. has written in Nashville City Court since January 1, 2011 and that total is 77. The amount of fines generated for these citations are \$7,900.00. SFC Stalnaker assured me that the Troopers at Tifton Post will continue to work the city limits of Nashville as much possible and hold road checks monthly. The total amount for the equipment is \$3,074.50 and Chief Clayton would also like to purchase two additional radars at \$2000.00 each for the Police department. Mandy

confirmed that SPLOST can be used to purchase these items. Alderman Stalnaker added the G.S.P. saves the City a tremendous amount of money in legal fees and they also save the City a lot of man hours when they come in to work fatality wrecks. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to purchase the Stalker radar for G.S.P. and also purchase the other two requested by the Police department. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion. Alderman Stalnaker asked if he should abstain from voting due to the fact his brother is the Georgia State Patrolman assigned to Berrien County. After some discussion, Mitchell told the group that Alderman Stalnaker did not have to abstain from voting because the purchase would not benefit him and the motion carried unanimously.

6. CDBG Grant for 2012- Mayor Harper told the group the City was just funded \$386,000.00 CDBG Grant as a Community of Opportunity participant. Normally if a grant is awarded the City would have to wait two years before applying for another. However being a Community of Opportunity participant we are allowed by DCA to apply immediately after one has been funded “once”. With the Council’s approval, Mayor Harper wanted to take the opportunity to apply for the 2012 CDBG. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to allow Mayor Harper to apply for the 2012 CDBG Grant. Alderman Perryman seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

7. City Manager’s/Finance Director’s Report- Mandy Luke updated the group on the City’s Audit. The City Auditors will be here another two to three weeks after the Thanksgiving Holidays. We are not able to file for an extension with the State this year so the City’s audit must be completed by the end of February 2012. Mandy also wanted to invite Council to the City’s Thanksgiving dinner which will be held at noon on November 22nd, in the Community Center.

8. City Attorney’s Report- Mitchell Moore told the group earlier when we were discussing yard sales; Tim Tanner told me that Valdosta has a “Peddler License” which is only good for one day. The individual must reapply for this license each day. Mitchell said this is something that may discourage this type of activity if that is what the Councils intentions are to do. Mitchell added the City has a code section which mentions “Peddlers” and he will be glad to look at the Ordinance and tweak it if that is what the Council wishes. Council agreed and requested that Mitchell look into this matter. Mitchell also told the group he spoke with Jay Shaw in reference to the “walking trail”. Mr. Shaw assured me that he would do everything he can to make sure the money is available for the City’s project.

Mitchell told the group he was contacted by Randy Lane and told that Better Home Town is trying to move the Cancer Walk from the High School to Down Town. Randy had a question about DOT’s concerns from a liability stand point. He wanted me to look at the draft and address this issue with DOT. DOT’s response to the draft was, we will be closing State Routes and if we do this then we will be held responsible for everything, such as traffic control. Dawn Morrison added a route has been set but Chief Clayton is not comfortable with the route so he is working on a different route for the walk. Dawn also said she will be talking to Anthony Heath, Sheriff of Berrien County and see if he can lend some assistance for the walk. Mitchell said another matter Randy Lane contacted him about was the American Disability (ADA) Transition Plan from 1992 or 1995. According to DOT if the City doesn’t have a plan, they must get a plan. Initially the City was

supposed to have started an Initial Transition Plan in January of 1995 along with any updates changes or amendments since that date. The City will not be sanctioned if we have not started a Transition Plan but we need to submit one. Mitchell informed the group he will see about putting something together. The only other update Mitchell had was that TTL still has not heard anything from EPD and they will inform me when they do hear something.

9. Department Head's Report- Dawn Morrison presented four bids for the Downtown Center's roof, for Mayor Harper to open. She said each bid should include ten thousand square feet which is the size of the building and recapping seven chimneys. Each bidder is also licensed and all are insured. Mayor Harper said the first bid is from Affordable Roofing. They had two bids, for the Hydrostop roofing system \$28,000.00, and \$21,325.00 to apply the GACO roofing system. Dawn added the two bids are for rubber roofing. Mayor Harper said the second bid is from Gregg Weaver for a metal roof, \$50,000.00. The third bid is from Marlon Giddens Construction, \$23,220.00 for a metal roof. The fourth bid is from Bi-State Roofing, for \$62,115.00 for a thermoplastic rubber roof. The group had some discussion over metal versus rubber roofing. Randy Lane informed the group he received a call two weeks ago from a Malcolm Brian, who asked if the City had any vacant buildings in the City approximately one thousand square feet that we would be willing to rent to Wiregrass Technical College. Henry Yawn and I measured the back of the Downtown center and it is about eighteen hundred square feet. We then had four people from Wiregrass visit us last week and they liked the idea of the Downtown center and were very interested. Today I received a call from Mr. Brian and he said Wiregrass wants to lease the back half of the North side of the building. The offer was \$750.00 per month with a three year contract. They will also pay all their utilities. Alderman Richbourg asked, what needs to be done to have the building ready. Randy said he called Ricky Boyd who has experience with reconstruction and he said the flooring needs to be redone; drop the ceiling down, and add sectioning for the classrooms. All of which will run around \$12 to \$15 thousand. He added, Wiregrass wants two class rooms and a small office, and they need to be able to move in by February 2012. Randy told the group this is why we need to decide on the roofing of the building. The group discussed the drainage problems and which type of roofing would be better to install. Alderman Richbourg requested that Dawn find out what gauge each type of metal is on the two metal roof bids. The group also asked Henry Yawn to get with Ricky Boyd and inspect the roof to see what needs to be done to fix any drainage, or damage due to the drainage. Mandy pointed out the money to fund this project cannot come from SPLOST unless the project has something to do with the City Hall expansion. The money will have to come out of the General fund and possibly out of the Contingency fund. She also told the Council that when they vote to give money to different organizations and projects the small amount in our Contingency fund decreases rapidly. If something happens and we need those funds we will have nothing. Alderman Richbourg asked Randy Lane if a lease agreement has been signed. Randy said a lease agreement is in the works. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve the renovations at the Downtown center for Wiregrass provided a lease agreement has been signed. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Dawn Morrison asked the Council if she could get someone to work up some specs for the Downtown center. She suggested Stacey Watkins out of Tifton, but would rather use Ken Ricketts from Valdosta who is more familiar with the floor plans for this building. She also suggested Howard Ray Construction from Valdosta. She said whoever we choose they will not charge to do the specs, because they will

most likely be the one who will do the reconstruction. Council agreed to allow Dawn to find someone to specs for the reconstruction for the Downtown center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC/COUNCIL

Elizabeth Drake with the Nashville Singles organization shared the concerns the organization has on renting the Community Center. She said they are a nonprofit organization. They charge a fee to attend their dances, and the money pays the expenses for the dance, but any money left over is given to charity. Ms. Drake told the group they have been renting the Community Center every fourth Friday of each month for the last three years. She said in the last year we have had several complaints and they are, they have no control over the thermostat anymore because it is locked, the deposit is never given to them the day the key is returned, tables and chairs are stacked, and the cost to rent the building has increased, the center is now inspected the morning after without someone from their organization being present. Mayor Harper told Ms. Drake, the City cannot hold deposits and each one must be deposited the day they are received. He also explained the reason for the thermostat being locked is because the air conditioner has been left on too many times and this causes the system to freeze, so the temperature is preset and locked to keep this from happening. Someone is assigned to inspect the building every morning after each event, because so many are not abiding by the list of rules for the Community center. The rental fee increased because the upkeep cost has increased. Mayor Harper told Ms. Drake to leave a number with City Hall when they rent the center and they will make sure someone from your organization is present during the inspection.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Richbourg made the motion to go into Executive Session at 7:24p.m. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Alderman Richbourg the motion to come out of Executive Session at 7:45p.m. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED

Alderman Richbourg made the motion to postpone the condemnation on the Reedy Creek property. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48pm. 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