

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
SEPTEMBER 12, 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 Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Dick Perryman, Billy Retterbush, Michael Richbourg, and Antonio Carter arrived late.

STAFF PRESENT: Tina Ward, Randy Lane, Henry Yawn, Major Edwards, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Dawn Morrison, and City Attorney Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randall Melton, Frank Watts, and Bryan Shaw.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS: Alderman Richbourg made the motion to approve the minutes. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTIONS OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper ask Council to remove item number four from the formal agenda. Alderman Richbourg requested item number four be replaced with another item, The City's Emergency Warning Siren. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the change and addition. The motion was seconded by Alderman Gaither, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Extend the Hours at the Ball Parks- Mayor Harper told the group at the last work session Robert White requested the hours at the ball park off the Adel Highway (Memorial Park) be extended from 10:00pm to 12:00am for tournaments. Alderman Retterbush asks the Mayor how many tournaments will be held at the ball park. Mayor Harper replied the number is unknown at this time. Alderman

Retterbush asks the Mayor if he has heard reports of adults drinking alcohol in the park during these tournaments and if so, will this continue. Mayor Harper replied he cannot confirm or deny any of this activity. Alderman Stalnaker said he would like to extend the hours of the park, but charge a fee to the non benefit tournaments or cash tournaments. He said this will help with the upkeep, power and maintenance. Alderman Retterbush said we also need to limit the number of cash tournaments held at the park. Alderman Stalnaker suggested someone investigate the field rental fees charged by the County for these events. Alderman Retterbush said he would like an accurate count of how many ball games this field host every year. Alderman Richbourg suggested the Mayor talk with Robert White, and find out how many tournaments the park will host each year. Alderman Retterbush made the motion to postpone any decision on this issue until the next Council meeting. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Community Center Rental for Employees- Mandy Luke said at the last work session the Council discussed an increase in rental fees, and changing the policy on Employee rentals for the Community Center. She said they also discussed purchasing new tables and chairs for City functions. The rental fees were \$25.00 per hour up to four hours would be considered all day and the charge was \$150.00. Council discussed increasing the amount per hour to \$30.00 and after five hours will be considered all day and the charge will be \$300.00. The \$60.00 deposit will remain the same. Council also discussed changing the amount of times the Community Center can be rented for free by the City Employees. The group discussed allowing employees one time a year free rental and charging half or full price for any rentals after. Mr. Bryan Shaw requested the rental cost stay the same because he felt the fee was to high already compared to other surrounding Cities. He asks that the sound system be included in the rental fee for the Community Center because now there is an extra charge for the sound system. Mandy said we have had some people abusing the sound system so a lock was placed on it. Now, if someone wants to use the sound system, a key is required to unlock the system and an extra charge of \$25.00 was placed on the rental fee for the sound system key. The group discussed adding the \$25.00 for the sound system to the deposit, which is returnable. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to increase the rental cost for the Community Center to \$30.00 per hour and after five hours will be considered all day and the charge will be \$200.00. Include the \$25.00 charge for the sound system in with the deposit if needed and deposit remain the same in the amount of \$60.00. Also, the employees be granted a one time a year free rental, and charged half price for the second rental and full price for the third and every other rental. The motion was seconded by Alderman Retterbush and the motion

carried unanimously. Mr. Bryan Shaw requested the City look into purchasing some equipment for the Community Center, such as a video screen. Mayor Harper asked Mandy if the motion needs on to apply to new rentals and when this increase needs to take place. Mandy said we have decided to enforce the new rental amounts tomorrow. She said the people who have already booked the center before tomorrow will be allowed to keep their rental dates at the price they booked the center for. Mayor Harper asked Mandy to look into purchasing some new tables and chairs for the Community Center for Government and City functions only.

3. Post Office Traffic- Mayor Harper at the last Work Session we discussed the parking lot at the Nashville Post office. We discussed turning a section of the street between McKinley and South Bartow, which is a section of McPherson; into a one way street and painting the parking spaces at an angle so that parking at the post office would not pose a potential hazard. The Council asked the Mayor to talk to the banks and businesses this change would affect before a decision is made. Mayor Harper said he was unable to reach anyone at the Telephone Company but he spoke to one of the Bank's personnel and they thought the idea was a good one. Keith Shaw told the Mayor he spoke to the employees at (Windstream) the telephone company and they were happy the City was considering the idea. The group discussed advertising the change and holding a public hearing before making the final decision.

4. The City's Emergency Warning Siren- Alderman Richbourg suggested they consider allowing the City's Emergency Warning Siren's daily testing, be cut from everyday at noon, to a once a month test, for example the first Friday of each month, and of course for any emergency weather purposes. He added with the provision we investigate and if it is deemed permissible and safe by the manufactures. After some discussion, Mayor Harper suggested the Council advertise and hold a public hearing before enacting this proposal. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to investigate, advertise and hold a public hearing, and if it is deemed permissible and safe by the manufactures, that the City only test the Emergency Warning Siren on the first Friday of each month at noon unless there is an emergency weather situation. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

5. DOT Request Form for Resurfacing / LMIG- Mayor Harper told the group Barbara Thomas from the Georgia Department of Transportation has sent in a request for Resurfacing City Certificate of Ownership and Maintenance Agreement or LMIG. The agreement needs to be returned with our resurfacing list once

Council approves. The list is as follows: **1. North** and South Bartow (only completed the middle), **Start:** West Marion Ave. **End:** College Street
2 Cypress Street, **Start:** East Marion Ave. **End:** East McPherson Ave.
3. Baytree Drive, **Start:** Sycamore **End:** Magnolia

- 4.** Langdale Drive, **Start:** Industrial Drive **End:** Old Coffee Road
- 5.** Sirmans Ave. **Start:** Old Coffee Road **End:** Lynwood
- 6.** Futch Ave. **Start:** North Taylor **End:** North Jackson
- 7.** North Mathis St. **Start:** East Marion Ave. **End:** Old Coffee Rd.
- 8.** South Jefferson St. **Start:** East Dennis Ave. **End:** Ga. 125
- 9.** East Avera Ave. **Start:** North Davis Street **End:** Old Coffee Rd.
- 10.** South Berrien Street, **Start:** West Gary Ave. **End:** College Street
- 11.** Jackson Street, **Start:** Avera Mill Road **End:** East Smith Ave.
- 12.** Jefferson Street, **Start:** South Jefferson Street **End:** Hazel Ave. (Alco store)
- 13.** Hull Ave. **Start:** Griner Street **End:** Davis Street.

Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve and sign the Georgia Department of Transportation Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant Program Agreement/ LMIG and the resurfacing list. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Mausoleum Request at West View Cemetery- Henry Yawn told the group he has a request for a mausoleum which is less than four feet, in a section of West View Cemetery, which has not been approved for mausoleums. In the City Code book chapter 6, page 423; regarding cemeteries, there is no mention of mausoleums. However, under section 6-6, it states, “The height of monuments and stones shall be limited to four feet.” Alderman Richbourg made a motion to allow the mausoleum at West View Cemetery provided the mausoleum meets the required measurements. Mitchell Moore asked the group if they wanted to modify the Ordinance to reflect the change. The group had some discussion about the different changes or modifications needed for the Ordinance. Alderman Perryman said we need to change the Ordinance, advertise to give the public an opportunity to express their opinion. Mayor Harper asked Mitchell Moore if the Ordinance should be changed. Mitchell said yes, we need to clarify a few items and modify the regulations in the Ordinance. Alderman Richbourg retracted his first motion and asked Henry Yawn if waiting for the change of the Ordinance would keep anyone from being laid to rest. Henry said yes the individual is not expected to live much longer. Alderman Richbourg stated we need to allow a variance in this situation. Alderman Richbourg made the motion to allow the mausoleum, in this particular case, be placed at West View Cemetery. Alderman Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Berrien County T-Project- Mandy Luke told the group she got a call from Ronnie Hall from Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc. who advised me that the City of Nashville needs to send Ms. Jeanna Kearney a letter stating we want to take over the County's T-Project and that we are going to re-locate it on City property. He also suggested that we include both awards for a total \$350,000.00 to make sure that we have enough money to cover the project. The City's match for the \$350,000.00 T-Grant will be \$87,000.00, (50,000 for the 200,000 T-Grant and 37,500 for the 150,000 T-Grant). He said that \$38,000.00 Berrien County has spent so far will be forfeited if we decide to build something on our own land. All of this is pending approval from Georgia DOT in order to proceed. The first phase of the T-Project is for the walkway or trail around Memorial Park down Adel Highway to Dogwood and the second phase has not been designed yet, but both will need to be taken over. The group had some discussion on modifying the T-Project in order for it to be geared towards the City. Mayor Harper asked Randy Lane to speak to Ronnie Hall and find out the options the City will have, and we will put this item on the next work session for discussion.

8. FY2010 Audit- Mandy Luke handed the Council a copy of the FY2010 Audit from Mike Sirmans and his team from Ashley, Meeks, Sirmans, Sirmans, and Sumner Accounting Firm. She said the City's auditors, have delivered the FY2010 audit copies. The most important fact about this report is located in the Independent Auditor's Report which reads "Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements" based on our audit. The required information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole. This audit report includes the basic financial statements. The City has several funds which are classified as non-major. The major funds are the General Fund, Water and Sewer Fund, the Gas Fund, and the SPLOST Fund. The General Fund schedule of assets, liabilities, and fund balances for 2010 were total assets of \$1,505,489.00 (an increase of \$204,815 from previous year), total liabilities of \$327,036.00 (an increase of \$43,489 from previous year), and net assets were \$1,178,453.00 (and increase of \$161,326 from previous year). The General Fund schedule of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balances were \$2,705,350.00 total expenditures and the net change in fund balance was \$161,326.00. This was an increase in our General fund balance from FY 2009 through FY 2010. The Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund total assets for FY 2010 \$6,425,509.00, total liabilities \$2,296,896.00, and net assets were \$4,128,613.00. The Water and Sewer Fund schedule of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net assets for FY2010 were total operating revenues \$1,456,302.00, operating expenses \$987,975.00, non-

operating expenses \$25,210.00, and net income \$460,018.00. Now we can look at the Gas Fund. Total assets for the Gas Fund were \$1,733,434.00, total current liabilities were \$118,502.00, and net assets were \$1,614,932.00. The Gas Fund schedule of revenues, expenses, and changes in fund net assets for FY2010 were the total operating revenues of \$889,403.00, operating expenses \$808,921.00, interest revenues of \$20,003.00, and a net income of \$100,485.00. This was great because the previous year we had a net loss of \$59,880.00 in the Gas Fund. The SPLOST Fund in FY 2010 had revenues of \$347,588.00 and expenditures of \$144,062.00. The ending fund balance at the end of FY 2010 was \$580,695.00.

9. Reschedule Council Meetings- Mandy Luke told the group the Council meeting scheduled for October 10th falls on Columbus Day and the City will be closed to observe the Holiday. Council needs to decide if they want to reschedule or cancel this meeting. The other Council meeting that needs to be rescheduled is the one set for December 26th. This is another holiday observed by the City and Council needs to reschedule or cancel it. Alderman Richbourg made the suggestion to reschedule the October 10th meeting to the following Tuesday, October 11th, and cancel the December 26th meeting. Council agreed.

REPORTS

10. City Manager/Finance Director Report- Mandy Luke wanted the Council's thoughts on the Telephone and internet bill for the EMA and Search and Rescue building. Randy Lane added the bill amount per month is around \$80.00. Alderman Stalnaker said EMA has been moved to the 911 center, and at the next County Commissioners meeting they are to discuss leaving the Search and Rescue in the same building. He added the Search and Rescue employee will have a phone which is paid for by the County, and the internet service was for EMA which is no longer in the building. The group had some discussion on cutting off the telephone and internet services to the building. Alderman Stalnaker asks that if the decision is to cut off the service, then give them ample notice so they will have time to switch the service over. Alderman Perryman had some concerns about whether turning off the land line service to the building was the right idea. Alderman Carter stated the building is not used except for meetings and no one is there during the day. Alderman Gaither made the motion to cut off the telephone and internet service to the Search and Rescue building on January 1st, 2012. Alderman Richbourg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

11. City Attorney Report- Mitchell Moore updated the group on TTL. He said they still have until the end of September to submit their report to EPD. He also

updated the group on the Hogan Project. He said Kimberly Hobbs indicated at one time they needed a letter from the Council and the letter is no longer needed due to the extension she was granted through November 2011.

12. Department Head Reports- Dawn Morrison reminded the group about the Harvest Festival. The event is scheduled for September 24th; opening ceremonies will begin at 10:00am.

John Reynolds told the group the Grant for the new lift station was granted. Randy Lane told the group he was contacted by Blair Joiner, the new Chief of the Forestry Department. He would like to place an antenna on our water tower. Randy said he called Hasty's Communications and they said the antenna should not present a problem with interference. Also spoke to our Fire Chief; Buck Warren and a few others about interference, and they said it should not present a problem. I asked Chief Joiner about using their radio channel if something were to happen to our Fire departments radio channel he said it would be no problem. The installation and the antenna will be at no cost to the City, They just need Council to approve. Alderman Stalnaker made the motion to approve installation of the antenna on the City's water tower. The motion was seconded by Alderman Retterbush and the motion carried unanimously. Randy also reminded the Council about the Okefenokee Occasion is scheduled for January 10th, 11th, and 12th, 2012 and we need a list of who is going to attend so we can make reservations. Alderman Retterbush asked how much the trip cost. Randy said the City pays \$1500.00 to attend and \$115.00 per night, for the Hotel rooms. Alderman Retterbush stated the City should save their money this year and not attend. Alderman Stalnaker disagreed and said he will forfeit his travel expense so another Councilman can go because it is an event we should not miss. Mayor Harper told the group the dollar amount for the entire County to attend the Okefenokee Occasion is \$1500.00 for ten guest, and that amount is normally split between the City's and the County but neither the County or the other Cities are going to pay this charge so our City will pay it and if any of the public officials from the County or the other Cities want to attend they will have to pay \$150.00 per person plus their Hotel fees. The Okefenokee Occasion allows City's and County's to come together with the Southern Regional Commission and meet with representatives from the State. To find different ways of solving problems and challenges most governments face. Seek out opportunities such as the different Federal and State grant programs offered. Mayor Harper said he would like to extend and invitations for the Okefenokee Occasion to Dawn Morrison, at Better Hometown and Chrissy Staley Marlowe, at the Chamber of Commerce. Alderman Stalnaker made a motion to allow the City to participate in the Okefenokee Occasion. Alderman Richbourg

seconded the motion. The motion carried five to one with Alderman Retterbush voting no.

Public Comments/General Comments from Council

Randal Milton wanted the City to have someone check the red lights in town. Randy Lane told him the DOT will be replacing all the lights in the City per the letter we received today.

Frank Watts wanted someone to have the owner of the car lot on Dennis and Marion, move the flags that are placed along the side of the road. He said when the wind blows the flags spread out to far into the road. Mayor Harper asked Major Edwards to check into this matter.

Bryan Shaw wanted to inform the group about the Packard Antique Car show event on October 15th. He explained where the cars would be traveling for this three day event. On the 15th, Nashville will be visited by the Packard's and the cars will be displayed around the square at the old Courthouse. The Packard's Antique Car show will hold this event again on February 15th, 2012, with 40 model T cars. Mr. Shaw said these two events are taking place due to the efforts given by Dawn and Chrissy. Mr. Shaw also spoke about some events coming to Nashville due to Dawn and Chrissy's outstanding efforts. He gave the group some history about the Smithsonian Exhibit, which is coming to Nashville in 2013. He said this event will be the biggest event since the Centennial in 1956.

Dawn Morrison thanked Bryan Shaw. She said Chrissy and I get paid for doing these efforts, but Bryan does not, he is a volunteer for the Historic Foundation. Chrissy and I could not have done the things that we have done without Bryan's help.

Adjournment

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm. 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