

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JUNE 8, 2009**

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 Michael Richbourg, Bill Turner, Billy Retterbush, Scott Stalnaker, and Darrin Davis.

STAFF PRESENT: John Reynolds, Chief John Clayton, Peter Schultz, Tina Haughton, Tommy Davis, Henry Yawn, City Manager Mandy Luke, and City Attorney Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randall Milton, John Black, Brenda Thomas, Larry Baldree, Frank Watts, Fern Turner, and Kevin Griffin.

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 Turner, and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA- Mayor Harper said item one on the Agenda needs to be changed since John Hunkele was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Mayor Harper said he will update the group about the meeting with EPD on the financing for the Sewer Treatment Plant. Alderman Retterbush added as item five, an update on with the Deep Solid Waste Board. Alderman Richbourg made a motion to approve the formal agenda with the changes. Alderman Turner seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on the Sewer Treatment Plant – Mayor Harper gave a synopsis on the financing of the Sewer Treatment Plant since John Hunkele could not be present at tonight's meeting. He said last Monday John Hunkele, John Reynolds,

and I met with EPD. Bill Scott with EPD wanted to discuss some ideas about the additions to our waste water treatment plant. Mayor Harper added the project cost, started out at five million and then ballooned to seven million, after the first meeting with EPD. The increase was due to the additional items they wanted to add to our project. Since our engineer did not agree with EPD on the additions, we met again to discuss the additions. Mayor Harper said to make a long story short, the meeting concluded with, saving the City 1.5 million dollars. Now we are estimating the cost for the plant at 5.5 to 5.6 million instead of 7 million. The reduction in cost involves using the ponds as holding ponds and transferring the water back through the system whenever we have an excess of water waste. Mayor Harper said in conclusion the meeting basically resulted in saving the City 1.5 million and John Hunkele will be able to explain this at a later date in his update.

2. Second Reading of the Hotel Motel Tax Ordinance- Mitchell Moore specified the exemptions according to O.C.G.A. § 48-13-51. He said under (h) The tax authorized by this article shall not apply to:

(1) Charges made for any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations provided to any persons who certify that they are staying in such room, lodging, or accommodation as a result of the destruction of their home or residence by fire or other casualty;

(2) The use of meeting rooms and other such facilities or any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations provided without charge;

(3) Any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations furnished for a period of one or more days for use by Georgia state or local governmental officials or employees when traveling on official business. Notwithstanding the availability of any other means of identifying the person as a state or local government official or employee, whenever a person pays for any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations with a state or local government credit or debit card, such rooms, lodgings, or accommodations shall be deemed to have been furnished for use by a Georgia state or local government official or employee traveling on official business for purposes of the exemption provided by this paragraph. For purpose of the exemption provided under this paragraph, a local government official or employee shall include officials or employees of counties, municipalities, consolidated governments, or county or independent school districts; or

(4) Charges made for continuous use of any rooms, lodgings, or accommodations after the first 30 days of continuous occupancy.

(i) No tax under this article may be levied or collected by a county outside the territorial limits of the special district located within the county.

(j) Any requirement that a tax under this article be expended in the fiscal year in which it is collected shall be satisfied so long as fiscal year expenditures conform with the budget plan required in either paragraph (9) of subsection (a) or subsection (e) of this Code section. Mitchell said when we notify the hotels of this new ordinance we can specify, they will be the one to collect the tax except under the exemptions just specified. He asked the Council to adopt the ordinance since this constitutes the second reading. Alderman Richbourg asked Mitchell if the Motel owner has been notified of the new ordinance. Mandy said she sent a

letter. Alderman Turner made a motion to adopt the ordinance. The motion was seconded by Alderman Stalnaker, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Griffin Waste renewal contract- Kevin Griffin with Griffin Waste presented the Council with a new waste service contract. He said Griffin Waste has appreciated the opportunity to provide the City with an excellent solid waste collection and disposal program while offering substantial cost savings for the past three years. It is our intent to continue to offer superior service while continuing these cost saving measures. Kevin said Griffin Waste is asking the City to consider a new five year service agreement beginning on August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2014. The date will coincide with the City's budget year, allowing for any price changes, etc. to be a part of planning. Please note we have had only one price increase in the previous three years and there is currently no fuel surcharge being assessed on the monthly statement. We propose to hold the current prices firm for three years or through August 1, 2012, with only a 3% CPI annual increase in the subsequent years. Also, no fuel surcharge will be added unless diesel fuel escalates beyond \$2.79 per gallon. The price will then change in accordance with NFI (National Fuel Index) as per our existing contract. Mayor Harper asked Kevin if the 3% CPI increase can be changed to a lower percentage. Kevin said yes and it may not even need to be added after the three years or August 1, 2012. The 3% CPI annual increase is there to cover everything after three years because there is no way to predict after three years. Alderman Richbourg asked Kevin how many years the City is contracted now with Griffin Waste. Kevin said the City has a contract for five/one year term contract at the present time. At the present time the City still has two years left on the current contract as of June 1, 2009. Alderman Stalnaker commended Griffin Waste on the good job they have done for the City so far. Kevin said he would like for the Council to consider the new five year contract and allow it to begin August 1, 2009. Alderman Richbourg asked if the new contract would coincide with the existing contract. Kevin said yes the new contract is a carbon copy of the existing contract with the language reflecting the price will be held firm for three years, that there would be no fuel surcharge unless diesel fuel escalates beyond \$2.79 per gallon in accordance with NFI. Alderman Retterbush asked Kevin to also stipulate in the contract that they use the Pecan Row Landfill, because of the benefits the City has and will receive from it. Kevin agreed and said he would get the new contract to Mitchell Moore so he can read over it. Alderman Richbourg made a motion to renew the five/one year contract with Griffin Waste and begin the new contract August 1, 2009. The motion was seconded by Alderman Davis, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Reschedule the June 22nd Council meeting- Mandy Luke told the group our GMA Conference, which is held in Savannah, is scheduled for June 19th through June 22nd and most of the Council will be attending this conference until June 21st or June 22nd. So the Council needs to decide if they want to reschedule the Council meeting for another day or keep it scheduled for June 22nd at 6:00 p.m. She also informed the group a variance hearing is also scheduled for June 22nd at 5:30 p.m. The group had some discussion on the date and time. Alderman Richbourg made a motion to reschedule the Council meeting and the Variance Hearing for the fifth Monday, June 29th at 6:00 p.m. and the Variance Hearing at 5:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Alderman Turner and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Update on Deep Solid Waste Board- Alderman Retterbush updated the Council about the last meeting of the Deep Solid Waste Board. He told the group this is the same board that granted the City \$10,000.00 on grinding our own yard trash. He said starting in 2010 the City will receive \$1.25 per ton of trash dumped into the Pecan Rowe Landfill. According to Griffin Waste the City dumps around twenty one hundred tons of waste per year. This will mean around three or four thousand dollars per year of extra income for the City. Alderman Retterbush said this is only in the preliminary stages, but once they have a meeting and set it into place he will update the Council. Mitchell Moore asked if the money is in a form of a rebate. Alderman Retterbush said yes, and it is only for the members who use Pecan Rowe Landfill.

REPORTS

5. City Manager's/Finance Director's Report – Mandy reminded the group about the email she sent to each of them referring to the hours of operation. She suggested the City's administration office hours be allowed thirty minutes in the morning and thirty minutes in the after noon for preparation for the beginning and the end of day. She explained, the office will open at 8:30 a.m. for the public but employees will report in at the regular time 8:00 a.m. This will allow time for employees to get ready for customers who come into the office to conduct business. The office will close its doors to the public at 4:30 and employees will remain present until 5:00 to allow time for closing down and preparing the end of day. Mayor Harper said he's concern would be the majority of people who come in to conduct business during 8:00 to 8:30 or 4:30 to 5:00. And how the new hours will affect them. Alderman Stalnaker pointed out the County Courthouse has set the same hours 8:30 to 4:30, and the change allows the employees time to get into the building, get set up for the day as well as shutting down and closing for the

day, which helps to prevent overtime. He added this is a good idea and it has proven beneficial for the County. Alderman Richbourg told Mandy to make the call and try it on temporary basis and see if it works.

Mandy also gave each of the Council a copy of the current Budget. She said a copy of the 2010 Proposed Budget will be in each Council member's box before the Budget workshop meeting which is scheduled for 6:00 on June 17th.

6. City Attorneys' Report- Mitchell Moore updated the Council on the DDA pursuit of Valdosta Tech. He said they have discovered some new funds that are available for this project. We are currently in the process of qualifying for EDA funds, and some additional Federal funds. Valdosta Tech has reaffirmed its commitment to come to the City of Nashville. DDA believes the Tech School will be great for the City of Nashville and the Downtown area.

Mitchell also gave a brief update on the financing of the waste water treatment plant. He spoke with Denise Carter about some of our concerns on the engineering costs. Some of John Hunkele concerns were that there are more monitoring requirements which would require some more reports which were not required through GEFA. He said Denise said they would require more monitoring but they are not that involved. Mitchell also wanted the group to know of the one percent, which will be added on the backside of USDA's loan. He said we need to get a loan package from USDA so the two, GEFA and USDA, can be compared, and we can figure out how much the savings are, and how much more engineering cost will be involved. He said right now we have a forty year loan verses a twenty year loan, a 2.75 verses a 3.81. Mayor Harper suggested, John Hunkele could put together the added cost for engineering and add it with the two loans so we can compare, and decide which one we are going to take so applications can be completed. Mayor Harper also requested the estimate be completed and ready for the Budget Workshop scheduled for next week.

7. City Department Heads' Report- Chief Clayton told the group he would like to look into decreasing some of the fines the police department charges and present it to Council at the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Larry Baldree wanted the Council to vote on which kind of name should go on the new volleyball park. He said the sign will have the name of the park and the sponsors listed with their logos. The two names for the volleyball park are Nashville Beach Volleyball Park, and Berrien Beach Volleyball Park. After some

discussion about what should be on the sign, Mitchell Moore said the sign needs to have “play at your own risk”, printed somewhere in it. Alderman Richbourg said he would like the sign to read “Berrien Beach Volleyball Park”. Alderman Retterbush added that Nashville needs to be in the sign somewhere. Mayor Harper suggested the sign could read Berrien Beach Volleyball Park, Nashville Georgia. Larry also asked about getting some clipping from the yard trash for the playground equipment in the park. Alderman Retterbush asked Tommy Davis to make it available to Mr. Baldree. Larry Baldree also asked about the mowing of the park. He said they have been doing most of the mowing before the park was completed and he asked if the City could take that part over. Alderman Davis said he would get with Joe from the County and see if they can take that over, since they have prisoner run rounds that help them with the upkeep of the other parks. Alderman Richbourg told Mr. Baldree either the City or the County will take over the mowing, and we will make sure someone is dedicated to do it. Larry asked the Council if they would like to make a motion on the name of the park. They agreed Mr. Baldree should make the decision about the name for the park, but they would like to see Nashville in the name. Mitchell Moore said the only thing that must be on the sign is “play at your own risk”. Fern Turner asked the Council if the City will put out bids on the signs made for the new park. Alderman Richbourg said no because they are donated funds.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Richbourg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Alderman Turner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Bill Turner

Alderman Dick Perryman

Alderman Darrin Davis

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Michael Richbourg

ATTEST

Johnny Hall, City Clerk