

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
March 9, 2009

INVOCATION: Johnny Hall delivered the invocation.

PLEDGE: Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Travis Harper

WELCOME: Mayor Harper welcomed all in attendance.

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Aldermen Bill Turner, Billy Retterbush, Michael Richbourg, Scott Stalnaker, Dick Perryman and Mayor Harper.

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Johnny Hall, Henry Yawn, Chief John Clayton, Tommy Davis, Peter Schultz, Kathy Graham and Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randall Milton, Dawn Morrison, Mr. Miles, Margie Tygart, Crissy Staley, Ken Block, Matt Jenson, Lisa Tucker, Nicole Robinson, Janet Studstill, John Black, Jr. and unidentified man.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Turner to adopt the minutes of the February 23rd meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA: Mayor Harper asked to add Mower for Street Department under item # 8 and add four (4) ten (10) hour work week for work control under item # 9. Alderman Stalnaker requested that an executive session being added at the end. Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Stalnaker to adopt the Formal Agenda with the additions. Motion was carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. CORRECT FEBRUARY 9TH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MANDY LUKE Ms. Luke informed the Council that she had sent a copy of the February 9th Council Meeting Minutes to Kimberly Hobbs of SEGA RDC in regards to the Target area for the CDBG. Ms. Hobbs e-mailed her and informed her that May Avenue is not in the Target area as originally thought. The target area actually consists of Greenridge Drive, Raymond Drive, Windsor Avenue, Reeves Avenue, Mell Avenue, Lynn

Avenue, Dee Avenue, Park Drive and East Marion Avenue (Hwy 76) from Greenridge Drive to the lift station. Ms. Hobbs stated in the message that if Alderman Stalnaker's relatives live on May Avenue, then they are not beneficiaries of the project and there is no conflict of interest. She recommended that the minutes be amended to reflect this correction, or have the City Attorney write a letter stating that after further research it has been determined that May Avenue is not in the target area and there is no conflict. Alderman Stalnaker informed the Council that his relatives do not live on May Avenue and in fact they do live somewhere within the target area. He stated he would have to abstain from any voting. Attorney Moore instructed Ms. Luke to notify Ms. Hobbs of the fact that nothing changed. Ms. Luke advised Attorney Moore that Ms. Hobbs needs a letter from him regarding this matter.

NEW BUSINESS

2. EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER - MANDY LUKE Ms. Luke informed the Council that she is behind in the selection of an employee of the quarter for the fourth quarter. She stated she had received a submission for one employee to be selected. She then read letter of recommendation which included some information regarding this person's accomplishments. Ms. Luke then announced that Lisa Tucker of the Police Department had been nominated by Chief Clayton. She recognized Ms. Luke and stated that for the recognition she would be receiving fifty dollars in Berrien Bucks, a day off with pay, a certificate and an employee of the quarter pin. After the presentation, Ms. Tucker received a round of applause from the audience and congratulatory remarks from the group.

3. COUNTY WIDE SAFETY PLAN – EDDIE HARP Eric Groom introduced himself to the Mayor and Council. He stated he was filling in for Eddie Harp who was unable to be here due to a death in the family. Mr. Groom told the group that he has been with the Municipal Gas Authority for ten years. He talked to the group about the gas rates going from extremely high to low prices. Mr. Groom stated that this County Wide Safety Plan goes back five years. He gave a brief history of the plan and how it originated. He stated PSC would regulate our safety with our natural gas system. He remarked that a plan had to be developed on what to do when there are two operators in the same municipality. He commented that this plan is a necessity for Atlanta but down here he doesn't think it is necessary. Mr. Groom informed the Council that this plan has nothing to do with rate structure. He talked about the first phase of filing and the March 18th deadline. He spoke again about this matter being a high issue in Atlanta. Mayor Harper called for any questions or comments. Alderman Retterbush made a motion seconded by Alderman Richbourg to adopt the County Wide Safety Plan. Alderman Perryman asked if this is going to cost anything. Mr. Groom explained that it would

not and that is an unfunded mandate. Attorney Moore talked about the map referenced in Exhibit C. Peter Schultz remarked that he has a copy of the map. Alderman Stalnaker asked Mr. Schultz if he is familiar with the plan. He responded yes and that he is in agreement with it. Mr. Groom explained if this was just in South Georgia it would not be an issue. Following these remarks the motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Groom passed out a graph which shows the Natural Gas Prices for a twelve month Strip (March 2009 through February 2010). He explained the pricing for the lowest and highest cost of gas. He informed this price is just the cost at the well head. He then compared the cost of natural gas to propane. Mr. Groom then thanked the group for allowing him to come and speak. Mayor Harper expressed thanks to him for the information he shared.

4. BERRIEN COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – CRISSY STALEY Ms. Staley began by stating to the group that she has several items on the list she wishes to present to the Mayor and Council for their consideration. She then introduced the entourage she brought with her: Matt Jenson, Ken Block and Janet Studstill. Ms. Staley asked Janet Studstill to present the Berrien County Work Ready program. Ms. Studstill thanked the Mayor and Council for having them here on behalf of the Chamber. She explained how the Work Ready Program came into being. She stated employees were lacking in basic job skills. She told the group they are going full fledged to get the program implemented. Ms. Studstill informed the group that Crissy Staley had applied for and was awarded a \$35,000.00 grant to pursue the status of a Certified Work Ready community. She talked about the various sectors of people that are required by the program to be tested. She went on to say that they have been testing a broad spectrum of people. She said 140 had been tested with 95 receiving certificates. She also discussed the various types of tests that employees are required to take. Ms. Studstill told the group that this is an eye opening test. She remarked that she along with several others had taken the test. She explained that the tests will show what skills are needed in the work force. She further explained there are three different types of certificates issued which are based on the person's score. Those are: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Ms. Studstill called attention to and explained the various types of information in the packet she had passed out among the Mayor and Council. She stated the test scores are confidential and the tests are sent to and graded at Val Tech. She told the group that they have been working hard on getting this program started. Ms. Studstill informed the Council that they are here to tell the City how they can help with the program. She asked that the city employees be allowed to take the test. She added this will help meet the quota for government. She talked about the \$20.00 incentives for those who take the tests and make a certain score. She also talked about all the high school seniors taking the test next week. She then explained how someone could receive a lap top computer by testing. She said in order to

obtain the designation as Certified Work Ready Community, 222 citizens (employed and unemployed) must be assessed. She added that they are not going to stop with just the 222 quota they want to see that everybody has an opportunity to receive a certificate. Alderman Stalnaker asked if we could work something out with our department heads for the testing. Ms. Studstill responded, yes. She stated the test is over three hours long with 45 minutes for each test. She talked about the advantages of spreading the test out. There was a discussion about the different companies that are doing the testing. Ms. Staley told the group that once we reach our goal it will make us eligible. Alderman Perryman remarked that this will help us to show industry that we are willing to do whatever it takes to get industry in here. Ms. Studstill added that this program has a lot of pluses. Mayor Harper asked if they could sit in on the testing at the High School next week. Ms. Studstill responded yes. Alderman Stalnaker asked for a schedule so we will be able to coordinate with our department heads. She responded that she will get with us on the scheduling. She encouraged the Mayor and Council to take the test also. She informed the group that all 3 local banks had helped with the print outs.

Ms. Staley talked with the Council about the Auditorium Feasibility Committee. She explained that this is a committee made up of a group of citizens in conjunction with the Berrien County Collaborative. She further explained that this has been an idea for awhile but there is an effort to get it resurrected. She told the group they have been to all the municipalities and talked to them about this. She said they will be conducting a feasibility study for the best type of facility needed for our community. She then listed different type of facilities that could be considered. Ms. Staley informed the Council that they are not here to ask for money. She said this is a long term wish and goal and they are putting ideas on the table so they will be ready when the economy turns around. Ms. Staley asked for a volunteer to serve on this committee. Alderman Richbourg volunteered to serve. Mr. Ken Block informed the group the next move is to have a working lunch to go over ideas.

Ms. Staley shared with the Council about the “Buy Berrien” Campaign. She remarked that it is no shock that a lot of the small businesses are starting to ache because of the economy. She shared testimonials from various merchants how the “Buy Berrien” Campaign had helped their business. Dawn Morrison remarked that several of the downtown merchants feel very strongly about the “Buy Berrien” Campaign. In discussing advertising, Ms. Staley told the group that she feels with TV advertising you get more bang for the buck. She then listed a few advertising options. She told the Mayor and Council they are asking the City for \$330.00 per quarter for advertising. She stated there are only three quarters left in this year. She informed the group that the County and City of Enigma have agreed to do this. She added that Ray City is

talking favorably about it and she feels Alapaha will come on board. She told the group that the private sectors are not the only ones suffering because of the economy. She added if the Chamber or Better Hometown could afford it they would do it. Ms. Staley talked about the SPLOST revenues being up for the past years due in part to the "Buy Berrien" efforts. She stated that the Chamber will continue with the Berrien Bucks program. She told the group that they feel it is important to educate the people about the "Buy Berrien" campaign and that we encourage other folks in our area to shop Berrien. Ms. Staley stated they are asking \$330.00 per quarter from each municipality. The total cost will be split seven ways. She discussed with the group possible alternatives should some of the municipalities decline to participate in the program. Alderman Stalnaker commented that he feels this is a small portion to donate for the return we will get. Mayor Harper asked if they are asking for a total of \$990.00 from the City. Ms. Staley responded yes. She explained the billing process. She said the Chamber will be billed and then the Chamber will in turn bill the municipalities. This way there will only be one check sent to the advertiser. Following these remarks, Alderman Stalnaker made a motion seconded by Alder Retterbush to approve the donation of \$990.00 for advertising @ \$330.00 per quarter. Motion was carried with Alderman Perryman abstaining due to the fact he is associated with the Chamber.

5. BIDS ON RADIOS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT – MAYOR HARPER Mayor Harper asked Chief Clayton to come to the podium to address the group regarding the bids on radios for the Police Department. Chief Clayton began by saying that it had been discussed at the last Council Meeting about getting different bids on the radios. He told the group they had decided to go with Motorolas. He told the group he had received a bid from Hasty's for \$740.00 per radio. He remarked that he called them back and they revised the bid to \$678.00 per radio. He informed the group he put the call for bids out over the internet. The second bid was from Mobile Communications out of Decatur, Ga. The bid was for \$607.77 per radio. The third bid was from Hagemeyer out Charleston, S.C. The bid was for \$617.00 per radio. The fourth bid was from TBS Electronics out of Topeka, Kansas. The bid was for \$685.00 per radio. The fifth bid was from First Communications from Thomasville. The bid was for \$933.85 per radio. Chief Clayton noted that Mobile Communications, who is the low bidder, is an authorized Motorola dealer. Their bid of \$607.77 per radio includes a two year warranty. The total cost for 13 radios, including shipping, is \$7,956.01. Alderman Stalnaker asked about the programming. Chief Clayton responded they come ready to be put in service. It was noted that there is some \$70.00 difference per radio compared to Hasty's Communication and Mobile Communications. Alderman Richbourg asked if each one takes their radio home. Chief Clayton responded that they do. Alderman Richbourg then

asked if they could bank and share the radios in order to cut down on cost. Chief Clayton responded that he would be against his recommendation and explained why. There was some discussion among the group relating to the different features these radios have as compared the other ones. There was also some discussion in regards to the discount offered if 10 or more radios were ordered. Alderman Turner asked if everyone was given the same specs. Chief Clayton responded yes. Alderman Turner also asked if there were funds appropriated in the Police Department's budget to cover this. Chief Clayton responded no and explained the reason for going ahead and ordering the radios now rather than wait until the new fiscal year. Mandy Luke informed the group that there is \$30,000.00 allocated in the SPLOST budget for this equipment. Alderman Stalnaker discussed with the group as it was discussed at the previous meeting about the possibility of waiving the purchase of new vehicles. Chief Clayton explained that he has enough money in the drug fund to purchase a vehicle. When questioned if he was willing to go without purchasing new cars, Chief Clayton responded yes. He informed the group that there is grant money available for vehicles. Alderman Richbourg pointed out that with there being a difference of only \$910.00 between two lowest bids it might be feasible to go with Hasty's in Valdosta should there arise a problem and the other dealership located in Decatur and the radios having to be shipped for repair. Chief Clayton explained there should not be a problem with this. He further explained that after the two year service agreement is up Hasty will be glad to service the radios. Following this, Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Turner to purchase 13 radios from Mobile Communications of DeKalb for \$607.77 each for a total of \$7,956.01 and to be paid out of SPLOST. Motion was carried unanimously.

6. VOTE ON INCREASE OF SALARY FOR COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY - MAYOR HARPER Mayor Harper told the group that several of the Council were of the impression that Court Appointed Attorney, G. Edwards, was being paid \$600.00 per month for his services. He said, however it has come to their attention he is only receiving \$380.00 per month. There was some discussion on how many court sessions were held during the month. Mayor Harper asked about the \$50.00 assessment fee that is being charged. Alderman Stalnaker responded that the fee is charged to the indigent and that it is his understanding this is being done all across the state. Attorney Moore asked who gets the \$50.00 assessment fee and if it will go toward the court budget. Alderman Stalnaker responded that Judge Moon was going to research this but he hasn't heard back from him. He stated he is not sure how this is broken down. Mayor Harper asked if the fee is currently being charged. Chief responded by explaining the process of those who apply for court appointed attorney. Attorney Moore talked about the possibility

of this being challenged constitutionally. He told the Council that he will check into this. Following these remarks Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Stalnaker to postpone action on this until next meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

7. AWARDING OF BID ON WORKERS' COMP INSURANCE –

MANDY LUKE Ms. Luke explained that the Mayor and Council recommended the City send out Request for Proposals on all the City's insurance coverage. She said ads were placed giving the bidders until Thursday, March 5, 2009, at noon to have the proposals in. The ad specified that the bid would be awarded at the March 9th Council Meeting. She informed the Council that we had received only one bid and it had not been opened because there had been a request to postpone the bid opening. Mayor Harper remarked that he feels we should consider postponing the opening since there is only one bid. He stated the whole reason we call for bids is so we might get more than one so it can be competitive. Alderman Perryman remarked he feels we have got a deadline, however this is not enough with just one bid. Alderman Retterbush informed the group that he had spoke with the Shaw Agency and after some consideration they decided not to bid since the City's present insurer has lower rates and they could not match them. He said this is the cheapest company and they are insuring a lot of cities. Alderman Turner reminded the group about the problem in the past we had experienced when we postponed the opening. He added this has been legally advertised and he feels we should proceed with the opening of the bid. Mayor Harper stated taking into consideration that we have only one bid and the deadline has passed we will go ahead and open the bid. Mayor Harper noted that the bid was from The Gaskins Company. The amount of the bid was \$43,353.00. This is an annual cost. It was explained that the cost depends up the annual audit. It could go up or down depending on the loss experience. It was also explained that the City did not experience any losses during 2008. There was some discussion regarding savings we had experienced since we had moved from the GMA pool to this company. Following this discussion, Alderman Turner made a motion seconded by Alderman Retterbush to accept the bid from The Gaskins Company for \$43,353.00 for Workers' Comp Insurance for this year. Motion was carried unanimously.

8. MOWER FOR STREET DEPARTMENT – MAYOR HARPER

Mayor Harper asked Tommy Davis of the Street Department to come and present his request to the Council. Mr. Davis remarked he had mentioned to the group about the tractor being tore up. He said after taking to a mechanic to look at it, it has been determined it is not the injectors. He said the engine needs overhauling. He told the group he has started to get quotes on getting it repaired. He stressed that he is not asking for a new

one, just need something to mow with. Mr. Davis gave the Council the following quotes: Franklin Automotive, \$3,000 to overhaul; Clark Trading, \$3,900.00 and Nashville Tractor, \$4,000. He added that Nashville Tractor's quote is a very slim estimate due to the difficult time in getting parts for repair. He told the group when he talked with Arch Clark that Arch had asked him to mention to the Council about buying a 3940 model for \$23,000.00. He said Arch would take a trade in but he didn't give him an amount. Alderman Richbourg asked if the tractor is worth fixing. Mr. Davis said once it is fixed it should last another five to six years. Alderman Stalnaker asked about the warranty. Mr. Davis responded that all any of them would give would be a ninety day warranty. Alderman Retterbush remarked that he would like for us to do business inside the city limits. Alderman Richbourg questioned where the money will be from for the repairs. Ms. Luke responded that the Street Department has some extra in the contingency fund. Alderman Retterbush asked if the Water and Sewer department used their mower as much as the Street Department does. Mr. Davis responded they are usually mowing at the same time they are. Alderman Turner asked what the time frame is on getting it repaired. Mr. Davis responded he doesn't know. Mayor Harper commented this is a good deal if we are going to get four or five more years use out of it. Mr. Davis advised the group that the mower will need new tires in addition to the repairs. Following these remarks, Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Turner to go with Franklin Automotive for \$3,000.00 in getting the tractor repaired. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Davis told the group that Alderman Davis had wanted to bring up to the Council about getting a new mower. He said he was getting up some prices on a mower. Mayor Harper commented that we need to start looking at this since we are discussing dividing up the lawn maintenance. Since Alderman Davis was not present to present his recommendation, Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Stalnaker to postpone taking any action on this matter until next Council Meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

9. COMMENTS FROM MAYOR – MAYOR HARPER Mayor Harper told the group that he would like for Council to begin looking at the general level of the budget. He stated that he didn't want to look at just the departmental areas but the budget in general. He then talked about when to schedule a date and time to do this. After some discussion regarding the date and time it was recommended that a work session be scheduled for Monday, August 30th at 6:00 p.m. City Clerk Johnny Hall informed the group that a representative from the Census Bureau has asked to meet with the Mayor and Council in a work session so he could brief them on upcoming 2010 census. Attorney Moore also suggested that we discuss the issue regarding motorized wheel chairs. Mayor Harper

stated if there is anything else that someone wants to discuss in the work session to inform us of it.

Mayor Harper talked about entertaining the idea of going to a four day ten hour work week for work control. He stated he has already discussed this with both Peter Schultz and John Reynolds and they are receptive to the idea. He remarked that he has not had the opportunity to speak with Tommy Davis of the Street Department about this. Mr. Davis stated he is opened to the idea but would like to discuss this with his employees first. Mayor Harper told the group that the County has been doing this and it has saved them money. He added we could put this idea on the work session in order to get some feed back. Tommy Davis asked would City Hall be closed. Mayor responded no, just work control.

REPORTS

10. CITY MANAGER/FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Ms. Luke informed the Mayor and Council that they need to sign a Resolution which approves the Water and Sewer rate increase. She remarked that these rates were approved in the January 12th Council Meeting. Ms. Luke told the group that the increase was on this month's billing. She stated, however we have been unable to get the debt service fee on this yet. She added that there is no REUS on the commercial rates yet. She talked about the problems we have incurred with TBS on getting this program installed. She stated we are addressing the problem. Attorney Moore told the group that this has already been approved and adopted. We just need to put in place what has already been adopted.

Ms. Luke discussed with the group about the possibility of increasing the Water Deposit from \$75.00 to \$100.00 in order to cover the increased rates. She explained the billing cycle to the group. She told the group that they do not have to vote on it tonight.

Ms. Luke advised the group regarding the software we currently have with TBS. She stated that there are some quirky things that are happening with it. She added that she doesn't trust the software. She told the group that April has to look over things as she does the utility billing. She told the group about the demonstration Elaine Barnard of QS/1 had recently done. She stated that Brenda liked the Accounts Payable portion of it while April liked the Utility Billing part. She added that there were portions of the Utility billing part that April didn't understand until she explained them. Ms. Luke listed a couple of cities who are currently using QS/1 software. She informed the group that QS/1 has great customer support and they are in the same time zone as we are. She stated we could possibly discuss this at some point. She added that she realizes things are tight right now. Ms. Luke informed the group that this can be paid for out of SPLOST funds.

Alderman Stalnaker commented that if it is going to make things a lot easier then we need to do it. She informed the group the Ms. Barnard had previously worked with TBS and knows their system well. She told the group that the system could be switched over in six weeks. Alderman Stalnaker asked about the cost of the software. Ms. Luke responded \$24,000.00. She explained what is included in this cost. She stated there are some things we could possibly cut. Alderman Richbourg asked if GMA might recommend some others. Ms. Luke responded that are several different ones but the problem is that some are in different time zones than we. Alderman Richbourg asked if we are currently under contract with TBS. Ms. Luke responded no. She added we pay them monthly fee of a little over \$1,000.00. She told the group with the new software we would be paying more but we will get more opportunity to run a lot more reports for the auditors. She said we would be paying between \$1,300.00 to \$1,800.00 per month. Alderman Perryman asked if there is enough money in the budget to pay for this. Ms. Luke responded yes. In a discussion regarding the comparison of cost of the present software with the new one, Mayor Harper reported to the group the different figures. Ms. Luke told the group the first check to QS/1 would be for \$24, 750.00. She also told the group that she had inquired about a payment plan and that Elaine is to get back with her on this. Ms. Luke told the group that she could get bids if they want her to do so. Alderman Retterbush asked if the rates will be increased. Ms. Luke responded no but she could ask. She told the group that they didn't have to vote on this tonight. Alderman Richbourg remarked that they need a little more information so in two weeks we will be able to make a decision. He asked Ms. Luke to talk to others who are on this system.

Ms. Luke recommended to the group that we look into the possibility of increasing the base charge on gas. She suggested we talk about this in the work session.

Ms. Luke updated the group on the T Project in regards in redoing the sidewalks around the square. She told the group it had been discussed about closing off West Avenue between Dessas and the former Badcock building and South Avenue in front of Mimi's. She asked if the Council wanted to look at this. Alderman Stalnaker asked how Marge Morris feels about this. Ms. Luke talked about how they would work with the garbage truck getting in there if South Street was closed. In response to Alderman Stalnaker's question, Dawn Morrison remarked that Marge Morris and Vivian are both in favor of this idea. She stated that she feels we should brick the sidewalks before doing the streets.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT- Attorney Moore reported to the Council that he had talked with John Hunkele concerning the easement on the ditch. He told the group that no easement has been found. He also

told the Council we need to get an easement from the adjoining land owners in order to stabilize it. He remarked that the City does have sewer lines there. He told the group that we did get a plat but didn't get all of our questions answered. He stated as the opportunity arises we need to get easements.

Attorney Moore asked about the contract on Project T. Mayor Harper told him that he will get with Mary Alice McGee on this. Attorney Moore asked if the City has been billed for this. Ms. Luke responded no.

Attorney Moore informed the group that he has talked with Mark Gill of TTL and the soil and sediment issue has been addressed and the City is okay.

12. DEPARTMENT HEADS' REPORT

Dawn Morrison, Better Hometown Director, expressed thanks to everyone for their hard work on getting set up for the park dedication. Mayor Harper in turn thanked Ms. Morrison.

Peter Schultz, of the Gas Department, informed the Council they are having problems with the Ditchwitch blowing oil of the spark plugs. He further informed them that this piece of equipment is twenty four (24) years old and we are going to have problems with it. Ms. Luke told the group that we cannot use SPLOST funds for the gas department. The Council will look into this matter further.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Alderman Richbourg informed the group he had got his Water bill with the increase on it. He told them that the City Clerk had printed out copies of the State elected officials who represent our district. He encouraged everyone to call, write or e-mail these officials in regards to getting funds to help the City out with the cost of upgrading our sewer system. Mayor Harper discussed with the group about getting an e-mail concerning stimulus money. He remarked that hopefully the City can get their hands on it. Alderman Richbourg stated that if we get some money from this fund we could possibly lower the rates.

Mr. Miles spoke about an individual having a difficult time with these rates. Alderman Richbourg encouraged everyone to contact the state officials. Mayor Harper told the group he had talked with Representative Penny Houston and she asked that we not forget to contact Jack Kingston.

Alderman Stalnaker addressed the issue with the new water and sewer rates. He told the group in comparing our rates with other cities with our

population our rates are under theirs. He stated if we can get funding for other things we may be able to cut back in other ways.

Mr. Randall Milton suggested that we pass out the list of State elected officials to customers when they pay their bills. This suggestion was echoed by members of the Council.

Mayor Harper informed the Council that according to Representative Jay Shaw the bill on MOST has been held up in a committee by Earl Earnhart. He stated that Representative Shaw said he would be happy to support this bill. MOST is an acronym for Municipal Option Sales Tax. It was discussed that this is one of the fairest tax.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Retterbush to go into executive session at 8:24 p.m. Motion was carried unanimously.

Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Perryman to come out of executive session at 8:50 p.m. Motion was carried unanimously.

REGULAR SESSION RECONVENED

Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Turner to increase the Court Appointed Attorney's fee from \$380.00 a month to \$600.00 and to be funded at least in part by the \$50.00 application fee. There followed a discussion about the legality of setting up a special account for this fee. Attorney Moore said this would be fine. Ms. Luke noted that the Mayor and Johnny would have to sign the checks. Following this the motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Harper asked if it is okay to use Matt Bennett since he is associated Alderman Perryman's law firm. Attorney Moore responded that this is something the Judge Moon needs to decide. He stated however he would double check on this.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Turner to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mayor Travis Harper

Alderman Michael Richbourg

Alderman Darrin Davis

Alderman Dick Perryman

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Bill Turner

ATTEST:

Johnny Hall, City Clerk

Johnny Hall
City Clerk
City Of Nashville, Georgia
229-686-5527