

REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
September 14, 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, Scott Stalnaker, Dick Perryman, Michael Richbourg, Darrin Davis, Billy Retterbush, Bill Turner and Mayor Harper.

STAFF PRESENT: Johnny Hall, Henry Yawn, John Reynolds, Tommy Davis, Chief John Clayton and Mitchell Moore.

OTHERS PRESENT: Randall Milton, Fern Turner, Eric Gaither, Keith Stone, Dawn Morrison, Jonna Exum, Crissy Staley, Johnny Black, Gracie Hines and daughters and Frank Watts.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Stalnaker to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA: Mayor Harper requested that the Presentation of the Big Check be moved further down on the Agenda since they are not here yet. He also added Dawn Morris and Crissy Staley. Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Turner to approve the Formal Agenda with these changes. Motion was carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. RATIFICATION ON PURCHASE OVER \$5,000.00 FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT – MANDY LUKE In the absence of Ms Luke, City Clerk Johnny Hall informed the Mayor and Council that at the August 24, 2009 meeting Chief Clayton came before them requesting approval for the purchase of some guns. The cost of them was \$5,905.00, which exceeds the limit without Council's approval. He went on to explain about the process with the grant and the reimbursement to the City. The Council failed to vote on this request. This action needs to be ratified and voted on in an open meeting. Following these remarks, Alderman Turner made a motion seconded by Alderman Richbourg to approve the request. Motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2. 2nd READING/ADOPTION OF FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION ORDINANCE – ATTORNEY MOORE Attorney Moore told the group that is he is still dealing with Mr. Hunter with FEMA on this Ordinance. He stated that he has sent in a model ordinance. There was some discussion on the dates of May 12, 1986 and August 12, 1986. Attorney Moore talked about when the City adopted the flood map. He stated he would get with Mr. Hunter and the issues should be resolved before the ordinance is published. He added we should be

alright. Following Attorney Moore's comments, Alderman Retterbush made a motion seconded by Alderman Stalnaker to accept this as the second reading and adoption of this ordinance.

Attorney Moore stated this will need to be advertised at which time it will become effective. Motion was carried unanimously.

3. 2nd READING/ADOPTION OF PROVISION OF SECTION 17-6/GENERAL PENALTY VIOLATION - ATTORNEY MOORE Attorney Moore briefed the Mayor and Council on the Ordinance providing for the provision of section 17-6 General Penalty Violation. He stated this will be the second reading and it will need to be adopted. Following these comments, Alderman Retterbush made a motion seconded by Alderman Perryman to accept this as the second reading and adoption of the ordinance. Just as the other ordinance an ad will be run in the paper at which time it will become effective. Motion was carried unanimously.

4. ADOPTION RESOLUTION ON LIQUOR REFERENDUM – ATTORNEY MOORE Attorney Moore told the Council that he had to send in to the State to get approval to have this referendum placed on the November 3rd Election Ballot. He remarked that he has talked with the Board of Elections regarding this. He said the City has to formally adopt a resolution to place this item on the ballot as a referendum. Alderman Perryman asked if the verbage used on the sample would be the same as on the ballot. Attorney Moore responded that it would with the exception of the heading. Alderman Richbourg made a motion seconded by Alderman Davis to adopt the Resolution for liquor referendum. Motion was carried unanimously. Attorney Moore explained the City has already approved retail sales this will allow consumption on the premises by the drink.

5. VOTE ON TRANSFER OF ALCOHOL LICENSE FOR MEXICAN RESTAURANT – MAYOR HARPER Mayor Harper explained the group that the Mexican Restaurant, which is currently located on the square, is planning to relocate to the former Radio Shack building on Tifton Road. Mayor Harper stated that Mr. Henry Yawn has also verified the distance from this location to the Middle School is slightly over 200 yards. This is within the legal distance from the school as required by State Law. He informed the Council that the owners currently serve only beer and wine at their present location. Following these remarks, Alderman Davis made a motion seconded by Alderman Perryman to approve the transfer of the alcohol license of the Mexican Restaurant from its present location on South Jefferson Street to Tifton Highway. Motion was carried unanimously. Alderman Turner told the group that he is not opposed to transferring these licenses but he feels the public should have the opportunity to speak on this issue. Mayor Harper responded that this is within the parameters of the state law and doesn't know if we should spend any tax payers' money to advertise when it is legal.

6. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE/BETTER HOMETOWN REPORTS – CRISSY STALEY/DAWN MORRISON Mayor Harper recognized Dawn Morrison, BHT Director and Crissy Staley, Chamber Director. Ms. Morrison began by stating they would like to present information to the Mayor and Council concerning Opportunity Zone for the City. She then turned the presentation over to Ms. Staley. Ms. Staley began by stating under this program anywhere in the City would become a blight area. She said that the state designation of an Opportunity Zone the following incentives would be allowed: Any business including retail with the opportunity zone would qualify for the incentives. It lowers job creation thresholds to 2 jobs to qualify for maximum state job tax credits, which is \$3,500.00. She said it will credit against 100% of income tax liability, with excess credit available to claim against payroll withholding. The primary uses for opportunity zones are downtowns, rural

areas with sluggish economics, declining commercial corridors and pockets of older commercial and industrial areas with outdated facilities. Ms. Staley explained the process it takes to become an Opportunity Zone. She stated the process is quite lengthy and includes taking a close look at land uses within the city limits of Nashville through an Urban Redevelopment Plan. She added that the process in becoming an Opportunity Zone is not glamorous. She told the group that because we are a rural area the entire city would be included. She informed the group that her and Dawn would be drafting the plans because otherwise it would be at least a year and they don't feel like we could wait. Ms. Staley further explained the objectives of the Urban Development Plan along with the steps of Urban Redevelopment/Opportunity Zone. She also explained that various locations could be identified but they would not be tagged. Ms. Morrison explained to the group that one of the steps involved in the Urban Redevelopment Plan and ultimately the Opportunity Zone is for the City Council to adopt a resolution. She told the group that she would get with Attorney Moore on the preparation of the Resolution and that DCA will have to approve. It was stated that the Resolution could be adopted at the next Council Meeting. Alderman Perryman commented he thinks this is a great idea. Following these remarks the Mayor and Council thanked Ms. Staley and Ms. Morrison for the fine job they are doing.

REPORTS

7. CITY MANAGER/FINANCE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – No Report

8. CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT Attorney Moore gave a short report regarding the Wastewater Treatment Project. He touched on the subject of the stimulus money. He informed the group that the Stimulus Package is for shovel ready projects. He stated the City is on the back burner because we are not shovel ready. He discussed briefly regarding the GEFA loan and the One Georgia eligibility. He told the group he had spoke with the lady from USDA and about wanting to keep this as an option. Attorney Moore mentioned to the Council about the relocations of businesses and the changes that needs to be made especially with restaurants. He told the Council the concern with the restaurants has to with the ones who do not have grease traps which cause the grease to come down into the water. He stated that John Reynolds has the ultimate say so since he has to deal with this problem. It was noted that where Mimi's was located there is not a grease trap. Mr. Reynolds informed the Council that the fast foods have grease traps and they have no problems with them. Mayor Harper told Attorney Moore he will get with Alderman Retterbush and John Reynolds and go more into detail about the problem and come back and make recommendations to Council.

9. DEPARTMENT HEADS' REPORT

Ms. Dawn Morrison informed the Mayor and Council that are looking at applying for a Tourism Grant for \$10,080.00 of which there is a 40% match. She further informed the group that the grant would have to be applied for through the City. She told the group that Better Hometown would be paying the 40%. She said this will be a Job Creation grant for Downtown Development. She further stated that their plans are to create a business incubator in the old Badcock building. She explained how different businesses would be able to display their wares for sale on the first Thursdays. Ms. Morrison stated they have to show job creations. She explained how they would be setting up the building with tables and etc. She told the group that Ms. Staley was also applying. She added that hopefully one of them would get it. Mayor Harper asked if this would be a joint adventure between the Chamber and Better Hometown. Ms. Morrison responded yes. She told the group that she

will write the grant and allow them to review it. She stated there will be a charge for booth space. She also stated that businesses off the square would be allowed to participate. She added that this effort should help give the downtown a boost.

Ms. Morrison explained to the group about the Real Campaign they have just started and how it is going to work. She said that we will be known as the "Real" Nashville, not Nashville, TN. She stated they are going to saturate the town with the campaign. She said she hopes the City will put it on their website and eventually put the decals on the City vehicles.

She told the group they have had their second commercial filmed and should start airing soon. She talked about fund raisers. She stated they have sold over 100 T-Shirts as a fund raiser. She said there is a Talent Show scheduled for October 24, 2009 at the Methodist Family Life Center. She told the group that the High School will be presenting a Halloween play downtown. Ms. Morrison said there are development plans to convert the old Badcock building into an auditorium. She told the group that the Christmas Parade along with all the activities will take place on December 5, 2009. She informed the group there will be a joint meeting of the Better Hometown, Chamber of Commerce and the Development Authority on Tuesday, October 20th at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

There was some discussion on the status of the Parking Lot Grant. Attorney Moore informed the group that he has been working on this. He said folks are chopping at the bits on getting this going. There was discussion of having to have an engineer. The cost of the project is \$92,000.00. It was recommended that Statewide Engineering might provide us with an engineer report. Attorney Moore told the group he had talked with the State Architect and he said that we didn't have to bid. In another discussion it was recommended that we need to bid or decide to let Statewide go ahead because the sooner the better. It was mentioned that the City still does not have the land but the owner is interested in selling. After some discussion, Mayor Harper remarked that he would like to put it out for bids. Ms. Morrison told the group that Statewide has went the extra mile for us. She commented that the quicker we can get parking the better. She mentioned a person who may want to locate a business here but parking is an issue. There was some discussion about what the hold up is on the project money and if in the bid process would we have to take the lowest bid. Following this discussion, Alderman Turner made a motion seconded by Alderman Stalnaker to put out for bids and open at next meeting. Ms. Morrison informed the group that the City would pay and they would be reimbursed by the grant funds. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Tommy Davis reported to the Mayor and Council that the repairs on the Middle School Circle ditch are complete.

PUBLIC COMMENTS/GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Alderman Turner informed the group that he had a letter that Ms. Maxine Rowe had received from the City regarding a bill where she had used water to clean up seven of her trailers. She felt that she was overcharged. In a discussion it was determined that there was a misunderstanding regarding the amount of gallons. She had thought it was for nine (9) gallons. It was explained that we meter in thousand of gallons and that should be 9,000 gallons instead of nine (9).

Alderman Turner asked when are we going to begin to enforce the wheel chair ordinance. He said someone is going to get ran over before we start enforcing it. Chief Clayton responded that he would see that we begin the enforcement of this ordinance.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, Alderman Turner made a motion seconded by Alderman Perryman to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously. Meeting was officially adjourned at 6:55 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