

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
JULY 12, 2010**

**INVOCATION:** Henry Yawn

**PLEDGE:** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Billy Retterbush

**WELCOME:** Mayor Pro Tem Billy Retterbush

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

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chief John Clayton, Tina Haughton, Mandy Luke, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Henry Yawn, Buck Warren, Dawn Morrison, and City Attorney Mitchell Moore.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Allen Davis, John Black, Randall Milton, Elna Bragdon, Frank Watts, Antonio Carter, Keith Stone, Cheryl Bonham, Thomas Williams, Jason Moon, Mrs. Baldree, and Fern Turner.

**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 Perryman and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA-** Alderman Richbourg made a motion to approve the formal agenda with the changes. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Financial Services Program-** Thomas Williams with Sentinel Offender Services spoke to the group about allowing a new financial service program as another alternative to assist collection services for the City's Municipal Court. He stated this program offers the court another alternative to jail time or probation. By using this service, the Court allows a defendant to pay his or her court-ordered monies under a pre-trial diversion or suspended sentence. Financial Services relieves the Clerk of Court of the burden of establishing payment plans, record-keeping of delinquencies, and preparing Bench Warrants. Sentinel's Financial Services enrolls the participant into our Non-Probated Financial Services Program. This program incorporates various automated and personal collection techniques to remind the participant of the obligation to pay the court-ordered fines and fees. The Warrant Recovery Program will be a cooperative effort between Sentinel Offender Services and American Recovery Solution Services (ARSS). ARSS has been providing collection services since 1999. In 2006, Sentinel and ARSS formed a collaborative partnership. This partnership has resulted in over \$1,655,000.00 in fines collected and over 3,000 warrants cleared. ARSS Collection Company is located in Atlanta and has been used by the City of Atlanta for several years and used by our company Sentinel Offenders Services for six years. Alderman

Richbourg asked if the expense of this service be something the City will have to pay or will the defendant pay the cost. Mr. Williams said, just like with Sentinel Offenders Services, the cost will be collected from the defendant as well as the additional charge of 30% which is the charge for ARSS to collect the account. Alderman Richbourg asked if the City needs to sign a contract for this service. Mr. Williams said no, he has put together a Memorandum of Understanding which needs to be signed. He added all we will do then is send this to ARSS and refer cases to the company. Alderman Richbourg made a motion to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with ARSS. The motion was seconded by Alderman Perryman and the motion carried unanimously

## **REPORTS**

**2. City Manager's /Finance Director's Report-** None

**3. City Attorney's Report-** Mitchell Moore told the group he needed to discuss the USDA parking lot project. He said the property owners would like to extend the rectangle shape of the parking area to a (L) shaped parking area. He added the property owner will deed this extended area to the City but the extra cost for paving the extension which is not a part of the USDA parking project has not been budgeted and will fall on the City to pay. Mitchell said the cost for paving will be \$3,500.00. He added if the City decides not to go ahead and pave this portion then the property owners have said they want the property back. Mitchell said the sensible thing to do is go ahead and pave it while we are paving the other portion. He said all he needs from the Council tonight is a commitment to pave the extension so I can have the deed signed by the property owners John and Jody Hogan. Alderman Perryman made a motion to pave the extension. Alderman Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mitchell said the other item he needs to discuss is the USDA grant for the police cars. He said Denise Carter contacted him and needs to schedule the closing for the loan by the 26<sup>th</sup> or the 29<sup>th</sup>. He added Ms. Carter will be out of pocket for two weeks, and the City has two of the four police cars. Mitchell said in order to close the loan we need the titles to these two cars. Mitchell suggested the City pay for the cars out of spost money and reimburse the fund once the grant money comes in. Mitchell also wanted to ask Mandy Luke to look into reducing the penalty added to the Hospital's Nursing home water bill. He explained, the accounts payable clerk was on vacation and missed paying the bill for the nursing home. He said according to the individual who contacted him this is the first time the Hospital has ever been late with a payment. They also added the hospital is currently working with the City in order to reduce lab fees for the City employees and ask that the City show the same curtsies to the hospital. Alderman Richbourg said Mandy should handle that situation. Mitchell said the other item he needed to discuss was the Cross Connection Statue which was adopted in 2006. The reason for this statue was so that anyone who wanted to dig a well in the City would need to come to City Hall and get a permit. This allows the City the ability to keep track of the individual wells dug throughout the City. This does not prohibit wells from being dug, just allows the City a way of keeping track of where they are located. Mitchell advised the Council to think about putting some sort of system in place so that the wells that are dug can be checked if necessary.

**4. Department Heads' Report-** Chief Clayton said he wanted to let the Council know Kathy Graham the City Court Clerk tendered her resignation with the City effective September 1<sup>st</sup>. He said he would like to start advertising for the

position next week with the approval of the Council. The Council told Chief Clayton to do whatever he needed to do to fill the position.

Buck Warren, the City's Fire Chief, told the group the fourth of July fireworks were a big success again this year. He first thanked the Council for the fireworks. He said this year the total proceeds including the water park for the kids was \$2,700.00. Buck told the group the funds donated or collected during the fireworks display and throughout the year has gone toward purchasing equipment needed for the fire department. Mandy Luke told the group she had several inquirers from people from other counties about the Fourth of July festivities. Alderman Retterbush thanked the Fire department and their families for all their hard work during the Fourth of July celebration.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS/GENERAL COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL**

Mayor Travis Harper told the group he was delayed, and assumed position of presiding over the Council meeting. Mrs. Baldree who resides at 203 West Avery said the drainage from the rain on her street ends up in her yard. She asked Council to send someone out and see what can be done to prevent this drainage. She also requested that someone clean out the drainage ditch behind her yard. Mayor Harper said we will get in touch with someone from the street department and have them see what can be done about these problems. Mr. Randal Milton asked Council how Tommy Davis is doing and when will he return to the City? Mandy Luke told them Tommy should know by July 20<sup>th</sup> when he can return to work. Mr. Milton said he wishes him a speedy recovery because he has been missed.

Frank Watts asked the Council why the cemeteries were not mowed. He said several people have complained about the tall grass. Henry Yawn said the grounds keeper has been on vacation, but according to the City contract the grass should have still been cut. Mayor Harper said they will check into the matter.

Mayor Harper updated the Council on the gas line project. He said there have been some delays according to the City of Tifton for this project, so the matter is not as pressing a matter as we spoke of earlier. They hope to resolve everything for this project and be back on track by July 2011.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Alderman Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00p.m. Alderman Richbourg seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Travis Harper

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Alderman Bill Turner

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Alderman Dick Perryman

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Alderman Darrin Davis

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Alderman Billy Retterbush

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Alderman Scott Stalnaker

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Alderman Michael Richbourg

**ATTEST**

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Tina Haughton, City Clerk