

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
September 25, 2017  
6:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION:** Mickey Lindsey

**PLEDGE:** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Michael Richbourg

**WELCOME:** Mayor Michael Richbourg

**ROLL CALL:** Members of the City Council present included Mayor Michael Richbourg, Aldermen Walt Steward, Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Antonio Carter and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mandy Luke, Jackie Jordan, Jill Wise, Chief Edwards, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Henry Yawn, Mitchell Moore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mickey Lindsey along with several members of Flat Creek Church, Dane Perkins, Joann Jackson, Gloria Everett, Larry Osheim, Danny Studstill, Rodrick Smith, Bryan Shaw, Keith Stone

**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA** – Eric Gaither made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the change of moving item #3-Jacob's Well to item #1. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Jacob's Well – Mitchell Moore** – Mr. Moore briefly recapped the matter which had been discussed at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting when a general discussion occurred and the matter was to be put on the Agenda for the next Council meeting. Mr. Moore indicated at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, there was concern expressed by the public at large about potentially adverse economic impact of a

large number of people on the square for the purpose of receiving meals. Mr. Moore advised the Council and those in attendance that Jacob's Well was a domestic nonprofit corporation which proposed to prepare and serve meals for children and the less fortunate. The proposed site is the old B.C. Moore building located in the Central Business District and churches are not permitted in Central Business Districts typically because of traffic concerns. The Central Business District has no Special Exception provision. However, Mr. Moore advised Council that he had evaluated this issue after discussing same with Pastor Lindsey and others from the standpoint of food preparation, restaurant and food catering services which are permitted in a Central Business District. There was a general discussion that the normal procedure to address zoning issues starts with an application before the Planning Commission after public notice and a hearing and then the matter is presented to Council to consider the Planning Commission's recommendation. There has been no application for rezoning presented to the Planning Commission for this matter. Pastor Lindsey addressed what he said was misinformation and concerns that had been expressed concerning the days of operation, the number of meals to be served and the number of people to be served. Pastor Mickey Lindsey explained that it was a ministry which would feed children and fill the gap between school and home on holidays and weekends. Pastor Lindsey stated it was not a homeless shelter and would not be open seven (7) days per week nor serve three (3) meals per day but would include spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. Mayor Richbourg noted it was a 501C3, non-profit domestic corporation. Mr. Moore advised those present that Berrien County had been characterized as a distressed community because of lack of economic development and there had been much effort by numerous individuals to protect and provide for economic development in the downtown area. Mr. Moore reaffirmed that he characterized the use of the premises as a food preparation or food catering which is not a zoning issue before the council for approval. Mr. Moore did advise those present that under the license and permits provision under the City Code that a business, trade, calling or vocation can be suspended if the Council determines that it is in the public interest to do so. The owner of the building, Judge Dane Perkins, expressed an interest that it was a good thing. There being nothing before the Council to address, Pastor Lindsey was advised to apply for his license and to contact the health department officials concerning the appropriate equipment. The members of the Council expressed support for the program however Scott Stalnaker did acknowledge the concerns expressed by the business community and suggested steps should be taken to revise the ordinance, if necessary, to avoid possible litigation.

2. **CHIP Grant Resolutions (Michael Jacobs/SGRC) – Mandy Luke** — Mandy explained Michael Jacobs from the Regional Commission sent more paperwork and Resolutions that need adopting for the CHIP Grant. Scott Stalnaker made a motion to adopt the Resolutions. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Bhagirathz Inc DBA Discount Corner – Beer/Wine Application – Mayor Richbourg** – The license application was presented due to change in ownership. Eric Gaither made a motion to approve the application. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

4. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – Mrs. Luke explained the 2018 LMIG funding amount of \$75,392.29 plus City's 30% match of \$22,617.69 for total of \$98,009.98 and the 2017 LMIG amount of \$69,951.91 plus City's match of \$20,987.37 for total of \$90,945.28. She explained the process and said we could wait and put them together to avoid putting up as much of a match and doing more at one time usually results in lower costs. The Council agreed it would be better to hold off. Mandy explained the bid opening for the TEA project on Dogwood Avenue stating the lowest bid was \$437,817 from A. C. Blount with Federal Funding of \$350,000 and our match of \$87,500. She mentioned a few details of possible alternates that she and Peter could review and reduce costs. Scott Stalnaker made a motion to approve the lowest bid, A. C. Blount. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mandy also said she had received the invoice for the 2018 Okefenokee Occasion to be held on January 10<sup>th</sup> and asked if the Council wanted to participate. Mayor Richbourg confirmed participation.
5. **City Attorney's Report** – Mr. Moore said he heard from a lender regarding the Perkins Subdivision project and would relay the information to the City Manager. He asked the Mayor and Council if they wished to form a committee or if they want him and the City Manager to oversee it. The Mayor and Council agreed for the City Attorney and City Manager to oversee it. Mitchell also mentioned a drainage ditch on property purchased by the Bank of Alapaha near Avera Ave and Davis Street and asked their attorney, Danny Studstill, to discuss further. Danny Studstill gave a brief description of nearly seventeen (17) acres recently acquired by the Bank of Alapaha and said they would be

willing to give a portion of this property to the City rather than an easement for easier access and maintenance of that drainage ditch area. Mitchell explained McKinley Street runs into that area of the drainage ditch and may have to be closed. Mr. Studstill introduced Jeff Wilson stating he recently purchased the McLamb Building on the square.

6. **Department Head's** – Jill Wise reminded everyone of the Lip Sync contest on September 29<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Festival on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Jill also mentioned several real estate transactions and the economic development that have taken place around the square this year. She also said the Chamber and Main Street have signed up for a three (3) year retail academy. Peter Schultz briefed the Council on the effort in the storm cleanup and said he has both limb trucks working on this trying to get caught up. Peter also said he is still working on a list for additional maintenance, as requested, to advertise in the paper. Chief Edwards updated that the new Police cars are in transit and should be delivered within seven (7) – ten (10) days and would then be ready to put in use approximately three (3) weeks after delivery. He also reminded everyone of the homecoming parade this Thursday and the effect on traffic. Chief Edwards also touched on the efforts and effects from the storm resulting from Hurricane Irma in our area. Scott Stalnaker mentioned the Police Department shutting down operations at their office and bringing their computer equipment to City Hall and said he would like the City Manager and Police Chief to look at purchasing a generator. Chief Edwards said the reason they did that was more of a safety concern being in a metal building. Henry Yawn mentioned a property located on Avera Avenue that has been recently purchased. John Reynolds said the WinFab project is almost complete.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Larry Osheim discussed the Doughboy Memorial event taking place on the square on October 7<sup>th</sup>. Gloria Robinson Everett of Easters Avenue discussed an issue of overgrown property near her residence. Mayor Richbourg said he had also been in contact with the property owner and said Mr. Yawn will make contact with him and it will be taken care of. Bryan Shaw mentioned one of the drake elms on the courthouse square that needs to be replace. Jill Wise said she has been in contact with an arborist who will be working on this and some other items.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mellisa Watson commended the VFW for a flag replacement and the Police Department, Peter Schultz and City employees for all the efforts before, during and following the recent storm. She also commended Jill Wise and Crissy Staley for their efforts on the Harvest Festival. She asked Mr. Wilson about his plans for the McLamb building. Mr. Wilson said some possibilities include expansion of Anytime Fitness, an embroidery business and residences upstairs. He also explained looking at another location for purchase with hopes of expanding the Our Place Hotel. Walt Steward commended the Police Department on a recent call he had to make. He also thanked the department heads on the storm prep and clean-up. Mayor Richbourg also mentioned the storm commending the department heads and employees for all their efforts.

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Scott Stalnaker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Michael Richbourg

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Alderman Eric Gaither

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Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

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Alderman Antonio Carter

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Alderman Billy Retterbush

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Alderman Scott Stalnaker

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Alderman Walter Steward

**ATTEST:**

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Jackie Jordan, City Clerk