

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
May 14, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Keith Stone

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, Eric Gaither, Billy Retterbush and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Keith Stone, John Black, Janet Studstill, Bonnie Simmons, Brenda Thomas, Miranda Cargle

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Billy Retterbush 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 – Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the formal agenda. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **5:30 Public Hearing/Adoption of New Cemetery Ordinance – Mayor Richbourg/ City Attorney Moore** – Mayor Richbourg explained the Public Hearing took place prior to the Council Meeting regarding an amendment to the current cemetery ordinance of which the final draft is not ready and it will probably be approximately three (3) months before the final ordinance adoption takes place.

2. **City Council Meeting/Memorial Day Holiday – Mandy Luke** – Mrs. Luke asked about the next scheduled meeting which falls on the Memorial Day holiday. The next regularly scheduled meeting, which would be on May 28th, was cancelled.

REPORTS

3. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – Mrs. Luke mentioned the prior discussions of maintenance of the City Parks and the proposal Jill Wise obtained from Stacy Griffin for the Main Street area along with the discussions of possibly hiring two (2) part time employees for the extra mowing and maintenance and some of the items they originally asked Mr. Griffin about. They asked Mr. Griffin for another proposal omitting the maintenance, mowing and watering which would nearly cut it by half. She said when she figured everything after that, it would be the same or less to hire two (2) part time employees and they could do some of the other things needed. Mayor Richbourg agreed it would be better to have the two (2) extra part-time employees. Billy Retterbush made a motion to hire two (2) part time employees and the equipment necessary. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
4. **City Attorney's Report** – Mr. Moore discussed negotiations with Bi-Lo on a new lease regarding the Chapter 11/Reorganization bankruptcy. He said they proposed a new lease with no rent for four (4) months and after that convert to a month to month to fulfill the remainder of the obligated amount. Billy Retterbush made a motion to authorize approval to disseminate the current agreement and enter into the new agreement. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Moore said he had held up on finalizing the contract with Mr. Griffin due to comparing other numbers and asked if there was a final number. Jill Wise said he wanted to know what the exact changes were to be before he could give a more specific amount and Mayor Richbourg asked her to bring that before the Council when she had it. Mr. Moore mentioned the issue on cargo containers and suggests a ban or prohibition on anything other than being used for temporary storage until they prepare something comprehensible due to the dangers of what may have been in the containers which could make them uninhabitable. Mr. Moore also mentioned the annexation on April 23, 2018 that the Councilman that made the

motion stated he abstained from voting at the prior Planning Commission meeting in order to vote on the subject at the Council meeting and after brief explanation, advised against that in the future in order to ensure a quorum at the Planning Commission meetings but also stated he would rather discuss it further when the entire Council is present.

5. **Department Head's** – John Reynolds reported Thrift Brothers is making progress on the 2016 CDBG project. He also said the contractor on the meter project said they need to purchase more meters in order to complete that project. Jill Wise briefly discussed that approximately a year ago, there was an issue with a façade change with the sign at Rancho Alegre and at that time, Rancho Alegre was to present another plan but the owner thought she was waiting on a decision from the City so she needs to go through the process to apply for a COA from the Historic Preservation Commission stating it may require a work session between the City Council and the Historic Preservation Commission. Henry Yawn mentioned the ongoing controversy with swimming pools and whether they do or do not require a fence. He said there is a state law on above ground pools that if they are four (4) feet deep, no fence is required as long as there is a safety ladder but most people do not have a safety ladder and if it is less than four (4) feet deep, it must have a fence. Peter Schultz said he spoke with Mr. Cater about the Rail Road right of way issue who referred him to Mr. Parrott and he told him the next time he is in town, he will look at it with him. Mayor Richbourg told Peter he too tried to contact the fence place in Moultrie where they were trying to get the fence/gate from Westview repaired with no success and asked Peter to pick it up and check with someone local to repair or fabricate something else to get it completed. Chief Edwards said National Police week is May 13 thru May 19. Additionally all flags are to be flown at half-mast on May 15 to honor the 128 law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty during 2017. Chief Edwards said there were many negative comments recently concerning power chairs being operated on the roadways within the City limits. He explained State law §40-6-320 specifically addresses power chairs and they are allowed on any road with speed limit 35 miles per hour or less and in as much as he would like to stop them, he is bound by State law. Chief Edwards also provided a copy of and briefly discussed the new House Bill 673 signed by the Governor on May 2nd which is also known as hands-free driving law and goes into effect on July 1st.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Miranda Cargle asked about the basketball court at the Memorial Park on the Adel highway not having a fence. Mayor Richbourg and Peter Schultz explained they are in the process of addressing this issue by moving the court further from the road which should alleviate the need for a fence. She also asked about nails and road trash from the renovation at the building across from Harvest Time Ministries. Mayor Richbourg asked Henry Yawn to speak with Greg Weaver and asked Peter Schultz to check the sidewalk and street in the area.

Bonnie Simmons asked about ball field by New Hope Baptist Church and Mayor Richbourg said that is being addressed. She also asked about a trash can at Westview Cemetery. Henry Yawn said there are trash cans at the cemetery and Peter Schultz said people move them. Mayor Richbourg asked if an additional can could be placed at the cemetery. She also said one of the street lights on Janice Street runs continuously. Mayor Richbourg explained the street lights belong to Georgia Power and the City just leases them and asked for the pole number for Peter to be able to contact them about it.

Brenda Thomas asked how often St. James Cemetery is mowed. Peter said it is mowed as needed and was just mowed the previous week.

Janet Studstill asked for pictures from the fishing rodeo, if anyone had any, for the article for the paper.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Walt Steward asked about the ownership of the old Griner Cemetery on Jackson Street. Mayor Richbourg said it was discussed in a previous meeting and although the City does not own it, the City mows it he thought a fence was to be put up to prevent parking in the cemetery. Mitchell Moore said the City does not own but the City did take over maintaining it.

Mayor Richbourg said they need to discuss what to do with the ball park on Adel Highway in Memorial Park furthering explaining the County maintained it until recently. He said the City needs to decide whether to keep it as a ball park and maintain it as such replacing the equipment the County removed. He said he spoke with some at the Rec department staff but has not spoken with the County about it.

Mandy Luke said she received a message from the person over the Rec department about scheduling a meeting with two (2) councilmen and two (2) commissioners and that Billy Retterbush and Scott Stalnaker volunteered to do it. Mayor Richbourg further stated the City is not interested in running a ball park if the County is willing to enter into a new agreement and take it back over.

Mayor Richbourg mentioned Mrs. Watson recently moved into the County and the issue of whether she has to resign as a result of moving while in office. Mayor

Richbourg and City Attorney Mitchell Moore explained the issue and that nothing has been found to support the need to vacate her position and she can remain until her term expires at the end of December 2019 but that she would not be able to qualify to run for office then.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mellisa Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Michael Richbourg

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderman Mellisa Watson

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Walter Steward

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk