

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2018  
6:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION:** Henry Yawn

**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 Scott Stalnaker, Eric Gaither, Antonio Carter, Billy Retterbush and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Janet Studstill, John Black, Sara Luke, Linda Gray, Donna Kent, Daniel Kent

**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** – Antonio Carter made the motion to adopt the formal agenda. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Purchase of New Radar System/GSP – Chief Edwards** – Chief Edwards explained from time to time Georgia State Patrol (GSP) asks agencies within their Post area of responsibility for assistance with needed equipment. He said our last donation was a new Stalker radar system in January 2017. He reported Trooper David Sellars recently approached him stating his Post is receiving two (2) academy graduates and they are in need of radar units. He further explained

they are asking if the City would purchase and donate one of the needed units which will be approximately \$3,000 depending on year model of vehicle it is installed in. Billy Retterbush made a motion to purchase and donate the radar. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with Scott Stalnaker abstaining due to a family member working for GSP.

2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Cargo Container Ordinance – City Attorney Mitchell Moore** – Attorney Moore gave the second reading of the new Cargo Container Ordinance. It was discussed on August 13, 2018 with the first reading on August 27, 2018. Revision was made for the fees to be set by Resolution. Eric Gaither made a motion to approve and adopt the Cargo Container Ordinance. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Ordinance – City Attorney Mitchell Moore** – Attorney Moore explained this Ordinance is to replace the current Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Ordinance. The first reading was on September 10, 2018. Billy Retterbush made a motion to approve and adopt the Soil Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Ordinance. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

## **REPORTS**

4. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – Mrs. Luke explained the 2018 Tax Digest totals and Five (5) Year History of Levy will be advertised two (2) weeks {September 26<sup>th</sup> and October 3<sup>rd</sup>} in the Berrien Press. She said the tax millage rate will remain at 8 mills and will need to be adopted at the next regular meeting which is October 8<sup>th</sup>. Next, Mrs. Luke mentioned she received the request from SGRC for the Okefenokee Occasion. She said the participation fee is \$2,000 this year which is an increase of \$500 and needs to know if they want to participate because it has to be paid by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor and Council agreed for the City to participate. Mrs. Luke also mentioned they will be presenting the “big check” at the DCA Fall Conference to the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) recipients and needs to know if anyone is planning to attend to accept the “big check” on behalf of the City since the deadline to register is October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Mayor said he will attend. Next, Mrs. Luke mentioned inquiries to rent the soft ball field for tournaments stating no decision has yet been made on how to handle the park since the County ceased use of it. A work session was scheduled for 5:30 prior to the next meeting on October 8<sup>th</sup>.

5. **City Attorney's Report** – City Attorney Moore mentioned the NURA Project and the deadline for bids was today, September 24<sup>th</sup>. He said only one was received which was from someone who attended the pre-bid conference but not the gentleman who spoke at a previous Council meeting (on 08/27/2018). Following a brief discussion of the length of time of the project and the condition of the dilapidated buildings, Antonio Carter made a motion to solicit bids for demolition of the buildings and removal of the foundation. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
  
6. **Department Head's** – John Reynolds said they are continuing progress with the radio read water meter installations. He also said he reviewed and approved the plan for the grease trap installation at the Brown Bag as discussed in the Council meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Jill Wise reminded everyone of the Harvest Festival on September 29<sup>th</sup>, the Lip Sync Battle on September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Otranto event on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Yawn said they are still sending out letters for grass.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

John Black asked about the drainage ditch located at Decatur and Martin Luther King. Eric Gaither said it belongs to the railroad and the City is not supposed to go on private property. Mayor Richbourg asked about the title of ownership on the deeds and right of way and Mr. Henry said he will research the deed records regarding ownership. Sara Luke (Diane Avenue) made a complaint about the overgrowth and unkempt appearance of Cypress Wood Apartments across from her residence. Mr. Henry said the apartments belong to Paulk and Perry. He also said he had spoken with them and it is in the process of being sold but he will make contact with them again about getting it cleaned up. Mrs. Luke also asked about a hole on City property next to her curbing caused from erosion. She said they have filled it with sand but when there is a lot of rainfall, it backs up there and it is dangerous. They said there may be a drainage problem underground and they will have Peter take a look at it. Linda Gray (Diane Avenue) also made a complaint about the overgrowth and condition of the pond at Cypress Wood Apartments and how it relates to health issues and property values. Donna Kent (North Jackson Street) complained about the smell of the water at her house. John Reynolds said the hydrants had recently been flushed but he will go over there and check on it. Daniel Kent (North Jackson Street) asked about the recent installation of the speed bumps on Jackson Street and why there were not more of them installed. Mayor Richbourg said Henry Yawn and Peter Schultz will review and let him know. Mr. Kent also complained about the school buses speeding in his neighborhood and Eric Gaither said he would speak to the supervisor over the buses.

Mr. Kent also made a complaint about the horrible condition of a house at 702 North Jackson and said they do not have electricity at the residence. Mr. Yawn explained the house is in foreclosure and they are going through the process to get the people out of it. Janet Studstill mentioned information was relayed to her that illegal activity was going on at the residence as well.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mellisa Watson thanked everyone who attended the ribbon cutting of Sno-Biz. She also mentioned the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Costume Contest at Watson's Pools on October 31<sup>st</sup> and Trick or Treat around the Square on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Antonio Carter reminded everyone to support Berrien as they play against Cook this Friday and mentioned how well the Berrien Rebels have done this football season.

Scott Stalnaker asked about the Bay Area Project and grant money available asking if curbing would be possible. John Reynolds said he and John Hunkele have been reviewing it and plan to get as much done as possible.

Mayor Richbourg reminded everyone of the Clean Up week taking place the first week of October.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct, Eric Gaither made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 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