

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
OCTOBER 8, 2018
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Bryan Shaw

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Janet Studstill, Bryan Shaw, Sam Thomas, Daniel Kent, Loretha Baker, Chris Sullens, Donna 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 – Mayor Richbourg asked to strike item #1 – General Condition of Nashville and add it to the Agenda for the next Council meeting. The Mayor also stated the Work Session on the Softball Field on the Adel Highway that was supposed to take place at 5:30 will take place immediately following the Council meeting. Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with these changes. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Proposed City Ordinance – 1st Reading – Retention of Weapon and Badge Upon Retirement – Chief Edwards** – Chief Edwards stated on May 8, 2017, Governor Deal signed House Bill 292 and part of the bill made into law that

active, on or off duty, law enforcement officers and retired officers, shall be authorized to carry a handgun on or off duty anywhere within the State of Georgia. He explained so as to ensure that retired officers would have proper credentials and a handgun, Senate Bill 18 was introduced which then amended Georgia Code Section 35-1-20 effective July 1, 2017 so as to stipulate that State agencies shall, and the governing authority of each municipal government may, adopt policies by which retiring officers, officers disabled by causes from duty, leaving under honorable conditions, shall be entitled, as part of their compensation, to retain their duty handgun and badge. Chief Edwards said many Chiefs he has spoken to from across the State said their Cities already have or are in the process of adopting the same style ordinance. He further stated many have added a provision for the primary beneficiary of a deceased officer, especially those who die in the line of duty, to be the recipient in lieu of the deceased officer. Chief Edwards said he has consulted with the City Manager and the City Attorney and asked this be the first reading toward adoption of the proposed ordinance. Billy Retterbush made a motion to acknowledge and accept this as the first reading of the proposed ordinance. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

2. **Adoption of Tax Millage Rate – Mandy Luke** – Mrs. Luke explained the proper publications were advertised in the paper for the 2018 tax millage rate which is to remain at 8 mills and needs the Council to adopt it and sign the Resolution in order to get the tax notices mailed. Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the tax millage rate and approve the Resolution. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Richbourg asked how long it has been at the current rate and Mrs. Luke said it has been more than five years.

REPORTS

3. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – None
4. **City Attorney's Report** – Mr. Moore mentioned tonight's proposed ordinance explaining he had taken the ordinance Chief Edwards presented and merely made adjustments needed to adhere to the existing code. Mr. Moore also mentioned the NURA project discussing the need for a Phase I and Phase II of the project. The Mayor and Council authorized the City Manager and City Attorney to solicit bids on demolition.

5. **Department Head's** – Jill Wise mentioned the completion of the Harvest Festival on September 29th, the movie in Connie's Children's Park on October 4th and the Otranto Centennial on October 6th thanking everyone for their help and attendance. She also mentioned it was extremely hot at the Harvest Festival which may have affected attendance and they may look at adjusting the date. She also encouraged everyone to visit the Exhibit at the old Court House. Henry Yawn reported he researched the property (on Martin Luther King Drive next to railroad) that John Black has asked about and it does in fact belong to the Rail Road. Mr. Yawn also reported nothing was found in the minutes regarding a previous question of a petition signed by residents in the neighborhood near Cypresswood Apartments. Peter Schultz reported they have been working hard on the City wide cleanup project and will continue to pick up of the items. He also commented they are busy preparing for the upcoming storm {Hurricane Michael}. Mayor Richbourg asked Chief Edwards the number of roll-offs that had been filled during the city wide cleanup. Chief Edwards reported on Saturday, two were filled but today, prior to the meeting, all five had been filled. Chief Edwards mentioned complaints of panhandling and reported the arrest of Emory Gibson although he is not able to give details at this time. He also explained if a business is having a problem with an unwanted person in their place of business, they need to call the police department so a report can be generated and a notice served. Once done, if that person enters the premises again, an arrest can be made at that point for criminal trespassing. Chief Edwards discussed the report from the National Weather Service of Tallahassee regarding Hurricane Michael that is expected to make landfall, approximately seventy (70) miles from our area, as a category three hurricane but is most likely expected to be upgraded. Chief Edwards also reported numerous break-ins of vehicles and homes and stated most of them were unlocked. He also mentioned two of the vehicles that were left unlocked contained loaded handguns which were stolen. Mayor Richbourg stressed the need for people to lock their vehicles and homes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bryan Shaw said he recently rented the Community Center and the ice maker was not working and the microphone and microphone cord was missing.

Sam Thomas expressed concerns of people having trouble finding jobs after being incarcerated and would like the City or community to do more to help. Mayor

Richbourg said he understood where he was coming from and explained on more than

one occasion, the City has advertised for help and had trouble finding anyone who wanted a job.

Loretha Baker asked about speed bumps on Norman Street and complained about the school buses. Mayor Richbourg explained the procedure regarding the request of speed bumps. He also explained the school buses fall under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education and she would need to speak to them about those concerns.

Daniel Kent asked about the additional speed bumps requested for Jackson Street and Mayor Richbourg said Mr. Schultz has more speed bumps ordered.

Chris Sullens introduced himself explaining he owns the car wash on Old Coffee Road and is on the next Agenda regarding a special exception request for approval of a storage building at his business. {Berrien County Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2018, at 5:30 pm in the County Commission room at the Berrien County Courthouse.} He also commented on a camper he has located on the same property. Mayor Richbourg said as long as it is still moveable and not anchored to the property, there should not be a problem with it.

Donna Kent asked about a drainage issue on Jackson Street and Mayor Richbourg explained the Street Department will be working on that due to the upcoming storm.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mellisa Watson reminded everyone of the 14th Annual Costume Contest at Watson's Pools on October 31st and Trick or Treat around the Square on October 31st.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Billy Retterbush made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Michael Richbourg

Alderman Eric Gaither

Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Walter Steward

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk