

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JUNE 24, 2019
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, Walt Steward and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael Klink, Kyle Pearson, Rodrick Smith, Janet Studstill, Bob Lovein

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Billy Retterbush made the motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meetings. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA – Mayor Michael Richbourg asked to amend the Agenda by adding Kyle Pearson Appointment to the Planning Commission. Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the formal agenda with the addition. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Introduction of New Police Officer-Joseph Griner – Chief Edwards** – Chief Edwards presented Joseph Griner who graduated the Police Academy on Friday, June 21, 2019, and stated he will be in field training for approximately two and a half to three months before working alone.

2. **WPP (2018) Annual Progress Report – Michael Klink/Four Waters Engineering, Inc.** – Mr. Klink of Four Waters Engineering, Inc. presented the 2018 Annual Water Monitoring Progress Report as required by the E.P.D. addressing four (4) bodies of environmental water: Reedy Creek near the Wastewater Treatment plant, the canal at Sherwood Drive running through Meadowbrook Subdivision, Withlacoochee River downstream of Highway 76 Bridge (behind Rolling Acres Subdivision) and Reedy Creek at Wolf Pen Branch (behind Cottage Oak Nursery). He said the Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) was slightly elevated and they will look at it next year for changes. He explained the results are consistent with previous years with no action required. Analyses were performed by Tindall Enterprises, Inc. After a brief discussion of the number and types of samples, Antonio Carter made a motion to approve Mayor Richbourg to sign the report. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
3. **Kyle Pearson Appointment to the Planning Commission – Mayor Michael Richbourg** – Mayor Richbourg explained Kyle Pearson has volunteered to take the place of Hanson Carter on the Planning Commission Board. Billy Retterbush made a motion to approve the appointment. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
4. **Ratify Affidavit and Resolution (#R-07-19) for 05/22/19 Executive Session – Mitchell Moore** – Eric Gaither made a motion to ratify the Affidavit and Resolution. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
5. **Affidavit and Resolution (#R-08-19) for 06/10/19 Executive Session – Mitchell Moore** – Scott Stalnaker made a motion to approve the Affidavit and Resolution. Mellisa Watson seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
6. **May 22, 2019 Called Meeting Regarding Nashville Police Department (NPD) Shortage – Mayor Michael Richbourg** – Mayor Richbourg asked the City Manager if she had any information to report regarding the information discussed at the Called Meeting on May 22, 2019. Mrs. Luke explained they have been using money reserved in savings over the past few years to avoid raising property taxes but it is to the point where an increase of a minimum of one (1) mill is needed. She explained several different options: for an estimation of approximately three percent (3%) for everyone in the new budget including the NPD as it would be approximately a half (0.50) mill; for an estimation of

approximately three percent (3%) for everyone in the new budget except the NPD and using increases for the NPD as suggested by the Chief of Police would be slightly over a half (0.50) mill; for an estimation of approximately three percent (3%) for everyone in the new budget except the NPD, using increases for the NPD as suggested by the Chief of Police and adding four (4) additional officers would be approximately two (2) mills; and, for an estimation of approximately three percent (3%) for everyone in the new budget except the NPD, using increases for the NPD as suggested by the Chief of Police and adding six (6) additional officers would be approximately three (3) mills. Mrs. Luke further explained the options including the addition of four (4) or six (6) officers include the costs relating to uniforms, increased vehicle maintenance, increased fuel cost and increased training but do not include costs for additional cars and equipment for the cars because that would be funded from SPLOST funds. The current millage rate is eight (8) mills. Mayor Richbourg asked when she would need to know to increase the millage rate. Mrs. Luke explained it would be better to know by the end of July to be included in the new budget otherwise the budget would have to be amended. She further explained the process includes advertising the increase in the paper and having two to three (2-3) of public hearings before the tax bills go out in October. Mayor Richbourg mentioned possible incentives, to be discussed in work session, may attract applicants who are already trained and Post certified which may save in some of the training costs. A work session was scheduled for July 8, 2019 immediately following the regularly scheduled Council meeting which would allow

REPORTS

7. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – None.
8. **City Attorney's Report** – Attorney Moore reported he is in the process of responding to the Attorney Opinion letter from the auditors. Mr. Moore also reported the NURA demolition is nearing completion and there was a brief discussion of necessary adjustments to the advertisement for bid proposals due to the costs involved in the demolition. Mr. Moore also reported his attendance to the GMA Convention in Savannah on Saturday and briefly mentioned State statutes taking effect October 1st regarding small cell wireless access in right of ways.
9. **Department Head's** – Henry Yawn reported there will be a planning commission meeting on July 18, 2019 for which he will need to schedule a 5:30

p.m. meeting on July 22, 2019. Jill Wise, Main Street Director, reported a new Farmers Market manager, Nancy Pesce, who will also help with Main Street. Peter Schultz reported continued work on storm drains and patching roads. Chief Edwards reported preparations for the July 4th celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rodrick Smith, representing DADS organization, said they are preparing for the annual July 4th celebration at Beetree Park with a 10:00 p.m. curfew.

Janet Studstill asked about an attempted burglary at Houston and Company. Chief Edwards replied he could not discuss a pending investigation.

Bob Lovein read a letter he prepared to the Mayor and Council representing his thoughts and suggestions of the recent called meeting regarding the NPD shortage and possible increase of the millage rate versus other possible options.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mellisa Watson asked about vines growing on power lines. Peter Schultz said if it is on the power lines, it is the responsibility of that utility company and Mr. Yawn said he will make contact with them. She also asked about the issue Mrs. Bailey (Sherrod Avenue) presented at the last Council meeting and Mr. Yawn said he had been addressed. She also asked about the deadlines on the grease traps. John Reynolds reported the Shell Station will have theirs installed the first or second week of August.

Billy Retterbush asked the status of the cargo storage containers. Mayor Richbourg said they had discussed the possibility of the one at the railroad track and the one behind the Shell Station to be grandfathered in. Mr. Retterbush and Miss Watson said no one was grandfathered in. After brief discussion, Mayor Richbourg suggested reviewing the Ordinance and discussing how to go about enforcing it.

Eric Gaither commended Peter Schultz for their work on a washout on Jefferson Avenue.

Walt Steward mentioned the possible increase of the millage rate stating he wanted to assured the public their preference is not to have to increase the millage rate and would only do so if there is no other way.

Mayor Richbourg brought up the on-going shopping carts issue inquiring of charging the owners of the carts since it is their property. Chief Edwards said they have had no reports of people in the act of removing the carts in order to issue citations to the violators. After brief discussion, the Mayor suggested the City pick up the carts in the City right of ways and notify the businesses that own the carts letting them know the

City has them and they can pick them up the first time for free but after that, there will be a charge.

Mellisa Watson asked about the new police officer in connection with a full time code enforcement officer and Chief Edwards said the new officer has to complete field training before he can work independently in order to have an officer available to move into that position.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Billy Retterbush made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m. Scott Stalnaker 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