

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
JULY 22, 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, John Reynolds, Peter Schultz, Henry Yawn, Ronald Knowles, Richard Varn, Mitchell Moore

OTHERS: Ariel Godwin, Bryan Shaw, Lavonne Shaw, Taylor Scarborough, Daniel Kent, Janet Studstill

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

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA – Mellisa Watson made the motion to adopt the formal agenda. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Mayor Richbourg said he thought there may have been some confusion about what tonight's meeting is about explaining the budget adoption is on the Agenda but there is nothing about a possible millage increase on the Agenda. There will be a work session on the date of the next regularly scheduled meeting, August 12th, and if there is a potential to raise the tax millage rate, it will be on the Agenda of September 23rd with three (3) Public Hearings between August 12th and September 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Proposed Bike Plan – Ariel Godwin, Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC)** – Mr. Godwin presented the bike plan for the City of Nashville which was funded by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and prepared by SGRC. He explained it contains a range of recommendations for improving bicycling in Nashville including infrastructure, education, enforcement and encouragement which was developed with input from local City government and local bicycling advocates. He said it is the final draft although there is flexibility and provided copies to the Mayor and Council and one to The Berrien Press. Mayor Richbourg said there would be no action taken tonight as they would need time to review and inquired about implementations of the bike path. Mr. Godwin explained implementations would be the responsibility of the City but there is no requirement on the City's part to adopt the bike plan or take any action. Mr. Godwin also explained the plan belongs to the City and the City is free to make any changes of which they may contact him about. Mayor Richbourg thanked Mr. Godwin for the plan and all his work involved in it.

2. **5:30 Public Hearing – Special Exception Request to Approve Variance for Placement of Two Mobile Homes at 811 Beetree – Henry Yawn** – The Public Hearing took place at 5:30 prior to the Council meeting regarding a request by Seth Carol for a special exception variance for placement of two (2) mobile homes on the lot located at 811 Beetree Street. Henry Yawn explained the request is for one mobile home facing Beetree Street and one mobile home on the back of the lot facing Seventh Street. Mayor Richbourg explained the Planning Commission approved it to be presented to the City Council. Scott Stalnaker asked about a separate address for Seventh Street through 911. Mr. Yawn said there would be a separate address and it would require a separate water and sewer tap. Mayor Richbourg said it was discussed in the Public Hearing that it would require a new water and sewer tap. Mellisa Watson made a motion to approve the request. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

3. **FY 2020 Budget Adoption – Mandy Luke** – Mrs. Luke presented a Budget Adoption Resolution for the Fiscal Year 2019-2020. She explained it is for the Fiscal Year beginning August 1, 2019 and ending July 31, 2020 and the purpose is to provide appropriations to the General Fund in the amount of \$3,608,330, appropriations to the Water/Sewer Fund in the amount of \$1,758,410, appropriations to the Gas Fund in the amount of \$1,421,920, appropriations to the SPLOST Fund in the amount of \$240,000 and appropriations to the Hotel/Motel Fund in the amount of \$12,000. Eric Gaither asked about the total

and Mrs. Luke explained there are no changes in this budget except increases in insurance costs and it can be amended at any time after adoption. Mayor Richbourg stated the only changes from the 2019 Budget to the 2020 Budget is the hiring of four (4) new employees--three (3) full-time and one (1) part-time--in the Street Department and insurance premium increase and it has nothing to do with a possible tax millage increase at all. Antonio Carter made a motion to approve the adoption of the Resolution for the FY 2020 Budget. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

4. **City Manager's/Finance Director's Report** – Mrs. Luke said she heard from Mike Sirmans who reported they are nearing completion of the FY 2018 audit. She explained the City had received an extension due to being in the area affected by the hurricane and should be completed by the end of the month and submitted to the State and once accepted by the State, it will be presented to the Mayor and Council most likely in August.

5. **City Attorney's Report** – Attorney Mitchell Moore reported on the BiLo lease. He said there are questions with regard to delegation of some of the duties of the tenant versus the land lord and he is submitting exhibits of which those duties are outlined and then hopes to have it finalized and executed. Mr. Moore also mentioned 2019 legislation passed affecting municipalities including House Bill 315 addressing consultant agreements which requires disclosures of conflicts by consultants such as the pending NURA project, where the buildings were demolished, which will require the City to revise the request for proposals. He is in the process of moving forward to advertise for bids for the NURA project now that the buildings have been demolished. Mr. Moore also mentioned a discrepancy was found regarding lot prices for Eastview Cemetery upon recodification of the Cemetery Ordinance which will require a revision to 6.12 in the Code of which he will research further and address with the necessary correction

6. **Department Head's** – Henry Yawn reported the demolition project in the Perkins subdivision has been completed and two (2) CO's have been issued for two (2) completions under the CHIP Grant and they are working on others under the CHIP Grant. Jill Wise presented a brief history of the Farmers Market and its current budget. She explained the Farmers Market opened in 2012 and has not pulled from the General Fund, with the exception of the Market Manager salary, until December 2018, meaning it has sustained from sales and

grant money. She said it seems confusion stemmed from the budget work session when the total budget amount of \$70,000 for the Farmers Market was mentioned but that is not a loss and includes sales and expenses. She presented a profit and loss statement for the years of 2016, 2017 and 2018 and explained the figures. Mrs. Luke explained that when the Farmers Market originally started, it was with the understanding the General Fund would help with salary and payroll taxes but it would eventually become self-sufficient but it has not gotten to that point yet. Miss Wise said she plans to provide them more detailed sales and expense information on a monthly basis and she discussed what an asset the Farmers Market is to our community. She said she writes fifteen (15) to twenty (20) vendor checks monthly to people who receive income from sales at the Farmers Market. She said it pays sales tax which contributes to our economy. She said it is a very attractive feature in our town mentioning a group of military spouses from Moody who tour our community and local businesses once per quarter and the Farmers Market is one of the major draws. She said our area has many U-pick farms but there are many people who are not able to visit those and the Farmers Market is a safe place for this. She explained the goal is for Farmers Market to become self-sustaining and they have made changes and added new vendors. She introduced the new Farmers Market manager, Nancy Pesce, and her husband, Anthony Pesce. She said the sales for July 2018 was \$1,304 and this year, the sales for July are \$2,386. Scott Stalnaker asked about events at the Farmers Market and advertising. Miss Wise said before she started, there were more events which were paid for from the grant funds but the funds were diminishing so that they stopped those events but she plans to schedule more at the Farmers Market such as entertainment at the Farmers Market during this year's Harvest Festival. Mr. Stalnaker said he thinks it is a very workable situation if everyone would help, even if it only breaks even, it is such a good opportunity and service for local farmers, vendors and the community. Mellisa Watson commented on advertisement on social media. Peter Schultz reported he had contacted Georgia Power about lights for Tygart Park and Memorial Park of which he is awaiting price quotes from them. He also said they are starting mowing and clean up at the City Cemeteries of what is and is not allowed. Mayor Richbourg reminded everyone to support them regarding the implementation of the guidelines that were discussed for a year or longer including public hearings during that year of the guidelines.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bryan Shaw said he could not speak but had passed out copies of what he wanted to say and he had emailed it to the Mayor and Council as well.

Lavonne Shaw (East Avera Avenue) asked about a property on John Street that is overgrown and has a bad smell. She said it is next to 908 E. Avera and Henry Yawn said he would contact the property owner, Lester Ross.

Taylor Scarborough (Adel Road) read a letter he prepared to the Mayor and Council representing his thoughts and suggestions in regards to the budget and a possible tax millage rate increase.

Daniel Kent (North Jackson Street) complained about the ditch drainage in front of his house and another speed bump. Peter Schultz said they cleaned out the pipes after the last Council meeting. He also said one end of the street did not meet the requirements and he is waiting on measurements from GDOT.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mellisa Watson mentioned a back to school event sponsored by the group DADS on August 3rd.

Eric Gaither asked the date of the Harvest Festival. Miss Wise said it is the last Saturday in September which is September 28th but usually the weather is so warm at that time, they may consider moving it to October but for now it is scheduled for the last Saturday in September.

Scott Stalnaker spoke of the importance of the Farmers Market and encouraged everyone's support.

Mayor Richbourg reminded the group there would be a workshop on August 12th on any imposed millage increase and if there was a possibility of a millage rate increase, there would be three (3) public hearings for questions and the item would be on the September 23rd Agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to conduct, Mellisa Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. Eric Gaither 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