

**WORK SESSION  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
OCTOBER 7, 2015  
6:00 P.M.**

**INVOCATION:** Mayor Travis Harper

**PLEDGE:** Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Travis Harper

**WELCOME:** Mayor Travis Harper

**ROLL CALL:** Members of the City Council present included Mayor Travis Harper, Aldermen Scott Stalnaker, Billy Retterbush, Eric Gaither, Antonio Carter, Walter Steward and Alderwoman Mellisa Watson.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mandy Luke, Jackie Jordan, John Reynolds, Brandon Rice, and Mitchell Moore.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Several residents including Reverend Danny Ray, Keith Stone, Pastor Clarence Luke, Billy Mathis, Reverend Roy T. Castleberry, Joyce Yeoman, Donna Yeoman, Charles Rohbery, Brandon Coster, Glen Keen, Willene Lewis, James Lewis, Ben Murray.

**Alcohol Sales on Sunday – Antonio Carter** proposed the possibility of putting the sales of alcohol on Sunday on the ballot at the next election for the citizens to have the opportunity to vote on it to help create more revenue for the City of Nashville and move the City forward like some of the nearby cities doing this. Mayor Harper explained to the group nothing was being voted on tonight but if it were presented to the Council, the Council will be voting on whether or not to put it on a general election ballot or special election ballot to allow the citizens of Nashville to vote on whether or not they would like to have Sunday alcohol sales further explaining it is not up to this seven (7) member board to decide if there will be Sunday alcohol sales but would only be up to them to put it to an election to allow the citizens to vote. Pastor Danny Ray addressed the Council with his concerns against this providing information concerning alcoholism and alcohol abuse. Mayor Harper stated he did not personally feel allowing Sunday alcohol sales would encourage any more drinking that what already takes place and further explained we have City elections to elect the Council and does not see a problem with

allowing them to vote on whether or not they want Sunday alcohol sales. Pastor Clarence Luke addressed the Council on his opinion against allowing it on the ballot. Mellisa Watson stated she agrees with both the Preachers and is not for this. Scott Stalnaker said he wanted to go on the record that he is against it further stating if we were larger and more of a tourist type city with a lot of restaurants, it might be different and further stated he does not feel it would increase of tax dollars on Sunday but a decrease on Monday through Saturday. Walt Steward stated he personally would vote against it but he could not in good conscience vote to take away the voice of the people in America stating it should be on the ballot because the principal of America is governance by the people but the people in this room are saying we should not allow the people to vote on something and he just cannot believe he heard that. Walt further explained his research where Tennessee did a study from 2008 to 2011 which showed DUI's in dry counties were 11% more prevalent than in the "moist" counties next door. Billy Retterbush and Eric Gaither also stated they are against Sunday alcohol sales. Antonio Carter further explained he is for people having the choice.

**Radio Read Meters – Mayor Travis Harper** presented the topic of radio read meters along with a brief history of the topic prior to this meeting and introduced Michael Roberts with GEFA (Georgia Environmental Finance Authority). Mr. Roberts explained the terms of the water conservation project and Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) systems as compared to Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) systems. He explained these systems help with early detection of water problems such as leaks. Mr. Roberts explained financing terms for a \$1,000,000 project that Nashville was awarded a 40% forgiveness through a grant which would be a \$600,000 loan. He said a 20 year loan term is 1.03% after the 100 basis point reduction from the Federal program and the 100 basis point reduction from the water conservation, a 15 year loan term is 0.52%, 10 and 5 year loan terms are 0.5%. Walt Steward asked about the effect on rates when the Fed rate changes if we do this 2 or 3 years down the road. Mr. Roberts explained how the rate is determined each year in June and December. Walt asked about the early detection of leaks and Mr. Roberts explained that was done with the AMI systems and the AMR systems are done as drive by. Mayor Harper and Scott Stalnaker stated it can be accomplished with the AMR system as well depending on how often the drive by readings are done. Mayor Harper asked about the 1% closing fee and Mr. Roberts confirmed it would be a one-time \$10,000 fee on a \$1,000,000 loan and mentioned the 40% forgiveness is a high level forgiveness historically and probably would be a one-time opportunity. Brandon Foster addressed the Council next. Mr. Foster is a regional sales manager with Master Meters Inc. which is based out of Mansfield, Texas and covers the south east area. Glen Keen and Charles Rayburg with Consolidated Pipe attended the meeting with him. Mr. Foster said Nashville is already a Master Meter company that has quite a few Master Meter meters already and if the Council decided to

go with this project, everything would not have to be replaced but would only need to retrofit some of the existing meters with just the electronic components on those that are Master Meter meters. Mr. Foster explained the warranty information of 2.5 million gallons or 20 years and the first 5 years or 750,000 gallons are guaranteed with new meter standards. Mr. Foster further explained AMI systems, AMR systems along with how they function and transmit data. He asked John Reynolds how long it takes us to read meters now. John answered it currently takes two people two weeks. Mr. Foster said Folkston is similar to our size and currently reads their meters with one person in six hours and explained further on how they are read, how the information is transmitted and options on collecting the data. Mr. Foster further explained what the warranty covers along with how it handles the first 10 year period and the second 10 year period. Also discussed was the efficiency of the older meters versus these meters, the accuracy of manually reading meters as compared to the radio read meters along with pricing and expenses.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss Mayor Harper asked that the meeting be adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Mayor Travis Harper

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Alderman Eric Gaither

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Alderman Billy Retterbush

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Alderman Antonio Carter

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Alderman Walter Steward

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Alderman Scott Stalnaker

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Alderwoman Mellisa Watson

**ATTEST**

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Jackie Jordan, City Clerk