

**CALLED MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
MAY 22, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Mitchell Moore

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

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Jackie Jordan, Jill Wise, Chief Edwards and Mitchell Moor

NEW BUSINESS

Nashville Police Department Shortage: A special called meeting was held May 22, 2019 to discuss the Police Department staff shortage. Police Chief Edwards presented a detailed report {attached hereto} to the Mayor and Council. Chief Edwards explained the current staff and a breakdown of the number of officers, equipment and training needed along with the costs involved based on standards of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) together with salaries as compared to surrounding municipalities in our area.

Scott Stalnaker explained some changes with Georgia State Patrol salaries and retirement stating while they were not previously mentioned they have become competition for local law enforcement. Chief Edwards said when the Governor signed the Bill for those changes for Georgia State Patrol, it caused the Police Department to lose a \$10,000 grant. Mr. Stalnaker also mentioned staff, economy and budgets have gotten tighter over the last few years but population, crime and call volumes have increased. Mayor Richbourg explained the need for changes as they have been discussing, stating funds are necessary to make the changes and taxes may have to be increased to help offset the necessary funds. For comparison, Mayor Richbourg read aloud the following tax millage rates from the Georgia

Department of Revenue: Nashville 8.00, Alapaha 9.50, Douglas 8.389, Moultrie 9.85, Eatonton 9.994, Morrow 9.38, Riverdale 11.48, Homerville 10.721, Gray 9.50, Lakeland 11.972, Vienna 13.50, Albany 9.804, Pelham 14.902, Centerville 11.971, Ocilla 17.05. The Mayor also read aloud a list with populations ranging in order from 5,430 to 4,488: Cumming 0.00, Locust Grove 0.00, Camilla 7.24, Port Wentworth 4.57, Adel 6.398 (Adel sells power), Dahlonga 6.392, Cochran 11.267, Blakely 4.25, Jackson 0.00 (Jackson sells power), Eastman 7.50, Reidsville 7.00, Nashville 8.00, Jonesboro 4.00, Elberton 0.00, Adairsville 3.30, Hawkinsville 5.60, Dawson 8.112, Summerville 0.00, Byron 9.00, Palmetto 8.50.

After brief discussion, the Mayor explained some of the figures could change based on officers' experience and asked City Manager Mandy Luke to review and report back to the Mayor and Council with figures and ideas of where funds may come from. Upon inquiry, Mrs. Luke said 1 mil is approximately \$90,000. Mayor Richbourg said the City Manager will need some time to review the information and suggested to attempt to have it on the Agenda for the June 24th meeting.

Chief Edwards stressed whatever the decision is, he and his staff will continue to do the best they can.

Eric Gaither asked about the City's savings for this budget year. Mrs. Luke said they have tremendously decreased what the City had accumulated in savings stating she had it where the City could operate for nine to eleven months but now there is only enough to operate for about four to six months and the legal requirement is three months and any changes will have to take place in the next budget which will be Fiscal Year 2020.

At 7:26 p.m., Antonio Carter made a motion to go into Executive Session. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:26 P.M. – 7:47 P.M.

At 7:47 p.m., Billy Retterbush made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

CALLED MEETING RESUMED

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:48 p.m., Antonio Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Walt Steward 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