

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
AUGUST 24, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

*~Limited Access to City Hall with Public Access via RingCentral (RC) Teleconference and
Facebook Live Stream on The Berrien Press~*

INVOCATION: Mitchell Moore

PLEDGE: Chief Edwards

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Taylor Scarbrough

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Mayor Taylor Scarbrough, Aldermen Billy Retterbush, Antonio Carter, John Clayton, Eric Gaither, Walt Steward (via RC)

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Luke, Jackie Jordan, Mitchell Moore, Chief Edwards, John Reynolds (via RC), Peter Schultz (via RC), Henry Yawn (via RC)

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING(s):

Regular City Council Meeting on August 10, 2020: Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the minutes. John Clayton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:

Billy Retterbush made a motion to adopt the formal agenda with the following changes: Table Agenda Item #6-Nashville Historic Preservation Commission Conflict and have a work session on the item on September 1, 2020 following the Budget workshop already scheduled on September 1, 2020 at 6:00; and, Deletion of Agenda Item #7-Unmarked City Vehicles. John Clayton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1- **Clark Street Crossing Closure Request – Christopher Parrott/CaterParrott Railnet:** Mr. Parrott addressed the Council regarding CaterParrott Railnet’s request to close the railroad crossing at Clark Street. John Clayton made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on September 14, 2020 at 5:30 prior to the regular Council Meeting for discussions on the request. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 2- **Nalda Johnson – Eric Gaither:** Mrs. Johnson expressed grievances to the Mayor and Council regarding the City’s policy regarding termination and reconnection of utility services and the City’s current internet payment system. No action taken.
- 3- **GMA Day Retreat – Terrell Jacobs and Emily Davenport/Georgia Municipal Association (GMA):** Mr. Jacobs and Mrs. Davenport briefly spoke of the GMA Retreat with the Mayor, Council, City Manager and City Attorney on August 19, 2020 along with a request at that time for a full day GMA Retreat. Antonio Carter made a motion to

schedule the Retreat on September 19, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at a location to be determined by GMA and for the City to pay GMA a fee of \$500.00 plus mileage, hotel accommodations and other miscellaneous expense. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- 4- **CARES Act Grant Funding Resolution – Mitchell Moore, City Attorney:** Mr. Moore presented the Resolution in connection with the agreement executed and submitted by the Mayor which is also in connection with the 30% advance already received by the City. Billy Retterbush made a motion to adopt the Resolution. John Clayton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 5- **Face Mask Policy Resolution and Possible 1st Reading Face Mask Ordinance – Mitchell Moore, City Attorney:** Mr. Moore presented a Resolution and Ordinance based upon the GMA model requiring face masks in all public buildings within the City limits of Nashville. It was mentioned all courts, being a part of the Judicial system, are already under the Chief Justice orders and mandates requiring the use of face masks. After a brief discussion, Antonio Carter made a motion to adopt the Resolution and Ordinance. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion. Roll Call: Antonio Carter and Billy Retterbush voted yes. Eric Gaither, Walt Steward and John Clayton voted no. The motion failed three (3) to two (2).
- 6- **Format of September 14, 2020 Regular Council Meeting – Mayor Taylor Scarbrough:** Eric Gaither made a motion to continue with RingCentral teleconference and Facebook live stream via The Berrien Press, if they wish to do so, with restricted public access according to Executive Orders as long as social distancing is observed. John Clayton seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager/Finance Director Report:

Mrs. Luke reminded the Mayor and Council the Fourth of July fireworks celebration had been cancelled due to COVID-19, at which time the possibility of having them at a later date was discussed since the City had already purchased the fireworks. She said she had spoken with Fire Chief Buck Warren and the Fire Department is agreeable to the Council's decision at this time if they want to schedule them for the Labor Day holiday on September 7, 2020. Mrs. Luke reminded them of the Public Hearing for the Budget on September 7, 2020 which should be completed before dark, before the fireworks would begin. Eric Gaither made a motion to have the fireworks display on September 7, 2020. The motion failed due to lack of a second. There was a brief discussion of other possible dates for the fireworks display but no decision was made. Next, Mrs. Luke mentioned Jill Whitley usually paints the windows around the square for the Christmas holidays and had contacted her about it. She explained the cost last year was \$7,350 plus \$1,200 for cleaning afterwards and the expense is normally shared between Mainstreet and the Chamber of Commerce but the events normally used to raise money for the project had been cancelled this year due to COVID-19. She further explained the Chamber would not be able to contribute to the expense this year because of that and since there is no budget in place yet, she asked how they may want to handle it. Eric Gaither made a motion not to have the windows painted around the square for Christmas this year. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Report:

None.

Department Head’s Report:

Police Chief Edwards reported they have successfully obtained a grant from the Department of Justice for body armor which is a 50/50 matching grant and the Police Department should be reimbursed \$3,000.

Peter Schultz reported he made contact with three (3) contractors to obtain estimates for Eagle Avenue.

Public Comments:

Various comments were heard from Wayne May, Earl Miles and Paul Sauls regarding the GMA Retreat on August 19th, leadership of the Council, Veterans Day and the City Audits. Additionally, Janet Studstill inquired about premium tax funds received by all municipalities. She said she had spoken with Mrs. Ferrell with the County and found the County’s funds go toward fire protection, solid waste, animal control and something else she could not remember and asked how the City uses those discretionary funds. Mrs. Luke explained the City’s funds go toward public safety to the fire and police departments and at times toward sanitation depending on the amount received.

Council Comments:

Mayor Scarbrough asked about different budget formats he requested and Mrs. Luke explained the City only has to provide information in current formats, open records requests do not require the creation of formats or information not already in possession.

ADJOURNMENT:

Billy Retterbush made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Taylor Scarbrough

Alderman John Clayton

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Walt Steward

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Eric Gaither

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk