

**BUDGET WORK SESSION
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020**

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

INVOCATION: Henry Yawn

PLEDGE: Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

ROLL CALL: Members of the City Council present included Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton and Aldermen Scott Stalnaker, Billy Retterbush, Antonio Carter, Walt Steward, Eric Gaither

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

The Budget Workshop meeting for the Fiscal Year 2021 proposal was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Mandy Luke, City Manager, presented budget information to the Council including the previous year, current year, and department requests.

Mrs. Luke said this is the first budget adoption to include T-SPLOST which is approximately \$7,000 per month for a total of \$84,000 per year making the revenue and expenditure lines \$84,000 each for a balanced budget.

She explained the Hotel/Motel fund is approximately \$12,000 per year making the revenue and expenditure lines \$12,000 each for a balanced budget.

She explained the SPLOST fund is currently collecting approximately \$250,000: Capital Outlay Administration is \$4,000; Public Safety /Police loan payment principal is \$57,600, loan payment interest is \$16,500 and Capital Outlay for Police Department is \$6,900; Fire Department is \$10,000; Animal Control is \$5,000; Public Works/Street Department is \$68,500; Water Department is \$51,500; Gas Department is \$17,000; Recreation-Parks/Cemetery is \$8,000; and, Economic Development is \$5,000. This makes the revenue and expenditures \$250,000 each for a balanced budget.

She also explained these funds can be moved from one department to another, if needed.

Mrs. Luke stated the Gas fund has to stand on its own as does the Water fund explaining the Gas fund is \$1,449,655 which covers the gas charges for the City including North Berrien and Dupont Pines, interest revenues and miscellaneous revenues including the coop market program. She said the last payment has been made to the City of Tifton on the Gas line which was about \$52,000 per year. She also mentioned they Gas department had recently purchased a gas leak detector under new equipment. This makes the revenue and expenditures \$1,449,655 each for a balanced budget. She also mentioned the budget figures under General, Water/Sewer and Gas funds includes an increase of up to 3%, if eligible.

Mrs. Luke explained the Water/Sewer fund with a total of \$1,655,157 stating there was not much of a change but they need new diffusers for the treatment plant and may need to replace a truck soon. She also explained excess has to be moved to the Sinking fund to cover the debt for the treatment plant and the radio read meters.

Mrs. Luke explained the General fund. She said she found \$77,332 to be transferred: \$62,000 to the SPLOST fund and \$15,000 to be split between Water/Sewer and Gas funds to reimburse salaries. She said the BiLo building has been paid off and the Police department building was being paid for out of SPLOST. She explained the \$62,000 is from the Police department of which \$42,000 was from the Police cars that have been paid off and \$20,000 is from equipment such as replacement of firearms, ammo and various duty gear. Mrs. Luke mentioned the CARES Act due to COVID-19 explaining the City was approved for the 30% advancement which was based on payroll expense for the Police department and based on the same expense, we should be approved for the remaining 70% for a total reimbursement from the CARES Act of \$253,939. With this, we will have an excess to go into the fund balance providing a balanced budget for General fund. Additionally, there is approximately \$700,000 - \$800,000 in bank account balances along with approximately \$230,000 in CD's. She also mentioned the decline in the past couple of years as a result of the loss of a \$250,000 grant for a new firetruck due to loss of federal funds as a result of the hurricane, an additional code enforcement officer, additional employees in the Street department, and the demolition of the old Perkins Subdivision from the NURA project. She said there was a millage rate increase last year

for additional police officers, equipment and cars but they have not been able to get the cars due to factory shut downs as a result of COVID-19 but the funds allocated will still be available. Police Chief Edwards said the last information received is that it will be Spring 2021 before production will begin making the cars available in the Summer of 2021 or later. Chief Edwards mentioned they are experiencing high maintenance costs on current vehicles. He explained he has one officer set to graduate the Police Academy September 18th but will need an additional three (3) months field training to work on his own which will put the department at 100% excluding the approval of the four (4) additional officers which have not been hired yet. Scott Stalnaker mentioned training and Academy spots have been cut back State-wide due to COVID-19.

There was a brief discussion concerning the loan for the Waste Water Treatment Plant, which Mrs. Luke said goes through the year 2039, and the City's loss of LOST and a portion of SPLOST that goes to the debt for the Court House/Admin building.

Mrs. Luke explained the 3% in the proposed budget for increases is \$33,225 in the General fund, \$8,700 in Water/Sewer fund and \$5,100 in Gas fund.

There was also a brief discussion concerning the increases for the Police department in 2019 and getting other departments more in line compared to others.

Mrs. Luke closed by stating the budget is in balance and there would be no need for a tax millage rate increase.

The Budget Public Hearing will take place on September 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. The Budget Adoption will be on the Agenda for September 14, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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

DRAFT