

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020
6:00 P.M.**

~Limited Access to City Hall and Facebook Live Stream on The Berrien Press~

INVOCATION: Mitchell Moore

PLEDGE: Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

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

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

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

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

Regular City Council Meeting on August 24, 2020, Budget Workshop and Historic Preservation Commission Workshop on September 1, 2020; Budget Public Hearing on September 7, 2020: Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the minutes. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:

Walt Steward made a motion to adopt the formal agenda. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1- **5:30 Public Hearing/Clark Street Crossing Closure Request by CaterParrott Railnet– Mitchell Moore, City Attorney:** Mr. Moore explained Chris Parrott with CaterParrott Railnet presented three (3) options at the preceding Public Hearing and possibly a fourth option. Alderman Stalnaker asked to hold off at this time to allow him to speak to the School Board as to how it may affect the buses and to allow them to review the options presented. Mr. Parrott said they can reach out to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and coordinate with the Council and the City Manager. Alderman Steward said they also need to discuss fire hydrants. Mr. Parrott asked if the item would need to be tabled asking for a consensus for guidance to present to GDOT. Attorney Moore explained it would not need to be tabled but they would proceed to review and explore the options presented and further inquiries regarding any additional information they can provide. He also explained a final decision was not expected at this point as this was the first step in the process. Mr. Parrott said once the minutes are approved at the next meeting, they can present the information to GDOT.

- 2- **Vacant Lot-Davis Street and Dennis Avenue Located in Historic District – Mike Singhani and Jon Bollinger:** Mr. Singhani explained his intentions to build a liquor

store on the lot which is located in the Historic District. He said he presented plans, topographical surveys and architectural drawings in June but some of the Historic District guidelines are causing concerns such as requiring the building placement on the lot in such a way which would not allow for parking in the front of the lot. He stated this would not work for a retail business, especially a liquor store, which will also have a drive-through and presented pictures of his liquor store business in Homerville stating his plans for the building in Nashville would look even nicer. He explained the guidelines would call for him to have the building close to the front of the lot with the parking on the side and in the back but the retail business is more successful and safer with parking in the front. He also expressed concerns about the guideline's limitations on the store signage. Mr. Singhani asked for guidance from the Council to point him in the right direction asking if a waiver could be granted or if the lot could be removed from the Historic District so he could move forward. He was asked if he had submitted a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) with the Historic District Commission and replied he had submitted COA #20-04 with Jeff Wilson on September 9th. City Attorney Mitchell Moore said he has not been involved with it but had spoken with Mr. Wilson. Mr. Moore explained the guidelines encourage foot traffic with parallel or horizontal parking but this lot is at the Southern extreme of the Historic District and the only thing the language states about the setbacks is the setback is the distance buildings from lot lines and similar setbacks help reinforce horizontal rhythms of a streetscape. Mr. Singhani explained he does not need the entire lot and his intention is to sell part of the lot but these guidelines will put him in jeopardy of not being able to do so. Mr. Moore said he understands Mr. Singhani needs some answers and direction and he will get back with Mr. Wilson. Mr. Moore explained they do not have a full quorum at this time but they are in the process of replacing the commission members and right now Mr. Wilson cannot do anything because he does not have a quorum. Mr. Moore further explained that is not Mr. Singhani's fault and should not hold up his business operation but if he submitted the COA, that starts a timeline which means something has to happen within forty-five (45) days or he will get his request by default per the statute. Mr. Moore said he understands Mr. Singhani needs answers and needs to know the City is willing to work with him and he assured him we are.

- 3- **Postponement of September 19th GMA Day Retreat – Mitchell Moore, City Attorney:** Mr. Moore said he had been contacted by Terrell Jacobs and Emily Davenport with GMA concerning the contract for the Retreat and with several conflicts at this time, it might warrant action to postpone it to a date to be determined. Antonio Carter made a motion to postpone the Retreat to a date to be determined. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- 4- **FY 2021 Budget Adoption – Mandy Luke, City Manager/Finance Director:** Mrs. Luke presented a summary of the budget with the General Fund total \$3,611,845, Water/Sewer Fund \$1,691,724, Gas Fund \$1,486,222, SPLOST Fund \$250,000 Hotel/Motel \$12,000 and the T-SPLOST \$84,000. {The Budget Workshop was held September 1, 2020 and the Budget Public Hearing was held September 7, 2020} Billy Retterbush made a motion to adopt the FY 2021 Budget. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion. Roll Call: Billy Retterbush, Scott Stalnaker, Antonio Carter and Walt Steward voted yes. Eric Gaither voted no. The motion carries four (4) to one (1).

- 5- **Format of September 28, 2020 Regular Council Meeting – Mayor Taylor Scarbrough:** Mayor Pro-Tem Clayton said he briefly spoke with Mayor Scarbrough prior to the meeting and the Mayor wanted tonight’s meeting to be available via RingCentral but he was not familiar with it and does not have a laptop and would look at possibility of carrying that on at the next meeting. Alderman Carter explained he is good with the current format but would prefer the use of masks by everyone due to the size. Aldermen Steward and Retterbush agreed. After brief discussion, Eric Gaither made a motion to continue with the same format strongly encouraging masks and social distancing, RingCentral teleconference, if available, and Facebook live stream via The Berrien Press, if they wish to do so. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

City Manager/Finance Director Report:

Mrs. Luke asked the Council about the fireworks again explaining they had already been purchased before the Fourth of July celebration was cancelled and is not sure how long they can be stored. After a brief discussion, they decided to check with the Fire Department to see if they can do it on Veterans Day and Walt Steward mentioned the Schools do not observe the Veterans Day holiday so they may have to look at doing it on the weekend before or after Veterans Day.

City Attorney Report:

None.

Department Head’s Report:

Police Chief Edwards reported the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia has further extended the Statewide Judicial State of Emergency from September 10, 2020 to October 10, 2020 and since the Police Department is a court related facility, their lobby will remain closed and mandatory use of face masks will continue.

Public Comments:

None.

Council Comments:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Antonio Carter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Taylor Scarbrough

Alderman John Clayton

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Walt Steward

Alderman Eric Gaither

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk

DRAFT