

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN**

APRIL 12, 2021

6:00 P.M.

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

INVOCATION: Clarence Luke

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, Scott Stalnaker, Billy Retterbush, Antonio Carter, Walt Steward, Eric Gaither.

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Schultz, Jackie Jordan, Nancy Pesce, Police Chief Edwards, John Reynolds, Loren Williams, Mitchell Moore

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

Regular City Council-March 22, 2021: 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. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1- 2021 CDBG Resolution and Conflict of Interest – Mitchell Moore, City Attorney:

Mr. Schultz explained the target area for the 2021 CDBG application is the same as the 2018 CDBG, which is currently ongoing. The target area includes portions of MLK Jr, Drive, Short Street, Mitchell Street, Talley Street, John Street, N. Mathis Street, Lucy Street, Bryant Street, N. Ann Street, E. Beetree and Allen. Antonio Carter stated his wife owns a house on Beetree so he will abstain from participation in discussion or voting and Mr. Moore explained Mr. Carter had already gotten with him on this conflict. Billy Retterbush made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution {#R-07-21} to submit an application to obtain FY 2021 CDBG funding for public infrastructure improvements. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with Antonio Carter abstaining .

- 2- 2018 CDBG Project – Peter Schultz, Interim City Manager:** Mr. Schultz presented options from John Hunkele, Coastal Engineering, to expedite the CDBG project. The options were reviewed and discussed by Mr. Schultz, Mr. Hunkele, Mike Jacobs-SGRC, and Mitchell Moore-City Attorney. Option 2b considers completion of the project by pipe bursting the existing 6-inch VCP sewer lines along Mitchell Street inserting 8-inch HDPE pipe and includes asphalt overlays along N. Mathis, Allen and N. John Streets and complete street reconstruction along Beetree Avenue from N. John to Mitchell Street. Mr.

Schultz explained this would increase the cost but it would have the roads resurfaced instead of patching which eliminates putting resurfacing out for bid in the future LMIG and gets them paved quicker. The total estimated cost of this option is \$941,585 which is an increase of \$158,267 from the current amount of \$783,318. Mr. Schultz said the contractor said the pipe bursting could be completed in approximately two (2) to three (3) weeks of starting; additionally, the asphaltting could be completed in approximately two (2) to three (3) weeks of starting. He explained the extra money that would have been required by the City in the future LMIG could be used in this project now and have it completed sooner. John Hunkele explained the pipe bursting process is where a bursting mechanism is inserted into the existing pipe which explodes it and the new pipe is pulled into place at that time which prevents having to dig up the entire street. He also explained this was not considered originally since it is more expensive and there was no way to know the condition of the subsurface until they excavated it. Mr. Schultz explained the extra cost is to be paid either way from TIA whether it is now or later during the LMIG and doing it now gets the resurfacing completed along with the current project. Mr. Moore stated he had been in discussions with Mr. Chris Simmelink with Hudson Insurance Company, the Surety on Performance Bond, and explained bringing in another contractor to complete the project would take at least sixty (60) days longer while no work is being done and they are looking to have it completed on time. After further discussion, Scott Stalnaker made a motion to select this option (Option 2b). Billy Retterbush seconded the motion. Roll Call: Scott Stalnaker, Billy Retterbush, Walt Steward, Antonio Carter voted yes; Eric Gaither voted no. The motion carried four (4) to one (1).

3- Format of Next Regular Council Meeting – Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton: Scott Stalnaker made a motion to continue with the same format except RingCentral. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

4- Executive Session – John Clayton, Mayor Pro-Tem

City Manager/Finance Director Report:

Peter Schultz and Mitchell Moore explained the Wiregrass Lease had been executed by City Manager and submitted, as discussed in the March 22, 2021 Council meeting. Antonio Carter made a motion to affirm the execution and submittal of the lease agreement. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schultz presented drawdown request #6 from Southern Georgia Regional Commission for the 2018 CDBG in the amount of \$74,465.11. Scott Stalnaker made a motion to approve execution of the drawdown request. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schultz presented pay request #5 for James Warren & Associates in the amount of \$74,465.11 which has been approved and signed by John Hunkele of Coastal Engineering. Billy Retterbush made a motion to approve pay request #5 for James Warren & Associates. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Schultz presented an invoice in the amount of \$16,140.71 to Local Government Consulting stating they have reconciled all accounts except the General Fund which they should complete this week and then move on to bring in the auditors to get the FY 2020 audit done. Eric Gaither

made a motion to approve payment of the invoice. Scott Stalnaker seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Report:

Walt Steward asked if Mr. Scarbrough had turned in the login information and recordings of the RingCentral account. Mr. Moore explained Mr. Scarbrough informed him those recordings were not accessible after a certain period of time and he has cancelled the account that was in his name although the City reimbursed him for the costs. Janet Studstill said she has all the recordings and would be willing to share any missing recordings.

Mr. Moore reported it is time for the annual renewal of the REDLG (Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant) loan in May so it will need to be on the next Agenda. He explained the loan has an annual renewal with a one percent (1%) annual fee and an annual debt retirement of \$49,596 so the renewal should be approximately \$299,700 and he is working with Guardian Bank on the renewal documents.

Councilman Steward asked Mr. Moore if Mr. Scarbrough's absences due to the Governor's Executive Order of suspension counts against his attendance of meetings as defined in the Charter & Mr. Moore explained under the executive order, the absences do not count against him.

Department Head's Report:

Nancy Pesce, Main Street Director, reported the following: April is child abuse awareness month which is why the blue ribbons and blue lights are around the square; the sale of a downtown building to Diane Nichols who plans to open a tattoo shop; Black Swan interiors is opening soon; working with the DCA to help potential buyers with funding for Greg Weaver's building on the square; another business owner looking for space to rent down town; the Farmer's Market is doing well and they are beginning steps of the rebranding; Farmer's Market is going to be featured in the Southwest Georgia Living Magazine in the Trail 37 feature; the next First Thursday will be May 6th with a theme of Downtown Derby Day; working on ideas for the vacant lot at the corner of Davis and Washington; working on a website for Main Street in addition to the Face Book page; and, working on a grant to help the downtown buildings with awnings.

Police Chief Edwards reported a case recently solved by the Police Department. They received information in January of possible identity theft fraud of which they were able to obtain a search warrant that was executed on Friday, April 2, 2021, and discovered an abundance of evidence including cocaine and other illicit materials. As a result, 39-year-old Lacasha Lewis was taken into custody and charged with three (3) misdemeanors and twelve (12) felonies.

Councilmen Steward asked about the possibility of adding small facts in the water bills or on the Face Book page to help prevent identity theft and fraud.

Loren William, Code Enforcement Officer, reported working with City probationers needing community service to help clean up the downtown area and around the Farmer's Market on Saturdays. Bryan Shaw mentioned they could help around the old courthouse as well.

Public Comments:

Evelyn Vinson and Janice Harris of Beetree Street and Brenda Thomas of MLK Jr Drive addressed the Council concerning problems they are experiencing from the current CDBG project discussed earlier in this meeting.

Richard Klinessmith of Smith Avenue inquired about a building on the square owned by Jeff Wilson and Ms. Williams responded a citation had been issued and is a pending court case. Brenda Thomas of MLK Jr Drive inquired about a trailer park to which Ms. Williams responded she had been in contact with the owner about it. Bryan Shaw reminded everyone about the unveiling ceremony of the “Spirit of the American Doughboy” historical marker on May 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

At 7:05 p.m., Eric Gaither made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 7:05 P.M. – 7:22 P.M.

At 7:22 p.m., Scott Stalnaker made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED

No action was taken.

A special called meeting to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter is scheduled for April 19, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Council Comments:

Scott Stalnaker reported a food drive was done on by Family Connections working with the USDA and the Caring Place and they plan to do another one on April 29th and the Y.E.S. center and asked for volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Billy Retterbush made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

April 12, 2021.

Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Walt Steward

Alderman Eric Gaither

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk