

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

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

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

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

Regular City Council-August 23, 2021; Called Meeting-September 8, 2021; Executive Session-September 8, 2021: Billy Retterbush made a motion to adopt the minutes. Eric Gaither seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:

Antonio Carter made a motion to adopt the formal agenda. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1- Affidavit and Resolution, #R-15-21, of September 8, 2021 Executive Session – Mitchell Moore, City Attorney:** Eric Gaither made a motion to approve and adopt the Resolution and Affidavit. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously .
- 2- Personnel Interview Procedure City Manager Position – Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton:** There was a called meeting on September 8, 2021 which included an Executive Session for the Council to review and discuss the candidates for the City Manager position. Walt Steward made a motion to narrow the selection down to the four (4) candidates the Council discussed and agreed upon and set up procedures to call them in for an interview. Billy Retterbush seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Attorney Moore explained there were initially ten (10) resumes but one withdrew his resume which left nine (9) candidates which resulted in six (6) responses to the questions submitted to them and the purpose of the Executive Session was to consider and review the six (6) candidates. Mr. Retterbush suggested scheduling two (2) candidates per day and Mr. Steward suggested to decide on the number of questions first. After brief discussion, it was decided each Council member would be allowed up to three (3) questions of which they decided each answer could take up to ten (10) minutes and with six (6) councilman that could take approximately an hour and a half. Therefore, each

candidate would be scheduled on a different day, either a Monday or Wednesday, which will be scheduled through the City Clerk. Walt Steward modified his motion to include each member of the Council will be allowed up to three (3) questions each, scheduling of the interview dates and times will be on a Monday or Wednesday, which will be scheduled through the City Clerk, for the full Council to be present and the interviews will take place in Executive Session at a Called meeting. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Eric Gaither wanted to release the names of the four (4) candidates and the Council expressed concerns that might cause the candidates problems in their current job. The Council decided the City Clerk would notify the candidates that were not selected via email and make contact via email with the four (4) candidates selected for the interview process to inquire whether they want their names disclosed or kept private and schedule interview days.

- 3- Municode Charter and Ordinance Review – Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton:** Mayor Pro-tem explained there have been previous discussions of a review process by Municode regarding discrepancies between the Charter and Ordinances including the fees associated with this process. Eric Gaither stated he wants to wait until after the election and asked about the fee to which Mr. Schultz replied the fee would \$5,850 which would be paid out of legal fees. Billy Retterbush made a motion to proceed with the process. Walt Steward mentioned this process is not to make changes but rather to find discrepancies that need to be addressed. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 4- Jail Contract – Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton:** Mr. Schultz explained the contract raises the daily base rate from \$40 per day to \$50 per day. In addition to the daily rate, he mentioned areas of concern including how the number of days are determined, for example if someone is brought in at 11:00 pm, the City will be charged a minimum of two (2) days. Additionally, the City will be billed for housing when the individual arrested has an outstanding warrant from another jurisdiction; the City will be required to transfer a sum equal to 10% of the original amount of bail or bond for violations of a criminal or traffic statute of the State or a City ordinance. Mr. Schultz explained the contract and pertinent information has been submitted to Tim Tanner for legal review and he is awaiting his response. Mr. Steward expressed concerns explaining this would have City taxpayers who pay City and County taxes paying double fees. Mr. Schultz said the current service delivery strategy between the City and the County is good through February 28, 2025 but the response dead line for the contract is October 1, 2021. The item was tabled until the next meeting to allow time for Mr. Tanner's review and response.
- 5- Public Safety – Walt Steward:** Mr. Steward discussed drug problems and associated problems such as petty crimes and domestic violence. He explained Nashville recently hired an officer with K-9 training which is a huge benefit and suggested looking into this further. His research shows a startup cost of approximately \$7,600 with an estimated annual cost of \$7,900, without the dog, and suggested an older dog could possibly reduce costs. He also mentioned this would be an asset to the City and the County. After brief discussion, the Council asked Police Chief Edwards to research this further and report at the next Council meeting.

- 6- Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board Member Nominations – Nancy Pesce, Mainstreet Director:** Mrs. Pesce presented the Council with a list of eight (8) potential DDA board members stating seven (7) members are needed for the board. The list of names include: Dawn Morrison, Sara Paulk, Travis Harper, Harriette Sutton, Billy Retterbush (current member), Mary Alice Murray, Darla Trevino-Bennett and Jonathan Keen. Eric Gaither stated he agreed with all but one of the individuals. Antonio Carter made a motion to accept the eight (8) individuals listed. Walt Steward seconded the motion. Roll Call: Antonio Carter, Walt Steward and Scott Stalnaker voted in favor of the motion; and, Eric Gaither voted against the motion. The motion carries three (3) to one (1). Billy Retterbush abstained from voting due to serving on the board.
- 7- Streets – Barbara May:** Mrs. May discussed the condition of some of the streets in Nashville asking the Council if anything could be done about them. Mr. Retterbush said he agreed we have some streets that need attention and discussed the expense involved with repaving streets, the TSPLOST funds and LMIG (Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant) funds stating it's coming although they won't be able to take care of all of the streets. Peter Schultz said the City of Adel got a low interest loan through the GDOT for \$1,200,000 with a payment that averages the amount received from their TSPLOST funds each month and he was researching that option or what else might be available but some of the streets will be handled through the next LMIG.

City Manager Report:

Mr. Schultz reported Mauldin and Jenkins has finalized the audit of which he provided a copy to the Council. They have filed it with the State and once they receive a final answer from the State, he will get them on the Agenda to present it to the Council. Mr. Schultz also provided the Council with the 5-year tax digest stating there is no change in the tax millage rate and the adoption of the tax millage rate will need to be on the next Agenda after the proper advertisements. Mr. Schultz discussed the one-way portion of East Dennis located behind Marvin's. He said he had been reviewing it but the problem is the road there is only 28-feet wide but he was looking at possibilities to close it and turn it into parking. He discussed the options he was looking at and said he could get with Statewide for a review to ensure everything would be ADA compliant. Mr. Moore discussed the types of road closures stating the closure of a road has to be for public benefit and not for private gain. Scott Stalnaker mentioned safety was the reason it was turned into a one-way road. Walt Steward said it is a very strange intersection and there would be a safety benefit to close the street and turn it into a City parking lot.

City Attorney Report:

Mr. Moore reported he had been contacted by another attorney concerning unbilled charges without a change order on the 2018 CDBG. He said Mr. Schultz had reached out to John Hunkele concerning the figures and he would report back to them when he had more information.

Department Head's Report:

Nancy Pesce reported she attended the Georgia Downtown Conference in August. She said staff members of Congressman Austin Scott will be at the Community Center on September 21st from 9:30 am to 11:00 am to assist constituents with a number of federal issues ranging from

Medicare and social security to veterans' benefits. His committee assignments include the House Armed Services Committee and the House Agriculture Committee. She reported the Happy Kids Fall Sale will take place downtown September 25th through October 2nd. The next live broadcast of 92.1 radio with Scott James Matheson will be Friday, October 22nd. The Harvest Festival will be October 23, 2021. There will be a Halloween movie downtown on Friday, October 29th instead of Trick or Treat around the square and Field of Screams trick or treating will be Saturday, October 30th, from 5:00 pm to 7 pm at the Rec Department. She explained she is in the process of recruiting young people to join a new program, Square Squad, to teach the importance of growing business downtown and preserving history. This will include volunteer hours and at the end of the program, a letter of reference to a college or job will be provided to them. She reported working on the Rural Tax Credit incentive which only has one more year to help get vacant buildings sold. In addition to this, she is working with Georgia Power to receive a retail leakage study to help determine what types of businesses might be successful in order to reach out to developers. She reported the old Dinner Bell building was purchased by the owners of Southern Landmark. She also reported on a beautification project from Woodmen Life that is a \$500 grant to do some type of beautification in the county and they reached out to the Chamber who suggested they contact her about doing something at the Community Center such as new flower beds.

Public Comments:

The Council heard comments from Barbara May about their service on the Council. They heard comments from Skeeter Parker commending the City on a storm water/drainage ditch clean up. Mr. Parker also complained about Windstream's service asking the Council to reach out to them due to the franchise fee to the City. Sam Elder seconded Mr. Parker's comments on Windstream's service.

Council Comments:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Billy Retterbush made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Walt Steward seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
September 13, 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