

**REGULAR MEETING  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE  
COUNTY OF BERRIEN  
JANUARY 10, 2022  
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, Councilmen Antonio Carter, Eric Gaither, Rodrick Smith, Shane Willis and Councilwoman Amy Garner

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

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

December 13, 2021 Regular Meeting and January 3, 2022 Called Meeting: Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the minutes. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:**

Mayor Pro-tem Clayton asked to delete original Agenda item #1-Lighting Issues on Industrial Road/Rick Postell and replace Agenda item #1 with Meeting Protocol in Relation to COVID. Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the formal agenda with the modification. Amy Garner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1- Meeting Protocol in Relation to COVID – Mayor Pro-tem Clayton:** Mayor Pro-tem Clayton commented on the number of COVID cases on the rise again asking if the Council wanted to consider RingCentral like they used in 2020 or something else in case the need arises to limit meeting attendance again. Eric Gaither suggested reviewing the issue at each meeting which was agreed upon and no action was taken.
- 2- Appointment to Board of Health – John Clayton, Mayor Pro-tem**
- 3- Appointment to Deep South Board – John Clayton, Mayor Pro-tem:**  
*{Items 2 and 3 became combined during the meeting}* Mayor Pro-tem Clayton explained the Board of Health needs a representative from the City and the Deep South Board needs a representative to replace former Councilman Retterbush. After brief discussion, Antonio Carter made a motion to appoint John Clayton to the Board of Health and City Manager Diane Westberry to the Deep South Board. Shane Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

**4- Additional Beer, Wine and Liquor License Approvals for 2022 – Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton:**

2022 BEER WINE LIQUOR LICENSES				
BUSINESS NAME	APPLICANT NAME	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	AMT PAID
Lucky Food Mart	Lalbhai Patel	401 S. Davis St.	Beer & Wine	\$ 1,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$ 1,100.00</b>

Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton presented the Beer and Wine license application as listed in the preceding table. Having nothing to prevent the approval, Eric Gaither made a motion to approve the license application presented. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- 5- 2022 LMIG Application Submission – Diane Westberry, City Manager:** Mrs. Westberry presented the Council with a letter from GDOT regarding the 2021 LMIG application explaining the need to revise it, adding Sherrod Avenue, Short Street and Talley Street. She also explained the 2022 LMIG application which would include Carolina Chase, Robin Lane and Wedgewood Circle had not yet been submitted but is due January 31. She explained she would like to combine the 2021 and 2022 applications which would be most cost effective. Eric Gaither made a motion to combine the applications for submission. Shane Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 6- Discussion on Audio During Meeting – Diane Westberry, City Manager:** There was a brief discussion of the sound in the room and on the live feed when the Berrien Press live streams the Council meetings. Shane Willis made a motion for Mrs. Westberry to research the options available and get back with the Council. Mayor Pro-tem Clayton explained he is in favor of enhancing the audio so it can be heard better but if the Berrien Press wishes to live stream the meeting, they will need to see about the appropriate equipment to enhance their recording and the City’s equipment should not be connected to their equipment. There was mention of checking with the High School’s technology department for guidance or assistance. The motion was seconded by Rodrick Smith and the motion carried unanimously.
- 7- Ratification of Resolution/DDA Board Members/September 13, 2021 – Mitchell Moore, City Attorney:** Mr. Moore presented the Council with a Resolution to be ratified for action taken at the September 13, 2021 Council meeting nominating and approving Dawn Morrison, Sara Paulk, Travis Harper, Harriette Sutton, Billy Retterbush, Mary Alice Murray, Darla Trevino-Bennett and Jonathan Keen to the Downtown Development Authority Board. Eric Gaither made a motion to ratify and approve the Resolution {#R-01-22}. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Eric Gaither then made a motion to remove Travis Harper and Billy Retterbush from the DDA Board and replace them with Amy Garner and Margaret Perry. Mainstreet Director Nancy Pesce mentioned the only DDA Board members who have received the training at this time are Dawn Morrison, Billy Retterbush and Travis Harper so this action would leave only one Board member with the training and there is no requirement for one of the

DDA Board members to be a member of the City Council. Rodrick Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call: Eric Gaither, Rodrick Smith, Shane Willis and Amy Garner voted in favor of the motion. Antonio voted against the motion stating he did not have a problem with Amy Garner serving on the board since Billy Retterbush is no longer on the Council although there is no requirement to have a City Council member serve on the DDA Board but would like to keep Travis Harper due to the training. The motion passed four (4) to one (1). There was a brief discussion of the training requirements and Nancy Pesce said the next DDA Board meeting would take place on January 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.

#### **8- Executive Session/Personnel Matters – Diane Westberry, City Manager:**

At 6:35 p.m., Eric Gaither made a motion to enter Executive Session. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. All employees were excused from the meeting leaving only the Council members and the City Manager. The City Manager will provide the proper record of the Executive Session.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:35 P.M. – 7:23 P.M.**

At 7:23 p.m., the Executive Session ended and the regular meeting resumed.

Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton stated no action taken in Executive Session.

#### **City Manager Report:**

Mrs. Westberry reported the closing out of the 2017 CHIP project through the Southern Georgia Regional Commission (SGRC). Under this CHIP project, three (3) homes were rehabilitated for a total of \$285,795 and we are in the process of applying for the 2022 CHIP grant which has to be submitted by January 31. She also reported SGRC has contacted her about the 2022 CDBG regarding advertisement for RFP's (Request for Proposals) for engineering services so she is working with them on that which will be the same project as submitted in 2021.

#### **City Attorney Report:**

Mr. Moore commented on the scoring process, needs and requirements on the CHIP and CDBG's are intermingled and Mrs. Westberry replied it is a very competitive process and the current CDBG application is for \$750,000. Mr. Moore said he will be looking to the Council and City Manager for direction in the priorities in the dilapidated housing issue. He also reported working with MuniCode to update the Ordinances and inconsistencies between the Charter and Code. Mr. Moore clarified the DDA Board has been reconstituted tonight with Amy Garner and Margaret Perry taking the place of Billy Retterbush and Travis Harper which leaves only one member with the necessary training and the members were nominated to serve 4-year terms.

#### **Department Head's Report:**

Nancy Pesce reported the following:

- The Chili cook-off is scheduled for Saturday, February 26 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This year's theme is Chili Chili Bang Bang. There were sixteen (16) teams last year and she already has ten (10) teams for this year. This is Mainstreet's fundraiser and the

proceeds go towards free events downtown. Also scheduled for the Chili cook-off will be the Page Bros., a mechanical bull and Skoll Axe Throwing.

- The MLK Jr parade will be Sunday, January 16, at 4:00 p.m.
- Mainstreet Board meets the first Wednesday each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Community Center but due to several members being ill, the January meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, January 12.
- DDA Board meets the third Wednesday each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center.
- Mainstreet's newsletter is emailed weekly on Wednesday.
- Azalea Sprinter train starts back March 18 and Mainstreet is planning "Train Days" downtown for lay overs, which will be an hour and a half, with food trucks and entertainment.
- RURAL (Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas Legislation) tax incentive was signed into law May, 2017. Nashville was one of the first cities to receive it. The purpose is to offer incentive to encourage revitalization of rural downtown areas through job and business creation, as well as the rehabilitation of the historic buildings. This is the last year as it ends December, 2022. She is in the process of contacting everyone who may qualify and make sure they apply before the end of the year.
- Greg Weaver's building, the old D.A. building on corner of Washington and Davis, may have sold.
- She applied for an Inclusive Backing Grant through American Express to help China Garden Restaurant with a façade upgrade. One of the criteria for the grant is that the owners must be of Asian descent. Applicants will be notified in mid-January.
- Farmer's Market sales for 2019 were \$37,642, 2020 were \$109,367 and 2021 were \$129,947.

Police Chief Edwards reported the following:

- They will be escorting the MLK Jr parade on Sunday, January 16. Traffic will be blocked along Davis Street beginning at 4:00 p.m. from Hazel Avenue until they reach the County Admin Building/Courthouse which should be 30-45 minutes. And, they will escort the March on Monday, January 17 from the church on Marion Avenue to Beetree park beginning at 10:30 a.m.
- Chief Edwards and Major Knowles will be traveling to Duluth this week to begin State Certification process. This is accreditation by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police which is a certified confirmation that we follow state level professional standards and thereby give greater public confidence that our policies, procedures and practices are lawful and competent. This accreditation will reduce overall liability potential and will reduce Law Enforcement Officer Liability Insurance by 20% which is roughly \$5,000 annually. This is a three (3) year accreditation with actual costs of \$350 processing fee and hosting inspectors when they come.
- Chief Edwards hopes to be ready by the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting to present a full annual report of the previous year's crime stats, calls for service numbers and other activities but so far, his data for 2021 as published by the FBI National Incident-Based Reporting System shows aggravated assaults are down 39.5% from 2020, robberies are down 85%, larceny/theft cases are down 31%, destruction of property is down 31.8%, breaking/entering and burglaries are down 40% and drug investigation cases and arrests

are up 161.9% from 2021. Antonio Carter asked Chief Edwards to get information for the next Council meeting on the jail costs.

Peter Schultz welcomed the new Council members and the new City Manager, Diane Westberry. John Reynolds reported they are working on changing out fire hydrants and the Water/Sewer department has three (3) out with COVID.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Council Comments:**

Antonio Carter commended Keith Stone for his efforts on the Historic Preservation Commission.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Eric Gaither made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Rodrick Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

*January 10, 2022.*

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Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

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Councilman Antonio Carter

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Councilman Eric Gaither

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Councilwoman Amy Garner

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Councilman Rodrick Smith

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Councilman Shane Willis

**ATTEST:**

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Jackie Jordan, City Clerk