

**REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
FEBRUARY 14, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

INVOCATION: Danny Studstill

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, Brandon Rice, Jackie Jordan, Police Chief Edwards, Fire Chief Davis, John Reynolds, Tim Tanner

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

January 24, 2022 Regular Meeting; January 10, 2022 and January 24, 2022 Executive Sessions: Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the minutes. Shane Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF FORMAL AGENDA:

Eric Gaither requested to add an Executive Session (Litigation) by Tim Tanner, City Attorney. Eric Gaither made a motion to adopt the formal agenda with the addition. Rodrick Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1- Nashville Historic Preservation Commission (NHPC) Nominees/5:30 Work Session – John Clayton, Mayor Pro-tem:** Eric Gaither made a motion to nominate Jessica Willis, Lester Ross and Chastle Hammond to the NHPC with Ms. Hammond being an alternate if either Mrs. Willis or Mr. Ross are unable to serve. Rodrick Smith seconded the motion and the motion carried with Shane Willis abstaining from the vote since Mrs. Willis is his wife.
- 2- Race Track – Paul Newbern/Track Owner:** Mr. Newbern was unable to attend so his wife, Teresa Newbern spoke on his behalf by reading a letter he wrote to the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and City Attorney asking them to reverse the action taken by the Council explained in Resolution #R-12-21 regarding the days and hours of operation of the Race Track. Eric Gaither made a motion to table the item to the next regular Council meeting {February 28, 2022}. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 3- Location of Executive Session Meetings – John Clayton, Mayor Pro-tem:** Mayor Pro-tem Clayton asked the Council if they wished to consider having Executive Session

meetings in the conference room of City Hall as was mentioned at the previous meeting. This would prevent the need to have the public leave the Council Chambers during the Executive Session meetings. Antonio Carter made a motion to have the Executive Session meetings in the conference room located in the back of City Hall rather than have the public leave the Council Chambers effective immediately. Shane Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

- 4- Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with County for Collection of Property Taxes – Diane Westberry, City Manager:** Mrs. Westberry mentioned this item in her report at the last Council meeting and explained she met with the Tax Commissioner in regards to the County overseeing the billing, collection and tax sales on the City's property taxes beginning with the property taxes due in 2022 but it would not include any outstanding taxes through 2021. The County's fee would be \$5,000 annually. There would be one bill to include County taxes, School taxes and City taxes with citizens paying the total in one location, the County admin building, as opposed to the current practice of paying the City taxes at City Hall and the other taxes at the County admin building. She explained City Attorney Tim Tanner is working on the IGA which they should be able to provide at or before the next meeting. Antonio Carter made a motion to approve the County to collect the City's taxes and to move forward preparing the IGA. Amy Garner seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.
- 5- Rotary Club Membership – Eric Gaither, Councilman:** Mr. Gaither asked about the City allowing the City Manager to join Rotary Club and the City paying the fees of \$184.00 per quarter. Mr. Gaither made a motion to pay the dues for the City Manager, Diane Westberry, to join rotary club. Shane Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. Rod Smith explained the Rotary Club is comprised of local business owners and community leaders who do many things to help the community. Keith Stone added the Rotary Club helps with many events and the money they raise goes back into our community, in the City and the County. Tim Tanner stated it would be considered a benefit and not a gratuity.
- 6- Executive Session/Litigation – Tim Tanner, City Attorney:**

At 6:20 p.m., Eric Gaither made a motion to enter Executive Session. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The Council, City Manager and City Attorney moved to the conference room for the Executive Session. All other employees were excused from the meeting. The City Manager will provide the proper record of the Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION 6:20 P.M. – 7:05 P.M.

At 7:05 p.m., Antonio Carter made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Shane Willis seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

REGULAR MEETING RESUMED

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

City Manager Report:

Mrs. Westberry reported a Public Hearing at City Hall at 10:00 a.m. on February 22nd to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG); a deadline of 2:00 p.m. on March 1st for RFP's (requests for proposals) for engineering services for the CDBG for public infrastructure improvements to water and sewer lines; and, a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. on March 2nd to open sealed bids for the FY2022 Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) project for resurfacing of six (6) City streets. She reported Brandon Rice has been appointed as the Public Works Director. She also reported discussion with the County Administrator and Commissioners about handling the zoning and building inspections for the City. She said they asked for half the annual budgeted amount which is \$15,075 because they said they might have to hire extra personnel. She said the City was prepared for them to retain all the fees. She also reported continued work with Davenport Public Finance to try to refinance the City's water and sewer revenue bond loan of which Tin Tanner is involved and assisting.

City Attorney Report:

None.

Department Head's Report:

Chief Edwards provided a report of the Police Department activity and crime statistics for 2021. He said he hopes to have the same information to report on animal control and code enforcement at the next meeting.

Brandon Rice reported work on the cemeteries and storm drainage.

Chief Davis reported the Fire Department received a Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) 50% reimbursement grant up to \$10,000 {*GFC portion max is \$5,000*} which they used to purchase a new thermal imager, nozzles, hoses and other miscellaneous fire equipment; and, submission of an application for a \$25,000 fireworks tax grant with the City's portion being a 10% match.

Public Comments:

Bob Lovein suggested the Council finish the regular meeting and have the Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

Daniel Studstill commended the City, the Gas Department, Peter Schultz and Brandon Rice on the working relationship the City has with Dupont Pine Products.

Council Comments:

Mayor Pro-tem John Clayton congratulated Brandon Rice on his new position.

ADJOURNMENT:

Shane Willis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. Antonio Carter seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

February 14, 2022.

Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton

Councilman Antonio Carter

Councilman Eric Gaither

Councilwoman Amy Garner

Councilman Rodrick Smith

Councilman Shane Willis

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk

DRAFT