

**PUBLIC HEARING
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NASHVILLE
COUNTY OF BERRIEN
September 14, 2020
5:30 p.m.**

ROLL CALL: Mayor Pro-Tem John Clayton and Aldermen Scott Stalnaker, Billy Retterbush (late), Antonio Carter, Walt Steward, Eric Gaither (late)

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

OTHERS: Chris Parrott and Jamie Cater (via phone), both with CaterParrott Railnet, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Davis, Barbara May

Chris Parrott with CaterParrott Railnet addressed the Council regarding their request to close the railroad crossing on Clark Street to reduce or eliminate the threat of motorists or foot traffic from being struck at this location since it is in such close proximity to the crossing on Dennis Avenue indicating the request is based on public safety. Mr. Parrott presented the Council with three (3) options they wish to explore: option A-complete closure of the crossing; option B-closure of the crossing but creating a one-lane road that ties into Dennis Avenue using the railroad right of way; and, option C-keep Clark Street open but enhance the safety signs and measures around Clark Street and Dennis Avenue which would include “Look” signs, reflective strips along the cross-bucks and approach signs further back along Clark Street and Dennis Avenue.

Alderman Steward inquired about stop bars and stoplights at the Dennis Street crossing. Mr. Parrott explained that would be instigated by the City to reach out to Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to request it be done and GDOT would then do a study to see if it meets the criteria and they would work with GDOT on the installation. He also stated the study would have nothing to do with the number of accidents.

Attorney Mitchell Moore asked about the location of the access road, if that option was chosen, and Mr. Parrott explained it would be on the East side of the railroad track between Clark and Dennis.

Alderman Stalnaker explained the Church and NBD Septic Service is located on the West side of the track stating he spoke with Neal Bennett who

owns NBD on Clark Street stating he was originally opposed to it but has since decided, it would be safer with the large trucks used in his business. Stuart Davis of Deal Street, expressed concerns regarding the fire hydrants because he was under the impression the fire hydrant would be moved to the opposite side of the track. Alderman Stalnaker explained no hydrants would be removed and if anything, more hydrants would be added. Mr. Davis also explained he felt the closure was unnecessary because he does not feel there is enough traffic and that it would be inconvenient for people that live there. He further explained he does not think it would be economical to add an access road and would be more economical to add more signs and markings. Mr. Parrott stated their reason for the closure request is strictly for safety purposes and Attorney Moore emphasized public safety would be a larger consideration as opposed to monetary reasons or inconvenience to the public. Mrs. Davis brought up the crossings at Dennis, McPherson and Marion being in such close proximity and it was explained the traffic count at those crossings is much higher than Clark Street. Mr. Parrott suggested moving forward with Option C to invite GDOT to do a study on Dennis Avenue and Clark Street. Barbara May asked about the frequency of the trains on the railroad tracks. Mr. Parrott explained there are generally two (2) trains per week but they are anticipating an increase of four (4) to six (6) trains per week.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Mayor Taylor Scarbrough

Alderman John Clayton

Alderman Antonio Carter

Alderman Walter Steward

Alderman Scott Stalnaker

Alderman Billy Retterbush

Alderman Eric Gaither

ATTEST:

Jackie Jordan, City Clerk