

**NASHVILLE TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Council members present – President Jane Gore, Vice-President Alisha Gredy, Councilmember Nancy Crocker, Councilmember Anna Hofstetter and Councilmember Dave Rudd. Also in attendance – Administration Manager Phyllis Carr, Police Chief Ben Seastrom, Municipal Operations Consultant Dax Norton, Clerk-Treasurer Brenda Young and Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Debbie Ferry.

WORK SESSION – 6:00 pm

1) **CALL TO ORDER** by President Gore at 6:04 pm. She then asked for a moment of silence to honor the victims of 9/11.

2) 2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

President Gore turned the meeting over to Clerk-Treasurer Young to discuss the 2020 budgets. Clerk-Treasurer Young presented the Council with a budget spreadsheet which included the 2018 budgets and expense totals and the 2019 YTD totals. She advised the tax budget timelines and the Town Council agreed to hold the Public Hearing on October 2, 2019 at 6 pm. Clerk-Treasurer Young explained the adoption of the budget will then be held on October 17, 2019 during the regular Town Council meeting.

Clerk-Treasurer Young is required to input the budget numbers into the Gateway system by September 20, 2019. She asked that the Town Council meet again to discuss the budget numbers she is to input into Gateway.

Clerk-Treasurer Young advised that she has received word from the State that there will be an 8% decrease in the MVH funds they are to receive in 2020. Discussion. Clerk-Treasurer Young explained that the tax budget side is basically the same as this year. Further discussion. The Council agreed to have another budget meeting on September 20, 2019 at 10am.

Clerk-Treasurer Young asked the Council what direction they want her to go with the budget. Councilmember Rudd commented that he wants to make some cuts in the General Fund. Councilmember Crocker reported that people have come to her and want to cut the police budget. She commented that they spend a lot of money on the police department and have too many officers. Councilmember Crocker asked if Police Chief Seastrom could cut his budget by 30%. Police Chief Seastrom explained the need for all the officers especially with the tourist population. Discussion. Councilmember Crocker suggested the County Sheriff's department could cover the town at night. Vice-President Gredy commented that she is very opposed to losing Town police coverage at night. Police Chief Seastrom advised that Nashville is the only town in the county open 24 hours a day. Councilmember Hofstetter asked for a list of police calls with times and dates. Police Chief Seastrom advised he can do this and explained the volume of calls during different times of the year and days of the week.

Police Chief Seastrom advised he has some ideas on where to cut his budget but didn't have the numbers that the Council wanted cut. Councilmember Rudd suggested cutting the Police budget by 20%. Police Chief Seastrom advised this number would be tough as he would like to keep the core six officers which will allow them time for training, sick and vacation. He would also like to keep the Domestic Violence advocate as well. Discussion of selling the police building, moving the officers to Town Hall and what to do for storage needs.

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Councilmember Hofstetter advised that she is on the Community Corrections Board and has learned that there is no longer a work release program in the county. A sub-committee has been formed to see how to get a work release program going again and she wondered if they could use the Police building and receive funds for sharing the building. Discussion.

President Gore asked where they are with the ticket violation program. Police Chief Seastrom said that is still waiting on Town Attorney Roberts to get the work done. President Gore commented that if this program was in place it could subsidize the Police Department's budget. Police Chief Seastrom and Clerk-Treasurer Young spoke with representatives from the State Board of Accounts about the program. SBOA advised they have some issues with one part of the program and must have their attorneys approve the program. Discussion.

Councilmember Hofstetter advised that she has discussed the idea of parking meters with President Gore and would like to explore this further. Police Chief Seastrom reported that they talked about this five years ago and explained the initial cost of the meters is so high and would take 5-6 years to get the meters paid off. Discussion.

Councilmember Rudd wants to put a hiring pause on their government. Councilmember Crocker agreed. Municipal Operations Consultant Norton commented that he worked with another location that created a resolution or policy that all hiring needs to be approved by the Town Council. Police Chief Seastrom advised the Police Department has a Merit Commission that does the hiring and firing for the department. Discussion.

Municipal Operations Consultant Norton reported that he has gone through the budget and found non-police items that the town has not spent a dime on this year. These have some pretty substantial budgets and possibly they are going to spend these funds next year. He advised there are some things in EDIT and the Food & Beverage fund that they have not spent money on. Discussion.

Councilmember Crocker went back to the topic of storage and suggested they could use the upstairs of the PNC Bank building. She noted this is a secure building and it must be used for community needs. Councilmember Rudd commented they could build a building down at the wastewater treatment plant and move the alum tanks there and use the rest of the building for storage of records. Discussion.

Municipal Operations Consultant Norton asked if the Town Council has seen a flow chart of how things must work at the Police Department in order to keep people in the community safe. This could help the Town Council in making their budgets. Police Chief Seastrom advised he has not done this with the current Council. Municipal Operations Consultant Norton asked Police Chief Seastrom to make a flow chart with what it would look like with 6, 5 or 4 officers. Discussion. Police Chief Seastrom will also add the part-time detective to the flow chart as this is an important part of the flow of the department.

Councilmember Crocker advised that earlier in the meeting someone suggested charging a parade fee. Police Chief Seastrom reported this has been discussed in the past because the time and half rate for the officers and utility workers to be present at these events is very expensive for the Town. Discussion. Vice-President Gredy asked Municipal Operations Consultant Norton how other communities handle parade events. Municipal Operations Consultant Norton advised other communities charge a public safety fee with approved right-of-way permits for the event; this includes not for profit groups as well. He noted this is not a popular idea, but if the public is concerned about the spending of the Police Department funds, they need to understand how the funds are being used. Discussion.

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Councilmember Crocker asked who picks up the trash in town on the weekends. Administration Manager Carr advised they have a part-time employee that works on the weekends, that works through a temporary service.

Councilmember Crocker reported that she met with Municipal Operations Consultant Norton about the Rogers properties that are going on public auction at the end of October. They discussed some proactive ideas. President Gore advised that she talked with Municipal Operations Consultant Norton about the auction. She advised that she has been working with Town Attorney Roberts and DRC Member David Martin on an amendment to the demolition ordinance. This ordinance will be in the Council packets to be addressed at the September 19, 2019 Town Council meeting. She asked all Council members to read through the ordinance carefully and be ready to move it forward to the Area Plan Commission. President Gore noted the Town Council will be the decision making entity for all demolition requests, it will not go before the DRC. The demolition ordinance will include all zoning areas of town. Discussion.

Clerk-Treasurer Young announced that Utility Manager Cassiday worked on the Water and Sewer budgets and she passed them out to the Town Council for their review. She advised she will be updating those budgets with the water loans numbers and transfer amounts.

Councilmember Rudd commented that they should soon look at a banning scooter businesses. Discussion.

Councilmember Rudd commented that they need to fence the wastewater treatment plant. President Gore advised they have talked with Utility Manager Cassiday about cleaning up the treatment plant and he has forwarded this information to his employees. Discussion.

Councilmember Hofstetter announced that she and Vice-President Gredy will have Youth Council students shadowing them on Thursday for the Town Park Commission meeting and Town Council meeting on September 19, 2019.


ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Rudd made a motion to adjourn the work session. Councilmember Crocker seconded the motion. The work session was adjourned at 8:06 pm.

The audio recording made at the Town Council meeting on 9-11-19 is retained in the office of the Town Clerk-Treasurer.



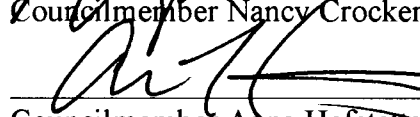
President Jane Gore



Vice-President Alisha Gredy



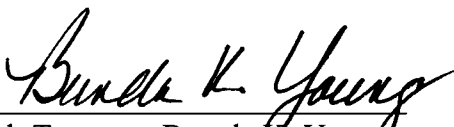
Councilmember Nancy Crocker



Councilmember Anna Hofstetter



Councilmember Dave Rudd



Clerk-Treasurer Brenda K. Young