

The Town Council of the Town of Nashville held a Called Meeting on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM in Town Council Chambers. Members Present: Mayor Brenda Brown, Mayor Pro Tem Kate Burns, Council Member Louise Hinton, Council Member Lynne Hobbs, and Council Member Larry Taylor. Absent: None. Staff Present: Randy Lansing – Town Manager, Lou Bunch – Town Clerk and Human Resources Officer, Marguerite Bishop – Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Director, Sam Sanchez – Finance Director, and Lee Brown – Public Works Director.

1. Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed those in attendance.
2. Mayor Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.
3. Mayor Brown called on Mr. Lansing to lead the presentation of recommendations for the revised Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department.

Mr. Lansing announced that he and Mrs. Bishop will present their recommendations for the department and that the Council will have the opportunity to ask questions throughout the presentation. He noted that they will look at the proposed budget for the department along with the recommended program offerings, how much space those programs will take, and how many staff members will be required to lead those programs.

Mrs. Bishop began her presentation by reviewing the current program offerings. The department currently offers Karate (Beginner and Advanced), Adult Partner Dance (Wednesday nights), Adult Open Gym (Tuesday nights), Adult Recreation (Thursday nights), and a Tutoring Program in Partnership with Nashville Elementary School and Nashville United Methodist Church. Council Member Hinton asked who supervises the activities at the gym. Mrs. Bishop replied that there are two part-time employees who supervise Open Gym for basketball, one part-time employee supervises Adult Recreation, and that she is on-call for both of those activities. Council Member Hinton stated that she understands the Karate instructor is a volunteer. Mrs. Bishop replied that he is, but she also has a part-time employee on site for incidents and for the set-up/break-down of the site. Mayor Brown asked Mrs. Bishop to explain the tutoring program. Mrs. Bishop explained that the tutoring program is in partnership with Nashville United Methodist Church and Nashville Elementary School. It is done on a one-on-one ratio with volunteers primarily from the church. She stated that the program is run on Thursday afternoons; Mrs. Bishop and a part-time staff member go to the elementary school and escort 19 children from the school to the church for the program. The children receive a snack and then work for an hour on homework and math or reading intervention until 4:30 when they go to the playground until their parent picks them up at 5:00. Mayor Brown asked how we became involved with NUMC and NES for this program. Mrs. Bishop replied that the program originally started two years ago at the elementary school in the media center, but they were constantly having to move locations. She explained that Carrie Morningstar was working to get volunteers for the program and then Mrs. Bishop began working with her to facilitate the process. After a year, they realized they needed a larger space; Mrs. Bishop approached the church and they agreed to move the program to the church.

Council Member Taylor asked Mrs. Bishop if she did not think the partnership should have been run by the Council before that happened. Mrs. Bishop replied that she had never thought about that because there is no signed agreement. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked Council Member Taylor if he was concerned because it was a church. Council Member Hinton stated that the Council does not know anything about who is tutoring. Council Member Hobbs stated that she is one of the tutors. Mrs. Bishop explained that the tutors go through a background check with the elementary school and Safe Sanctuaries training at the church, which means that they go through two different background checks. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked if these checks are essentially what the coaches would go through. Mrs. Bishop replied that the volunteers go through the school system's background check and the church's background check, but not the Town's background check because they have already been done twice and there is no need for a third. Mayor Pro Tem Burns noted that the department's coaches would also go through a background check. She then asked Mrs. Bishop if members of the Fire Department or Police Department were still volunteering with the tutoring program. Mrs. Bishop replied that they did help last year, but have not been back this year due to staffing. She commented that it was great having them there last year because it gave the students an opportunity to interact with those officers in a different capacity. Mayor Brown asked if the Town puts any money towards this program other than the cost of her time. Mrs. Bishop replied that the department purchases some snacks and also provides one part-time employee. Council Member Taylor asked where the liability would fall if someone were injured in one of the karate classes. Mrs. Bishop replied that the participants sign a release, just like they would for any of our programs. She

explained that they also sign a photo release along with the liability release. Mayor Brown asked when the tutoring takes place. Mrs. Bishop replied that it is held on Thursday afternoons. Mayor Brown asked if there were both minority and white children participating in the program. Mrs. Bishop replied that there are. Council Member Hinton asked if the tutoring goes on through May. Mrs. Bishop replied that it does.

Mrs. Bishop explained that she has broken down the proposed new programs into categories. The first category is Fitness and Recreation. The proposed new programs are: Adult Archery (equipment from grant), Moms on the Move (interactive exercise with small children or for expectant mothers), Morning Meditation, Badminton Open Play, Fast 30 (lunchtime program), Intro to Archery, Intro to Music, Dance Exploration (tap, ballet, and jazz), Kinder Ballet, Daytime Yoga, Walking with Health Lunch (physical activity/healthy eating), and Battle Rope Fitness. She explained that all of these programs require little materials or materials that can be reused in other programming. Council Member Hinton asked about the locations for the programs. Mrs. Bishop noted that Adult Archery can be done either inside or outdoors, depending on the amount of indoor space available. She stated that it would be nice to be able to offer it in both locations due to weather. Moms on the Move would be held indoors, along with Morning Meditation. Council Member Hinton asked if those programs could be held in the Council Chambers. Mrs. Bishop replied that they could be as long as they could be held on a consistent basis. Badminton would be held outdoors due to the inability to secure nets indoors. Fast 30, which is 30 minute workout, could be held in Chambers if scheduling allows. Mrs. Bishop explained that this list of programming options came from surveying other recreation departments throughout the state. Dance Exploration and Kinder Ballet can also be held in Council Chambers, however scheduling will be a problem. Mrs. Bishop provided the Council with a proposed calendar of activities so that they could see the amount of programming being offered. She noted that the summer months are lighter and summer camps only would be offered during that time. The costs are mostly for part-time staff and instructors, and can be offset with a modified fee schedule. Mrs. Bishop stated that there are many different models out there and this schedule would depend on how the Council would like to set it up. She noted that they could offer punch cards, senior discounts, multi-child discounts, or veteran discounts. She does recommend charging a small fee for most classes and/or programs, and that there be flexibility to charge more for programs that are more expensive to run. Mrs. Bishop also noted that there may be an opportunity to explore the ParkRX funding model and Silver Sneakers, where the co-pay for insurance would come to the Town as another revenue stream. She commented that we would need to get our technology more up to speed to handle that though.

The next category is Family Events. The new proposed programs would be Puzzle People and Lego Club. The Lego Club would be a spin-off of the one offered by the Library. The Library's program meets only once a month right after school from 3:00-4:30 PM. Through PRCR, these family programs would be offered in the evening hours after parents have completed work and are geared towards family interaction. She commented that she would like to build these events up to a culminating event such as a competition. Council Member Hinton asked if the Library's Lego Club meets in Council Chambers. Mrs. Bishop replied that they used to, but now meet in the children's room and only have a handful of participants typically. She commented that she thinks their attendance would be better if they moved it to a later time since most parents do not have the ability to take their children to anything at that time. Council Member Taylor asked Mrs. Bishop if the Town were to pick this up as a program if it would be more successful. Mrs. Bishop replied yes.

The next category is Early Childhood programs. The proposed new programs are Kid Kitchen and Kinder Gym. Mrs. Bishop noted that some of these programs may have grant funding available, but more research would need to be done on that. She commented that there are also opportunities to partner with other early childhood organizations. She stated that they could expand in this area by surveying participants for desired programs. Mrs. Bishop stated that this first year will be "data-mining". Council Member Hinton asked what kind of setting would be needed for Kid Kitchen. Mrs. Bishop replied that it would require a sink, tables, and a refrigerator. Council Member Hinton asked if the Kinder Gym would meet at the elementary school gym. Mrs. Bishop replied that since it would be done during the day, they would not be able to use that space.

The next category is Environmental programs. The proposed new programs are Container Gardening, Muddy Boots, and Stormwater Education at NES. Council Member Taylor asked about Muddy Boots. Mrs. Bishop explained that this program involves getting children and their parents outside to reconnect with nature. Council Member Taylor complimented Mrs. Bishop on her presenting all of these programs, but expressed concern that children do not need these types of programs to be organized activities. Mrs. Bishop stated that she understands that, but children nowadays are not exposed to the same types of activities that they had when they grew up because of stranger danger. Council

Member Taylor told Mrs. Bishop that she was “reaching” for a lot of these programs. Council Member Hinton asked where the parents are. Mayor Pro Tem Burns replied that the parents are there, but they are not letting their kids go off into the woods alone because now that is something that is not okay. Council Member Taylor commented that he thought it used to be a great thing for the mothers to get their daughters into the kitchen and show them how to bake, but they do not need to bring them to the athletic department to show them how to cook; he stated that the mothers need to show them how to cook at home. Council Member Hinton commented that it is called parenting. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that this is something that gets the community together. Council Member Hobbs commented that younger couples are looking for these types of programs. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that she cooks with her kids, but she would also bring her kids to a program like this to have them meet new people and so that she can meet new moms in the area; she stated that fellowship is part of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. Mayor Brown said to Mayor Pro Tem Burns that she can take her children there, but asked what other parents could bring their children if it were during the day and they are working. She commented that she is listening to everything that they are saying, but that is her concern. Mrs. Bishop stated that she understands that and that maybe this gives her the opportunity to be mobile and go to where the kids are. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked what is offered right now for children that are home with their moms during the day. Mrs. Bishop replied that there is Kaleidoscope through the Down East Partnership for Children, but nothing through the Town. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that maybe this is where the Town could finally serve some of the children that are home during the day.

Mayor Brown asked about the Stormwater Education at Nashville Elementary School. Mrs. Bishop replied that this is something that we are currently doing and that we have done water quality presentations for the all of the kindergartners. Mayor Brown asked how long it takes to deliver the program; Mrs. Bishop replied that it takes only one day to actually deliver the program. Mrs. Bishop noted that most of these environmental programs do count for Stormwater education and outreach programming that must be completed as part of the Town’s MS4 permit. She stated that we have an opportunity to expand some of these offerings to help with compliance in solid waste, wastewater, water, and drinking water with proper staff and material requirements.

The next category is Special Events. The proposed programs are Trash to Treasure (Earth Day Family Event), One Book, One School, One Community Event and Finale, Dad/Kid Lego Challenge, Family Movie Nights, Glow in the Dark Dodgeball, NERF Gun Battles, NC Star Party and Family Campout, Kids to Parks Day - Family Field Day, Schools Out Community Bash, Fourth Friday Fires, Grandparent’s Day Celebration, Fall Fest & Trick or Treating (with the library), and Santa Storytime & Movie (with the library). Council Member Hinton asked about participation for the Star Party. Mrs. Bishop replied that the first year had 20 people, the second year only had 12-15 people due to the extreme heat. Mrs. Bishop noted that for Kids to Parks Day, the Town normally issues a proclamation but has never really held any events. This year she proposes having a Family Field Day event for Kids to Parks Day. Mrs. Bishop commented that Special Events are important because they are bigger community events and they give us the ability to promote our smaller programs and to partner with other departments to help them meet some of their mission. Council Member Hinton asked which of these events have been the most popular with the most turnout. Mrs. Bishop replied that Santa Storytime and Trick or Treating have been the most popular. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that movie nights have been popular. Mrs. Bishop replied that they do not offer movies from May-August for various reasons. She commented that she thinks the Glow in the Dark Dodgeball and NERF Gun Battles can be popular once we have the set-up for it; it would also give us the opportunity to rent out space for birthday parties. Council Member Hinton asked if those would be held at the environmental park. Mrs. Bishop replied that those would need to be held indoors due to renting the equipment.

The last category is Summer Camps. The proposed programs would be Survivor Camp, STEAM, Nature Explorers, Camp Adventure, and Introductory Music Camp. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked what the ages would be for the Music Camp. Mrs. Bishop replied that it would depend on the instrument. Council Member Taylor asked where the instruments would come from. Mrs. Bishop replied that the instructor she has spoken with does have some instruments available to use, but we could either purchase some or have the participants provide their own instruments. Council Member Hinton asked who would instruct the Survivor Camp. Mrs. Bishop replied that she has some of the skillsets required and so she would be the instructor; some of those skillsets are fire building, fishing, edibles, shelter building, and “Leave No Trace” principles. Council Member Hinton commented that she noticed that the fees would be \$100-\$150 depending on whether you lived in town or out of town. Mrs. Bishop noted that those fees are on par with what other recreation departments and summer camps in the area are doing. The camps would be 5-day camps to capture more of an audience. Council Member Hinton asked how she would handle a reluctant camper that wanted to go home. Mrs. Bishop replied that the method would depend on the individual camper. She noted that these camps do require more planning but they do bring in more

revenue. The number of part-time staff can be adjusted based on enrollment. Mrs. Bishop added that the ability to run these programs in a building would limit the weather risks.

Mrs. Bishop commented that the possibilities are endless with new programming. The first year, the department would be looking at expanding program offerings with an evaluation component to plan future program offerings. She proposed planning programs that require materials that can be used in several programs or that have a low cost to begin with and to keep looking at possible new programs to expand offerings. She commented that what is great about the parks and recreation world is that other departments are willing to share what works well and what does not. Mrs. Bishop also noted that programs will require pre-registration to allow for programs to be cancelled if necessary to save on staff and material costs. Mayor Brown asked if there is a number that has to be reached or the program will be cancelled. Mrs. Bishop replied that it depends on the program. Council Member Hinton asked how many staff would be needed for a camp. Mrs. Bishop stated that there would be one staff person for every 4-5 kids, but depending on the camp it may require more or less staff.

Mrs. Bishop then provided a comparison of available buildings for the department. The first building is 117 W. Church Street. This property has a lot of available space, has a central location in town with close proximity to the library, has the ability to be utilized by other departments for storage, trainings, and other functions, and the building is in good shape. On the downside, this building is the most expensive of the options, will need consultation with a design professional to decrease the square footage of the large room due to fire code, will need to have restrooms and a drinking fountain added, and will need to have the emergency stairwell modified. Council Member Hinton asked if the owner would be willing to do that. Mr. Lansing replied that he is not. Council Member Taylor asked what it would cost to modify the building. Mr. Lansing replied that it would be \$80,000-\$100,000.

The next facility is 107 W. Nashville Drive. The building is in close proximity to Stoney Creek Environmental Park, is a good size that does not limit program offerings, and is large enough for rentals. The cons are that there is poor visibility from the road, it has limited storage, it has limited walkability, and there is a potential for flooding. This building could hold 297 people (chairs only). Rental cost is \$3,000 per month plus \$1,000 for utilities. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked what would need to be stored offsite. Mrs. Bishop replied that it is not large enough to store the archery equipment. She added that it would be ideal to cut a trail from this building to Stoney Creek Environmental Park to provide functional bathrooms for the park. Council Member Hobbs stated that what concerns her is the cost and asked if there is any room for negotiation. Mr. Lansing replied that he does not think that there is, but he is willing to go back to the owner.

The next facility is 231 W. Washington Street. The building has the lowest rental cost and the location on Washington Street may allow it to also serve as a Welcome Center for Nashville. The cons are the parking availability, the size would limit program offerings, there is no storage onsite, outside rentals are not likely due to the size limitations, and the building must be reclassified which may bring about more issues.

The last facility is the Nashville Community Building. This building has a close proximity to the school, has good walkability, and a proven rental history. The cons are the lack of storage onsite and there is no current office space. She noted that she met with them today, along with Mr. Lansing, and that this facility is no longer an option. Mr. Lansing stated that the Inter-Club Council feels obligated to honor the intent that the building was provided for to the community. Council Member Hinton asked who the point person is for the building. Mr. Lansing replied that Jim Boehm, Sonny Brantley, Cliff Joyner, Shirley House, and Rachel Ervin were present at the meeting. Mrs. Bishop noted that if the Town were to take it, then it would have to allow all of the activities it currently has and then be the booking agent for birthday parties, bridal and baby showers, and all other activities. Mr. Lansing noted that they would not entertain allowing the Town to take over the facility for the purpose of providing Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources programming there; they want it to be maintained for the community's use in the manner in which it has been for the last 80 years.

Mrs. Bishop then reviewed the responsibilities of the Director, with and without a Recreation Supervisor position. With a Recreation Supervisor, the Director would be responsible for budget, purchasing, grants, partnership building, searching for new revenue streams, future planning, new program development, instructing and supervising volunteers and paid staff, scheduling, some program delivery, and recruitment of instructors and part-time staff. Without a Recreation Supervisor, the Director would be responsible for budget, purchasing, instructing and supervising volunteers and paid staff, scheduling, limited program delivery, limited marketing, registration and fee collection, recruitment of instructors and part-time staff, inspecting parks and facilities for safety and making records for liability

purposes, and assisting with park maintenance such as participating in and ensuring the cleaning, maintenance, construction, and repair of exercise and playground equipment, tennis court, picnic areas, and recreational equipment.

The Recreation Supervisor would be responsible for registration for programs; maintaining program records; planning programs; delivering programs that cannot be delivered by a high school student; programming summer camps; new program development; assisting with park maintenance; plans, researches, organize, administers, coordinates, and promotes various recreational programs and events within the town; aids the Director as assigned; prepares and presents staff report; participates in and ensures the cleaning, maintenance, construction, and repair of exercise and playground equipment, tennis court, picnic areas, and recreational equipment; assists with various grounds and field maintenance duties relative to the preparation for programs and events; manages parks and recreation functions; collects fees and completes proper forms; assists Director with implementing long and short-term strategic plans in support of department and Town; makes recommendations for budget regarding activities, events, and programs; markets programs and events through various methods, including but not limited to the website, social medial, email, and flyers; and inspects parks and facilities for safety and makes records for liability purposes.

Mrs. Bishop provided the following list of program offerings if there were only one full-time employee: Karate, Adult Partner Dancing, Tutoring with NUMC and NES, Adult Archery, Muddy Boots, Stormwater Education Program at Nashville Elementary, One Book, One School, One Community Event, NERF or Glow in the Dark Dodgeball (choose one), Fall Fest with the Library, and Santa Storytime with the Library. She commented that she feels comfortable that this list of programing would be all that could be done in a 40-hour work week. Council Member Hinton asked about the salary for the Recreation Supervisor. Mrs. Bunch stated that it starts around \$36,000, but the midpoint would be around \$40,000. The position would start at the minimum of the range. Council Member Hinton asked if a part-time person could fill that role. Mrs. Bishop replied that she does not think so, not to the level that it would need to be handled since it is a very specialized role. She commented that it could not be any of her current part-time staff because they are seasonal staff either in high school or college, or adults that have other full-time jobs. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked how many full-time and part-time employees the Library has. Mrs. Bunch replied that they have three full-time employees and there are four part-time employees, however they are not considered permanent since they do not work more than 20 hours. Council Member Hinton asked about the request from last year to increase full-time staff positions. Mrs. Bunch replied that they only moved one part-time position to full-time last year.

Mr. Lansing asked if the Council would like to go through the budget. Mayor Brown replied that she would like to get some questions answered. She stated that when they had talked with the citizens, they had told them that there would be a savings because they had lost half of the activities, but when she looks at the numbers, it is not that big of a savings. She stated that she would like to see at least a 20% drop in the budget. Council Member Taylor asked where the kids would come from for these programs since we have sent them to the County. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that kids are going to the County for athletics only, which is only one day a week for one season, and asked what would happen to those kids on the other six days where they would want to participate in something, or what about the kids that do not participate in sports. Mayor Brown commented that they also told the people that we would move slowly. She complimented Mrs. Bishop for the spirit she has had in planning this, but stated that there is no guarantee on how many people would show up. Council Member Hinton referenced the minutes from January 7th where she asked if we would ease into new programming and not go "full bore" and that Mr. Lansing had said that was correct. She stated that according to this proposal, we are going "full bore."

Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked what the savings is that they are looking at. Council Member Hobbs stated that she did some numbers based off of information that Mrs. Sanchez and Mrs. Bishop compiled for them. In looking at the budget comparison for FY19-20 and the proposed FY 20-21, the total budget for FY19-20 was \$441,067. The total budget for FY20-21 is \$291,825. She explained that she went back and subtracted from both years any capital, grants, and any newly allocated expenses. For FY19-20, that is a reduction of \$145,299, which gives us an operational budget of \$295,768. For the proposed budget for next year, if you eliminate the capital, grants, and newly allocated expense, that amount was \$32,270 and then in taking out the lease amount, the operational budget is \$201,223, which is a \$94,545 savings. Council Member Hobbs stated that we do see a savings, but commented that \$48,000 is a lot for a lease and she recommends looking for somewhere to be able to do the programs that they can. She also recommends putting the passenger van off to a future year and to try to find a space that will work. She commented that she has two grandchildren and she knows exactly why these programs are important because people her kid's age are looking for programs like these that are secure and structured. She

stated that she is in favor of finding space and moving forward with new programs, although she is aware that the programs will be contingent on the space that is available.

Council Member Hobbs commented that she understands what Mrs. Bishop has said about the Washington Street property in that the parking is a nightmare and that it is limited in size. She asked Mrs. Bishop if the majority of her programs could be held in that space. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked what could and what could not be run there. Mrs. Bishop replied that Karate would not be safe in there because that program is too big even for the Council Chambers space. Council Member Hobbs asked if it would work if she were to limit the number of participants. Mrs. Bishop replied that she already has a wait list for that program. Council Member Hobbs asked if she could offer more than one beginner class. Mrs. Bishop replied that the instructor is a volunteer. Council Member Taylor mentioned that he does not want to have people parking at the Courthouse and having to cross the street at night. Mayor Pro Tem Burns suggested looking at the W. Nashville Drive property to see if we could get the price down. Mr. Lansing asked Mrs. Bishop if it would work to put a divider wall up on that property and only use half to make it a 1500 sq. ft. space. Mrs. Bishop replied the programming would be quite limited because they would still have to put in an office and storage space, which would reduce the usable space. Council Member Taylor commented that he thought that building would be the best and safest building from which they have to choose, but he does not like the price. He suggested seeing if something could be done about the price since the building is vacant and stated that since we are only wanting a one-year lease then we could leave if another tenant comes in that is willing to pay more. Council Member Hinton noted that there may be a hotel coming to that area, which will have an effect on the prices. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that the hotel is another two years away and asked if the building owner would be willing to hold out on renting it for that long to get more rent when we could give them rent for at least a year. Council Member Hobbs asked if there were any other possibilities. Mr. Lansing stated that he has not heard back from the O.D. Moore Building, but that we would have to share that space with them. He commented that it will not work if we have to share a space. He stated that he will go back to the owner of the W. Nashville Drive property to negotiate.

Council Member Taylor asked if the software that was requested would be needed at this point. Council Member Hinton commented that she thinks we need to move slowly with that. Mrs. Bishop informed the Council that it would depend on what the staffing looks like because a lot of staff hours are spent shuffling papers and collecting fees; it would be easier to collect fees and make sure that everyone has paid if there could be online registration and allow people to pay online. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked if there was a way to incorporate these payments with what we currently have for online payment of utilities. Mayor Brown suggested including this with another department so it will show a savings. She commented that they have got to show that they are showing the taxpayers a savings, but she is in support of the department having what they need. Mrs. Sanchez stated that they could but it would be difficult to administer that with what he have now as far as software is concerned. She added that this new software would really allow them to have much better recordkeeping, which is something that we are not able to generate right now. Mrs. Bishop also noted that as they move towards having independent contractors this would allow us to share rosters and would allow onsite registration. Council Member Hobbs asked if that \$5,000 would be a reoccurring annual cost. Mrs. Sanchez replied that she believes that it is. Mrs. Bishop added that this is an estimated figure and could be cheaper or more expensive depending on what options they choose to use. Mrs. Sanchez commented that from an auditing standpoint having a software like this makes her feel more secure because of the auditing trail. Mrs. Bishop commented that the software would also make reporting much easier. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that she is thinking that with going from not charging anything to the new fee structure that the process would be cumbersome. Mrs. Sanchez added that this software could be incorporated into our website so that people could register and pay online rather than having to come in to fill out a form. Mrs. Bishop noted that it will also send out push notifications and will allow her to keep digitized information on participants. Council Member Taylor asked Mrs. Bishop what she has been doing before this. Mrs. Bishop replied that she has been having to do everything on paper. Council Member Taylor asked if that got it done. Mrs. Bishop replied that she cannot guarantee that all fees have been collected. Mr. Lansing stated that he thinks it is important that we charge fees because it creates buy-in; since they are paying for something, they are more likely to show up to participate.

Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked if the \$90,000 savings that Council Member Hobbs calculated included the software. Council Member Hinton told Council Member Hobbs that she did not understand how she came up with that amount for a savings. Council Member Hobbs explained that she began with the \$441,067 for this year, and the \$291,825 for next year. She backed out \$145,000 for capital and grants because those are one-time costs; this gives an operational budget for this year of around \$295,000. In the proposed budget for next year, she backed out capital, grants, newly allocated expenses because they were not included in this year's budget, the building lease, and the van; this gives an operational

budget of \$201,223. She noted that this is a savings of approximately \$94,000. Council Member Hinton commented that we do not have a building. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that they need to add that in. Council Member Hobbs stated that she is trying to tell them that are savings, and that she keeps hearing that there has not been any savings, but there have been savings and that is what she is trying to demonstrate. Council Member Hinton commented that there are savings if they do not have a building. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that there still are savings with a building. Council Member Hobbs stated that if we are fortunate enough to find a building for a \$30,000 lease then the savings would go down to \$64,000. Mr. Lansing gave the option of acquiring a building and using Fund Balance, which would be a one-time expense; but he also recognized that the Council wants to be sure of what programming will be successful before committing to a space. Council Member Hinton said that that was the intent of what was recorded in the minutes when Mr. Lansing agreed that we would slow down.

Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked what could be run in Council Chambers based off of the current reservation calendar. Mrs. Bishop acknowledged that they may be able to run daytime programs, but would not be able to run evening programs. She added that they would not be able to have success with running regular programming because she would have to share the space. Mayor Brown commented that she wishes there were a way to make the program work in this space for a year until they see the success with participation. Council Member Hobbs commented that she does not see how they could because there is no way to make the nighttime programs a regular thing. Mayor Pro Tem Burns asked Mayor Brown how many people are calling her about the savings. Mayor Brown replied that wherever she is there are people in conversation asking if they have decided. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that they have also heard from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, the forums, and the surveys, but she wonders why the voices of the few looking for the savings trumps the voices of those that are looking for this department to go in a different direction and provide more to our citizens. Mayor Brown replied that she did not say that it trumps it, but that we said to the public that we would move slow, that we would take it easy, and that we would have a savings. She stated that she wants to make sure that is what we do because she is a woman of her word. Mayor Pro Tem Burns replied that she thinks they can still move slow, but still obtain a space that allows us to run the programs that we are looking to run. Mr. Lansing commented that a space is going to cost money and that it will cut in to the \$94,000 savings that Council Member Hobbs talked about. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that if you look at the percentage of the savings against just the savings in athletics that she thinks that is a decent savings.

Council Member Hinton pointed out that the PRCR FY15-16 budget was \$167,000; the FY 16-17 budget was \$204,000; the FY 17-18 budget was \$231,000; and the FY 18-19 budget was \$306,000. She also mentioned that last year the request was for \$689,000 and asked what that was for. Mrs. Bishop replied that they had priced out the replacement of the lights at Glover Park, which was \$275,000. She stated that it was included in her line-item narrative and that she was instructed to include it in her request, but it was cut during the budget discussions with the Town Manager and Finance Director.

Mayor Brown asked the Council where they need to go from here. Mayor Pro Tem Burns replied that she thinks they need to explore lowering the price on the W. Nashville Drive building. Mr. Lansing commented that he does not see them being able to put together a program without having a space to provide the program. He added that he would like to see them offer the programs that have been presented to the community to see what works. Council Member Taylor suggested not doing all of the programs listed. Mr. Lansing replied that the expensive factor is the space, not the programs. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that they can cut as many programs as they want, but that is not where the cost is. Council Member Taylor agreed that they should go back and see if they can renegotiate to lower the price on the building. He then looked at the program offering listed with one full-time employee. Mayor Pro Tem Burns said that if we want to just stay with that we are doing, then we would not offer any additional programs and would not hit the other demographics that the community wants us to hit. She added that they could remain status quo and Mrs. Bishop could remain in her storage room/office, but it would not do anything for the needs. Mayor Brown asked if the summer camps could still be held. Mrs. Bishop replied that she cannot run those by herself. Mayor Brown asked if they could be held with help. Mrs. Bishop replied that they could if she had another staff person. Council Member Taylor stated that he is not against her having another staff person, but he has not bought-in to all of the programs she wants to offer or to the software. He commented that he wants her to show them the need before they spend the money on it. Council Member Hinton asked about the van that was requested and asked if it was a lease. Mr. Lansing confirmed that it was a multi-year lease. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that if they were to get the building over by Stoney Creek (W. Nashville Drive) then it would eliminate the need to transport children in a storm situation.

Council Member Hinton noted that the budget for salaries, part-time wages, and benefits is about \$150,000 and the lease would be another \$48,000. She then gave her opinion that the owner of the

property, Scott McLaughlin, will not come down on the rent. Mr. Lansing pointed out that his marketing agent reached out to the Town before we reached out to him about leasing it. Council Member Taylor suggested making a counter offer for the building. Mr. Lansing asked them what they would like to offer. The current rate is \$3,000 per month. Council Member Hinton suggested \$2,000 per month. Mayor Brown commented that she thinks that would be fair. Council Member Taylor commented that he would give \$2,500, but they can start at \$2,000 for negotiations.

Mayor Brown commented that she thinks this has been a great meeting, voicing how they feel in their hearts, and letting people know we want a good program but that we also need to show a savings. Mr. Lansing commented that he thought it was great that they got to ask questions about things they did not know about. Council Member Hinton stated that she still does not want to give up on the Community Building. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that she would love that too, but if they are not willing to let go of renting it then we cannot run it. Council Member Hinton stated that we need to start lobbying. Mrs. Bishop noted that a complication with that is that it sits on Nash-Rocky Mount Schools' property and the agreement is that it can be there as long as the Inter-Club Council runs it; if the Inter-Club Council ceases to exist then we do not know what will happen. Mr. Lansing stated that the Inter-Club Council was concerned that if they were to let the Town have the building then they would be subject to retaliation and anger from the community for the only affordable place in town to rent. Council Member Taylor stated that the Inter-Club Council would not have to deal with it; the Town Council would have to. He noted that the Community Building and the O.D. Moore Building are the only two places in Nashville that any organization has to choose from. He also pointed out that the buildings are already being used every weekend. Council Member Hobbs commented that the Elks Lodge may ease some of that, but that is down the road. Council Member Hinton asked if there were any bathroom problems at the 107 W. Nashville Drive property or if anything needed to be remodeled. Mr. Lansing replied that they do not; it is move in ready but they would need to move one of the storage sheds from Glover Park to there.

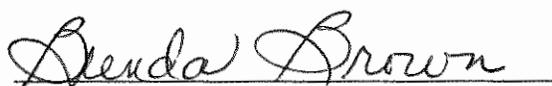
Mr. Lansing asked the Council if he is successful in getting the price reduced then would they be willing to include the Director and another full-time staff person in the budget. Mayor Brown replied that she does not mind as long as they show some savings. Council Member Hinton suggested using a part-time assistant to begin with. Mayor Pro Tem Burns commented that she thinks they would spend the next two years looking for a part-time assistant that can actually handle programming and have the schedule for it. Mayor Brown stated that she was thinking they need to show a 20% savings off of what the budget was when they had athletics. Council Member Hinton commented that when you look at last year's budget and take the playground equipment out then it was around \$300,000, but that the proposed budget it not far from \$300,000. Mayor Pro Tem Burns stated that if they look at what they just need to have an existing program she looks at how much they are saving versus how much athletics was since that is the only part where you can find savings. Mr. Lansing stated that if they can rent the building for \$2,000 per month, then that would be \$24,000 plus utilities for a total of \$36,000. Council Member Hinton commented that she does not see this proposed budget as being much different than the current budget. Council Member Hobbs stated that she sees a \$94,000 savings without the building, so they need to make the decision on how they will move forward. Mr. Lansing noted that they have to keep \$20,000 in reserve for Glover Park improvements and that the salary study uses some of those savings too.

Mayor Pro Tem Burns summarized that they will try to negotiate and then circle back to this issue. Mr. Lansing noted that he will reach out and try to have an answer as soon as possible.

4. There being no further business, Mayor Brown called for a motion to adjourn.

Council Member Burns made the motion, seconded by Council Member Hinton. There being no discussion, Mayor Brown called for a vote. The motion was unanimously approved (4-0).

Mayor Brown declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.


Brenda Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lou C. Bunch, Town Clerk