

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – JANUARY 13, 2020

The January 13, 2020 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Booker T. Gainor. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Lannis Thornton, Demario Byrden, Jerry L. Cox, James H. Douglas, and Robert L. Gwaltney. Staff Members present were City Manager Chris Addeleton, City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, and City Clerk Dana Barfield. Also in attendance were Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Eric Yabor.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Mayor Booker T. Gainor.

SWEARING IN OF NEWLY ELECTED COUNCILMEN: Attorney Tom Lehman swore in Councilman Cox, Gwaltney, and Thornton.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR PRO TEM FOR 2020. Councilman Douglas made a motion to nominate Councilman Cox as the New Mayor Pro Tem for 2020, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Councilmen.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: December 23, 2019 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

Rev. Jeff Mills – Qualifications of All Officers (Police Chief, Lieutenant, Investigator, and Police Officer.) Jeff Mills of 802 Loblolly Lane, Cairo, GA stated that he spoke with former Police Chief Sandefur about having a safety coordinator and then Officer Cromartie being Chief a few years ago and nothing ever seemed to happen with the conversation. Mr. Mills inquired as to what type of qualifications the Mayor and Council would be looking for in hiring a new Police Chief. He asked if they would be seeking someone inside the department or would they decide to go outside the department to find someone that was more qualified.

NICK VALENTI: FY2019 FINANCIAL AUDIT. Nick Valenti with Valenti, Rackley, and Associates presented the results of the City Audit. Mr. Valenti stated that they were engaged to perform with generally accepted auditing standards an audit of the city's financial statements. Mr. Valenti explained that on pages three and four was their opinion and it is what is commonly referred to as a clean opinion and in their opinion the financial statements represented the financial condition of the City of Cairo in its results of operations in all material respects of accordance with generally accepted governmentally accounting principles. Mr. Valenti extended his appreciation to all City Staff for their help and cooperation throughout the auditing process.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Considered Special Event Permit – Grady County Baptist Association – Manna Drop at Davis Park, February 15, 2020 at 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Judy Dixon, Applicant. Motion to approve the special event was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing: 2020 CDBG Grant Pre-Application Public Hearing. – Rev. Jeff Mills, 802 Loblolly Lane, Cairo, GA asked how the Grant is disbursed and what are the target areas. City Manager Addeleton responded that we normally target areas that have great need. Kellee Kennett 310 1st Street SW, Cairo, GA stated that her neighborhood was hit very hard during the tornado and there are homes that still need repairs. Ms. Kennett wanted to know if the CDBG Grant would be able to benefit those that were still in need from the effects of the tornado. City Manager Addeleton stated that he was not aware of any grants for the private sector, this was a grant for the public sector.

Considered Resolution for 2020 CDBG Application for Grant Funds. - Motion to approve the 2020 CDBG Application was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Application for Alcoholic Beverage License, New Application – Doc Gnann Liquors, LLC. DBA Doc's Liquors – Beer, Wine, and Liquor Retail Package, 755

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US Highway 84 East – Melvin and Anne Horne, Applicants. - Motion to approve Application for Alcoholic Beverage License for Doc Gnann Liquors, LLC. DBA Doc’s Liquors was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Gwaltney, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

Considered Cancelling or Rescheduling of the Council Meeting Scheduled for January 27, 2020 due to Cities United Summit (formerly Mayor’s Day Conference). - Motion to approve cancelling January 27, 2020 meeting was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Reports:

1.) Consider Departmental Reports for December 2020.

- Councilman Cox stated that special events needed to be notated on Police Department overtime reports.
- Mayor Gainer inquired about alarms the Police Department received verses the actual number of burglaries that occurred. He asked if there was something we could do after we responded so many times to the same false alarms.
- Councilman Douglas commented that there had been a lot dead trees that had been removed.
- Councilman Cox extended a big thank you to the Cairo Police Department for all that they do and are doing.

2.) Reports from City Manager:

- City Manager Addeleton presented a Short-term Rental Ordinance for the Council to look over and provide feedback.
- The first conference call with Tyler Software was held. We’ll be converting our billing software first, which will take most of the year.
- Archway has named a new Archway Professional her name is Whitney Brannen.
- Monday, January 20th, M. L. K. Day Parade – if you would like to ride on the fire truck it will be in its normal location at Davis Park.
- Kathy Steedley will have GMA packets ready Friday for the Mayor and Council to pick up.

3.) Reports from Mayor and Council:

- Mayor Gainer asked if we could make 4th Street SW from the red light to Highway 111 S. one way during the M. L. K. Day Parade to cut down on traffic confusion.
- Mayor Gainer also stated that he had some complaints about the asphalt on the railroad crossing on Broad Street, saying it needed to be smoothed out.
- Mayor Gainer said he received a complaint from a resident near 925 11th Avenue NE, that this home was an abandoned house that needed to be addressed.
- Councilman Byrden stated that he is hopeful that if we are able to receive the TSPLOST that the sidewalks on S. Broad Street would be able to be repaired, in addition to the street lights as well.
- Councilman Douglas asked if the Police could drive by the Post Office and issue parking tickets for those that are illegally parked in the fire lane.
- Councilman Thornton stated that at 15th Street SW and Clay Avenue SW the road drops off and asked what we could do to correct this hazard. City Manager Addeleton responded that we possibly could use TSPLOST money to repair it if it was approved.
- Attorney Lehman updated the Mayor and Council that the real estate transaction with Dr. Graham had been closed and the City now owns the property adjoining Southern Terrace.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 6:46 p.m., motion to enter into executive session was made by Councilman Douglas for the reason indicated below, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved unanimously by all Council Members:

To discuss hiring, appointing, compensating, disciplining, or dismissing an employee; (O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b) (2)).

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At 6:58 p.m., motion to close the executive session was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved unanimously by all Council Members. There was no action taken as a result of the session.

ADJOURN: Motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and unanimously approved by all Council Members present.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

BOOKER T. GAINOR, MAYOR

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK