

REGULAR MEETING – CAIRO MAYOR & COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 9, 2020

The November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room at 101-B North Broad Street by Mayor Howard Thrower, III. Present were Councilmen Demario Byrden, Jerry Cox, Sr., James H. Douglas, Robert L. Gwaltney and Lannis Thornton. Staff Members present were City Attorney Thomas L. Lehman, City Manager Chris Addleton, City Clerk Dana Barfield, and Marketing Director Alyssa Blakely. Also in attendance were Cairo Messenger Editor, Randy Wind, and Times Enterprise Reporter, Eric Yabor.

INVOCATION: The Invocation was given by Councilman Cox.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 26, 2020 - Regular Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Councilman Byrden, seconded by Councilman Douglas, and approved by all Council Members.

DELEGATIONS:

Bryan Doss – City Policy and Procedures Concerning Home Abatement and Demolition Process. Bryan Doss of 218 Ronnie Lambert Road, Bainbridge, GA addressed the Mayor and Council concerning his property located at 1097 Bondvilla Drive, NE. Mr. Doss stated that he went before Judge Bell and he ordered to have the house torn down. He also stated that he did an injunction and plans to do an appeal because he feels that the house is structurally fine. Mr. Doss stated that he does work such as this; he buys houses and repairs them, he repairs roofs, does remodeling, and has crews that help him. Mr. Doss went on to say that he had learned that over the past year the Council was very aggressive in tearing down houses. He then asked if we had to go by the state law concerning code or if we make it up as we go. Attorney Lehman explained to him that the City's ordinance was almost verbatim to the Georgia state law. Mr. Doss then referenced Georgia Code stating that you normally are given six months to bring a structure up to code but Judge Bell did not give that to him and there was not a notice posted on the door of the structure as there is in other surrounding cities. Mr. Doss went on to say that City Code Enforcement has never walked through the house, but he has mowed the grass and boarded up the windows. He feels the floor joists are fine as well as the trusses. He is planning on getting an engineer, electrician and appraiser to look at the house. City Manager Addleton commented that on January 15, 2020, Mr. Doss was first contacted about this property, then on May 22, 2020 a second letter was sent. June 8, 2020 he was consulted with about what needed to be done to the property and within what time frame. The case was taken to Municipal Court in August and Mr. Doss did not show up; and then it was taken to court again and Judge Bell made his order. Mr. Addleton then asked Mr. Doss what he had done about the property between January and November to rectify the situation. Mr. Doss replied saying he did not do much because granted he thought some windows were busted out and the grass was not cut so he thought he would only get a nuisance ticket. Mayor Thrower stated that we go by the code and we are aggressive in pursuing the code and we will continue to be, we are trying to make Cairo look nice. Councilman Douglas commented that if properties were not up to code we are going to do something with them. He went on to say that he promised Mr. Doss that if the judge rules against him on the hearing to tear the house down this council will instruct the City Manager to take it down. Councilman Douglas also stated that he has other homes in Cairo that look worse than this property and this Council has pushed our Code Enforcement Department to uphold our code. You would not want to live near these homes and neither do our citizens.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Consider Special Event Permit –Christmas Concert at Davis Park on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Washington Middle School Band/Michael Best– Applicant. Motion to approve the Special Event Permit was made by Councilman Thornton, seconded by Councilman Byrden, and approved by all Council Members.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Hearing: 2020 Community Development Block Grant Award of \$750,000 for Water System Improvements in the Southwest Cairo Neighborhood. Mayor Thrower started by opening up the public hearing and then went on to say the following:

1. CDBG funds in the amount of \$750,000.00 have been approved for Water System Improvements in the Southwest Cairo Neighborhood. This project will benefit 635

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residents in which 499 are low and moderate income. The City will provide local matching support for the project totaling \$91,611.00. The total cost of the project is \$841,611.00.

2. Funds are available for the following activities:
 - a. Approximately \$705,000.00 for activity P-03J-01
 - b. Approximately \$45,000.00 for activity A-21A-00

Since there was no public input, the hearing was closed.

Considered Resolution for Re-Certification as a City of Ethics. Motion to approve the Resolution for Re-Certification as a City of Ethics was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Cox, and approved by all Council Members.

Considered Purchase of Street Sweeper. City Manager Addleton stated that the City was very familiar with the Tymco 600 which was what we had. We did consider the lower priced unit the Victory Mark III, we received a demo unit and used it but we did not fill like it would last and it was a much smaller scale model. The Tymco 600 is more of a twenty year unit, whereas the Victory Mark III was a ten year unit, therefore we need to think more long term for years of service. Also the Tymco 600 is serviced out of Albany, GA whereas the Victory Mark III will have to be taken to Huntsville, AL. In regards to financing there are several options, we received different rates from local banks, Tymco and GMA but these rates are high in comparison to what we are getting on our internal money, so we might think about financing it internally. But ultimately all of it will be paid with TSPLOST money. Councilman Douglas commented that we have sixty days to decide how we want to pay for the equipment and the staff and finance committee can gather at a later date to discuss a different option for financing, but we need to get it ordered because the department is in need it. Councilman Thornton and Cox both agreed that we needed the new street sweeper. Councilman Cox asked about the Tymco 600 being a twenty year unit and the Victory Mark III being a ten year unit and City Manager Addleton commented that this was just his speculation on the years of service for the units, it has nothing to do with the warranty. Councilman Cox stated that he was really having a problem spending \$86,000.00 more on the Tymco 600 and asked what was that much more money going to give us. City Manager Addleton responded that he felt the Tymco 600 would give the city ten more years than the Victory Mark III. Councilman Cox asked if the Tymco 600 was the same width, suction, storage unit. City Manager Addleton replied no, that the Victory Mark III was about half the size with a smaller engine. He went on to say that the Tymco 600 has a water tank that gets the dust out, a hopper that collects all of the debris and is twice the size of the Victory Mark III. City Manager Addleton also stated that he really wanted to make the Victory Mark III work but when they demoed the machine it was obvious. Councilman Thornton added that you would have to dump the Victory Mark III twice as much. Councilman Cox then asked why not spend an additional \$14,000.00 for the Elgin Regen-X and City Manager Addleton stated that he thought the Elgin and Tymco were comparable machines. Motion to approve the purchase of the Tymco 600 Street Sweeper for \$221,550.00 was made by Councilman Douglas, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved by all Council Members.

Consider Sale of Excess Reserve Capacity. Motion to approve the sale of Excess Reserve Capacity in the Amount of \$25,134.00 was made by Councilman Cox, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved by all Council Members.

REPORTS:

1. Reports From City Manager:

- None
 - Marketing Director Alyssa Blakely informed the Mayor and Council that the Trunk or Treat at the Roddenbery Memorial Library was a huge success with approximately three hundred and seventy five children that came to the event.
 - Mistletoe Market will be held at Gate 16 November 28th thru December 23rd, which will be a month long event and we have already had great response.
 - Ms. Blakely shared that she was able to participate in her first Rivers Alive Clean Up event. She stated there was a concern at the last meeting about litter within the city. Ms. Blakely stated that she is wanting to hold litter clean up events once a month with volunteer groups, which would be

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comprised of church groups, school groups, civic clubs or city residents. She is asking that the Department Heads or Mayor and Council let her know of any problem areas in the City.

2. Reports From Mayor and Council:

- Councilman Douglas asked City Attorney Lehman about the status of the court case concerning 20th Street NE and had he heard anything about the property at 1st Street NE and 3rd Avenue NE. City Attorney Lehman replied that we were waiting for a court appearance for 20th Street NE and we will more than likely have to go to court for the property at 1st Street NE and 3rd Avenue NE because the property owner is not responding.

ADJOURN: At 6:40 pm motion was made by Councilman Douglas to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Thornton, and approved by all Council Members.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

HOWARD THROWER, III, MAYOR

DANA W. BARFIELD, CITY CLERK